



Boyd Briefs: November 1, 2013

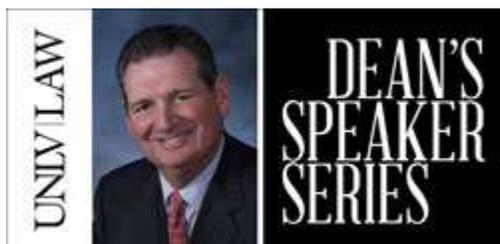
From Dean Dan

Next week at Boyd we are excited to be hosting two talks that are part of new initiatives at the law school.

On Nov. 5 at noon we are hosting alumna [Kelly Dove '07](#), an Associate at Snell & Wilmer, as the first in a series of [Alumni Conversations](#). These conversations, which are free and open to the public, will welcome alumni back to Boyd periodically to discuss their work and their service to the city and state.

Snell & Wilmer and O'Melveny & Myers have taken on pro bono the case of *Sevcik v. Sandoval* and are representing eight Nevada couples arguing that the state's ban on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution. The lawsuit was filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada in early April, and Kelly is working with others on an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Later this month we will welcome [Rosa Solis-Rainey '01](#) of the Morris Law Group as our second Alumni Conversation.

On Nov. 7 at 4 p.m. inside the Goldfield Room at the [UNLV Lied Library](#), we welcome Gov. [Bob Miller](#) as the second lecturer in the [Dean's Speaker Series](#). Bob Miller is the longest serving governor in the state and will be discussing his book, "Son of a Gambling Man." President Bill Clinton wrote the foreword, and in it said, "Bob's journey could only have happened in Nevada. His memoir gives us all a unique, entertaining, and thought-provoking glimpse of how Las Vegas evolved from its outcast roots to the modern metropolis nicknamed 'the All-American City.'" This event is co-sponsored with the [UNLV Center for Gaming Research](#) and is free and open to all.



Dan

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Linda Edwards

Linda Edwards is one of the Boyd School of Law's most thoughtful and thought-provoking faculty members. She is also someone whose work deserves attention from those who criticize the irrelevance of legal scholarship to the bench and bar.

One of Professor Edwards' recent articles, *Where Do the Prophets Stand? Hamdi, Myth, and the Master's Tools*, is typical of her work. At one level this work is about "theory." She quotes Nietzsche, appreciates the crits, invokes nomos, recognizes schemas, reviews cognitive science, and recounts a cosmogony from 1250 B.C.E. At this level it might seem to be the kind of legal scholarship that, in the words of Chief Justice John Roberts, is "of great interest to the academic that [sic] wrote it, but isn't of much help to the bar."

Yet most theory, properly understood, is ultimately about "practice." In this article, for example, Professor Edwards uses theory to explore and explain the different opinions in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, a post-September 11th case involving the classification and detention of an American citizen as an "enemy combatant." She characterizes the different views of the various judges and courts as, essentially, a competition among narratives. Even that which appears to be a sterile, logical, mechanical, legal argument is premised ultimately on a meta-narrative; that we perceive a particular argument to be "rational" or "right" evokes and reinforces that narrative.

Professor Edwards' effortless combination of theory and practice is manifest also in the class that she is teaching this fall: Briefs That Changed the World. The course, which draws from her 2012 book with the same title, explores the importance of narrative in effective advocacy. In bringing theory into the classroom, her students at Boyd are motivated to change the world and well-equipped to do so.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Katelyn Cantu

As an undergraduate at UNLV, Katelyn Cantu took two political science courses – National Security Policy and U.S. Foreign Intelligence – from Professor Cathy Hanks, an expert in national security policy and intelligence who served more than 30 years with the National Security Agency. From that course work was born a fervent interest in international affairs that Katelyn has pursued aggressively while a student at Boyd.

Katelyn has sampled widely from Boyd's international and comparative law course offerings, receiving a Computer-Assisted Legal Education (CALI) Award for earning the highest grade in the International Business Transactions course. She also availed herself of two summer study abroad programs. In the first, she took International Criminal Law, Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism, and Indian and Tibetan Law and Philosophy in Dharamsala, India; in the second, she took Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and Refugee and Migration Law courses in Geneva, Switzerland.

To further broaden her foundation in her chosen field, Katelyn participated in the Inter-American Human Rights Law Moot Court

Competition in Washington, D.C. in spring 2013. Immediately thereafter, she served as a clerk to the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Court in Moapa, Nev. In that clerkship, Katelyn researched, reviewed, and proposed updates to tribal codes and civil legislation. Katelyn has been otherwise active in the Boyd community, as a member of the Nevada Law Journal, a Teaching Assistant in the Lawyering Process program, and a student member of the Dean Search committee last academic year.

As the current president of the International Law Society, Katelyn hopes to encourage fellow Boyd students who share her zeal for a career in the area. Says Katelyn: "I'm grateful for the opportunities Boyd has given me to explore the world, grow in knowledge, and pursue my dream."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: M. Daron Dorsey '01

M. Daron Dorsey '01, of Las Vegas, currently practices law at the firm of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Daron earned a B.S. in Business Administration (Marketing) from UNLV in 1998 and was a member of the William S. Boyd School of Law's charter class.

Immediately following law school in 2001, Daron began his career at Jolley Urga Wirth & Woodbury (now Jolley Urga Wirth Woodbury & Standish) where he worked primarily on civil and commercial litigation disputes and administrative law matters. His current practice at Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., a firm with more than 400 lawyers in nine cities throughout the Southwest and Mountain West regions, is similar and focuses on administrative law matters before local, state and federal agencies and boards, along with commercial matters and disputes.

UNLV has been a significant part of Daron's personal and professional life since signing a letter-of-intent in high school to attend UNLV as a member of the Men's Golf Team. While a member of UNLV's perennial powerhouse golf teams in the 1990s, including the 1998 NCAA Championship Team, Daron also participated in a number of on-campus leadership and national NCAA positions, received his business degree, and decided to stay in Las Vegas for law school as part of the Boyd School of Law's charter class. After graduation, he served on multiple campus boards and taught as an adjunct professor in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. Daron was asked to return to campus in 2009 as the Assistant Coach of the UNLV Men's Golf Team. He coached for two seasons and helped lead the team to its first NCAA Championship Finals appearance in five seasons during 2009-10. As Assistant Coach, Daron lead recruitment efforts that enrolled many of the players on the current roster.

In addition to his current service on the Boyd School of Law's Alumni Board of Directors, Daron and his wife, fellow UNLV alumna and United States District Court Judge Jennifer Dorsey, support their alma mater, the William S. Boyd School of Law, the UNLV Foundation, and UNLV Athletics in any way they can.