



Boyd Briefs: December 4, 2014

## From Dean Dan

This week Boyd is honored to welcome Mr. Kenneth Feinberg to give this year's Judge Lloyd D. George Lecture. Mr. Feinberg has been key to resolving many of our nation's most challenging and widely known disputes. He is best known for serving as the Special Master of the Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. He shared his extraordinary experience in his book *What Is Life Worth?*, published in 2005 by Public Affairs Press.

Mr. Feinberg is the managing partner of Feinberg Rozen, LLP. He has taught at the Georgetown University Law Center, University of Pennsylvania Law School, New York University School of Law, the University of Virginia Law School and Columbia Law School. He has also taught as a visiting lecturer at UCLA Law School, Vanderbilt Law School, New York Law School, and Duke Law School.

Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack Moot Court at the law school, with a reception to follow. This event is free and open to all.



Dan

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Eleissa Lavelle

The adjunct members of the Boyd School of Law faculty are gifted teachers and keen mentors. Of course they are also distinguished practitioners -- some with honors and credentials reminiscent of superheroes. Eleissa Lavelle, for example, is a "Super Lawyer" according to the Mountain States Super Lawyers and a "Best Lawyer" among The Best Lawyers in America. Her faculty and student colleagues at Boyd enthusiastically concur.

Professor Lavelle is a professional mediator and arbitrator with JAMS. JAMS is the largest private alternative dispute resolution provider in the world. JAMS specializes in mediating and arbitrating complex, multi-party, and business/commercial cases. Lavelle is a member of the Global Engineering and Construction Group.

At Boyd, Professor Lavelle teaches Negotiation and Real Estate Finance courses. Her teaching is enriched by more than 30 years of experience as a trial lawyer, appellate lawyer, transactional lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator. As one student described in a course evaluation, "Professor Lavelle brings real-world knowledge and experience to a course that desperately needs it. She is friendly, engaging, and really has an interest in the students' success." Another explained that "She has a lot of experience and I can tell she wants her students to get better at their craft." We strive for excellence at Boyd, and Professor Lavelle helps the faculty both deliver it (from the podium) and demand it (from the students).

Professor Lavelle's affiliation with Boyd also strengthens our [Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution](#). With a constellation of full- and part-time faculty members, the Saltman Center generates scholarly discourse, engages community participation, and prepares students to be ethical, successful professionals.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Tyre Gray

December Commencement marks the finish line for 15 of our students, and each will experience some degree of joy/relief/fulfillment as she breaks the tape. For Tyre Gray, however, the degree undoubtedly will be cranked up way high, as the possibility of seeing law school, let alone graduation therefrom, seemed pretty pretty not that long ago.

As Tyre was growing up, his grandmother would tell him, "Want to hear God laugh? Tell Him your plans." Tyre's plans had long centered on music. He was an accomplished trombonist and owned his own music production company. "My plan was to be a professional musician. Having performed in more than 50 cities on three different continents, I was working my plan when..." Well, when he got news from his doctor, the kind of news we all hope not to get -- Chronic Kidney Disease, Focal Segmental Glomerulol-Sclerosis, stage 5. The diagnosis was dire, the prognosis no better: 18 months before dialysis, transplant, or death.

Tyre found himself trying to find meaning in his uncertain circumstances. He found it during one of his all too frequent visits to the emergency room. "I noticed countless patients in beds lining the hallways. I figured they were waiting for rooms, and then I overheard a conversation between a nurse and a patient. The patient asked why he was being held in the hallway when there were rooms available. The nurse told him, 'Your insurance doesn't cover a semi-private room.' There my calling was revealed: helping people secure proper health care through the practice of law."

In September 2012, thanks to the tireless efforts of his wife and the selfless acts of a donor, Tyre received a new kidney, and his health remains good. On Dec. 16, Tyre will earn his JD. Next up? The continued pursuit of his calling.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Justine Harrison '05

Justine Harrison '05 is a solo practitioner who splits time between Northern and Southern Nevada. Her practice is focused in transactional and administrative areas and includes corporate, real estate, healthcare and aviation matters. Justine is a pilot and an airplane owner, so aviation is also a business tool that allows her to efficiently serve clients around the state via Nevada's network of more than 40 airports.

When choosing a law school, Justine did not focus on geography but rather a variety of factors she viewed as crucial to education quality, post-graduation opportunity, and professional success. It was the same process that led her to Cornell University for an undergraduate degree. To Justine's surprise, the leading law school choice was next door. Boyd's strong support from the legal community, student access to esteemed faculty, affordability, and practical experience opportunities were an irresistible combination.

She credits the Boyd faculty and administration for their inspiration, encouragement and support as she battled breast cancer while attending Boyd's night program and working full time in government affairs during the day. Her Boyd experience laid an excellent foundation for success.

After graduation, Justine joined a small transactional firm in the Las Vegas valley and later served as general counsel for the Nevada Cancer Institute, leading the nonprofit's legal and government affairs teams. In 2010, she joined the Nevada Cancer Institute board of directors and opened a solo law practice. Now she enjoys the variety provided by a broad client base that includes nonprofit and for-profit organizations representing a variety of industries, including healthcare, aviation, real estate development, heavy equipment, trucking, and education.

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