



Boyd Briefs: February 7, 2014

From Dean Dan

The most recent issue of the UNLV Gaming Law Journal features oral histories by three legendary figures in the gaming industry, William S. Boyd, Executive Chairman of Boyd Gaming Corporation; Burton Cohen, Board of Directors Member for MGM Resorts International; and Peter Bernhard, Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission. These oral histories are exceptionally important contributions to the history of Las Vegas and to the law school. And the excellent Notes show why Boyd students continue to excel in law school and in practice. Congratulations to Editor-in-Chief Eric Walther, Managing Editor Madison Zornes, and all the editors of the Journal. Thanks also to Jennifer Roberts from Lionel Sawyer & Collins, who teaches at Boyd, for her Foreword to the issue, and thanks to our faculty advisors Anthony Cabot, Ngai Pindell, Nancy Rapoport, and Rachel Anderson.

To see this issue and these histories, please visit: <http://scholars.law.unlv.edu/glj/vol4/iss2/>.



Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu
[facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Terrill Pollman

There is a special cadre of faculty members who welcomed the first class of students to the Boyd School of Law in the Fall of 1998. [Terry Pollman](#) was one of those founding faculty members. What started then, and continues now, is a legacy of hundreds of law students — turned graduates — turned distinguished alumni — who credit their success as effective advocates and leaders to lessons learned from Professor Pollman. As generations of her legal writing students proudly attest, Pollman's class is difficult but fair, and exhausting yet rewarding. Her mastery of the classroom and of the subject has made her the teacher's teacher. Boyd's [legal writing program](#) is, and long has been, one of the mostly highly regarded programs in the country.

Effective teachers are usually productive scholars: actively engaging in scholarly dialogue tends to enrich the classroom experience; and careful attention to students in the classroom is intellectually generative. It should not surprise, then, that Professor Pollman is completing an important law review article that draws on cognitive research and composition theory. In *The Sincerest Form of Flattery: Examples and Model Based learning in the Law School Classroom*, Pollman deconstructs the process of how teachers and students use examples in the

classroom, particularly in writing classrooms. She concludes that using cognitive load theory principles to guide the design of law school learning can make learning both more efficient and deeper in law school classrooms. Simply put, she would know.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Katherine Frank

Philadelphia – the City of Brotherly Love, the birthplace of our nation, the setting for the epic Rocky saga, and home... well, sort of... to Boyd first-year student Katherine Frank.

To explain the “sort of,” Katherine grew up in the town of Coatesville, 39 miles to Philly’s west. As a high school senior, she won a state track and field championship (in the distance medley relay) and graduated at the top of her class. In her valedictory speech, Katherine encouraged her fellow graduates to “never let a disadvantage become an excuse, and never let an advantage become a shortcut.” Armed with her own advice, she made her way to... yes, Philadelphia to pursue her undergraduate education at Temple University.

It was an expanded and somewhat daunting milieu for Katherine – more urban, more people, more social issues. Making no excuses, Katherine got involved in her new city. “In the time that I attended Temple and lived in Philadelphia,” says Katherine, “I traveled to the state capital on many occasions to participate in rallies and speak to representatives about preserving funding for programs, volunteered at a clinic that provides mental health counseling for children facing anxieties that arise from living in an urban environment, and shared news articles to make others aware of policy changes in their communities.” Not only that, she earned a B.A. in Psychology with honors and competed four years on Temple’s track and field/cross country team.

Taking no shortcuts, Katherine has thrown herself headlong into her legal studies here. “I could not be happier with my decision to attend Boyd,” she affirms. “I have had the privilege to make wonderful friends with my classmates and to learn from some of the best professors that I have ever had in any educational setting.”



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Sophia Salas '07

Nevada’s sustainability, education and community have always been extremely important to Sophia Salas, a Nevada native and an alumna of both UNLV and the William S. Boyd School of Law. Her goal was always to work in a legal capacity that allowed her to focus on these areas, and she was fortunate enough to obtain great mentorship from her professors at Boyd within this realm.

Sophia, a 2007 Boyd Law graduate, was actually sworn in to practice law the same month that her father unexpectedly passed away. Sophia and her brother both put their careers on hold while they stepped in to operate the family recycling business, RenuOil of America, Inc., in the interim until another operator could be brought in. Nearly six years later, Sophia and her family have grown the business from 40-plus employees to 200-plus employees and expanded from servicing seven casinos/hotels to more than 20 casino/hotels in Las Vegas and more than 300 local restaurants. Ultimately, Sophia realized that operating RenuOil was her calling, and the impact that she was having on the local community, environment and economy surpassed any expectations she had of her original career.

The company’s dedication to the environment and commitment to the community has not gone unnoticed as RenuOil was recently recognized as the 2013 Recycling Company of the Year, via the Pinecone GreenUP Award. This honor is in addition to being a 2013 nominee for Minority

Business of the Year, via the Nevada Minority Supplier Development Council (NvMSDC); nominee for the 2012 Community Hero Award, via the NvMSDC; recipient of the 2012 Mid-Size Company of the Year award, via the Latin Chamber of Commerce; and recipient of the 2011 Professional Service Company of the Year award, via the NvMSDC.