From Dean Dan

Next week UNLV becomes the center of the political universe. The third and final presidential debate comes to Nevada, sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates co-chaired by Nevada’s own Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., who gave the first Faiss Lecture at the law school. Leading up to the debate, the Law School, together with our friend and neighbor the Black Mountain Institute, will host a Media Greenroom and Clubhouse on the first floor of the Beverly Rogers Literature and Law Building. We invite you to join us Monday afternoon from noon to 6 p.m., all day Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for good conversation, media watching, and whatever else comes our way.

Information about the debate is here.

As Michael Beschloss and Jon Meacham said at the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner earlier this week, Nevada will have a place in this election and maybe in the history of this election as well.

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu
facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton

Faculty Spotlight: Marketa Trimble

This week’s faculty profile features Boyd’s offerings in intellectual property. Marketa Trimble is the Samuel S. Lionel Professor of Intellectual Property Law. She specializes in international intellectual property law as well as cyberlaw.

Which of your recent articles should I read? This month the North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology will publish my article "Undetected Conflict-of-Laws Problems in Cross-Border Online Copyright Infringement Cases." In this article I respond to a study that the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO")
published last year and that concluded that cases of cross-border copyright infringements committed on the internet do not present any unusual challenges in courts. I disagree with the conclusions in the report; copyright owners face significant challenges when they strive to enforce their rights against cross-border infringements, particularly when the infringements are committed on the internet. Based on data from my original empirical study, I argue that conflict-of-laws issues contribute to the difficulties that are associated with the enforcement of rights in such cases.

What’s the most important thing you are working on right now? My work on legal issues of geoblocking and circumvention of geoblocking continues to draw attention; this semester I presented on the issues at Indiana University Bloomington and at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic; I will discuss the issues again at a conference at Stanford Law School on October 24, 2016, and at Goethe University in Germany and at Loyola Los Angeles at the beginning of 2017. And I am working on two Nevada-related projects: I am completing an article about Nevada state law concerning intellectual property (“IP”) rights and preparing an annual copyright law update and an international IP law update for the annual Nevada Bar IP Law Section’s Conference, which will take place at Boyd on October 21, 2016.

What is it about being a law school professor that inspires or motivates you? Issues that arise in practice inspire most of my research but often it is the possibility to create opportunities for students that motivates me as well. This month I am involved in several IP law-related events for students: On October 14 I will participate in a panel discussion on ethics at the UNLV College of Engineering. On October 20 I will moderate a discussion with James Pooley, the former WIPO Deputy Director General, and on October 26 a panel discussion with local practitioners on career opportunities in IP Law. Throughout this month I am working with twelve Boyd students to prepare the first Boyd Community Class in IP Law, which we will hold at Boyd on November 18 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Student Spotlight: Emily Haws

What experiences do you think led you down a path to law school? My work experience prior to law school was in the nonprofit arts and education sectors, and I remember the frustration associated with being subject to complicated legal procedures and wishing I could do something to alleviate that burden. That desire made me realize I wanted to be part of the legal conversation instead of just subject to it.

What are your goals as Nevada Law Journal Editor-in-Chief this year? This year we have two goals, one looking out, and one looking in: to increase our relevance in new geographic legal markets, and to fulfill our potential as a resource to the Nevada legal community. We selected articles for publication that are nationally relevant, and are continuing our white paper projects to provide a more robust body of research in areas that may help Nevada courts and practitioners.

You made it to the final round of The Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition last year. What was it like arguing in front of Justice Alito? About as terrifying as it sounds. But, getting the chance to push through that level of high pressure and to see what kinds of questions the most advanced legal minds value really changed my perspective on how the law gets refined.

After graduation next May, what are your plans? After graduation I will be clerking for Judge Kent J. Dawson here in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, and then returning to the Latham & Watkins Orange County office where I was a summer associate this past summer.
Alumni Spotlight: Alison Brasier ’07

Partner at Cloward Hicks & Brasier; Member-At-Large on the Alumni Chapter Board of Directors

Tell me about your decision to attend UNLV Law. I was born and raised in Las Vegas, so it just made sense for me to stay here to practice. Going to Boyd allowed me to form critical relationships with experienced attorneys, judges, and other leaders in our community while I was still in law school. The community connections and opportunities available through the school were and are tremendous.

You’re a member of the Alumni Leadership Circle in addition to serving on the Alumni Chapter Board of Directors. Why do you feel it is important to volunteer your time as well as donate to the law school? My philosophy is that it is always important to be an active member of the community and to do what you can to help the people who will follow. All Boyd alumni benefitted in some way by others in the community donating their time, money, and other resources to build the law school and develop its national reputation for top level education and opportunities. I feel like it is my responsibility to do whatever I can to help the law school continue producing great new attorneys who will further help expand Boyd’s recognition and reputation for excellence throughout the country. Being a member of the Alumni Leadership Circle and serving on the Alumni Chapter Board of Directors allows me to use my education, experience, and resources to benefit current students and to provide support and opportunities to new alumni. It’s up to all alumni to stay active and involved to “pay it forward” to the classes that follow behind them.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? In my spare time, I love to travel with my husband, Jeff. We love going to Palm Springs and Cabo to relax and get away from the stresses that come along with being an attorney.

Community Member Spotlight: A.G. Burnett

Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, Member of the Gaming Law Advisory Board at UNLV Law

Tell us about your decision to serve on the Gaming Law Advisory Board and what makes UNLV Law’s mission meaningful to you. The opportunity to serve on the Gaming Law Advisory Board is an honor and a privilege for me. I want to help UNLV Law as much as I can, and serving on the GLA Board has given me insight into the needs and challenges that must be confronted. I want UNLV Law to stand out nationwide, not only in terms of what it does in gaming law, but in general; the law school’s success is Nevada’s success.

What was your first or most memorable job? My Dad is a veterinarian, so my first job was working at his side in the late 70s and early 80s. He ran his own business, and basically still does. At that time, the rules didn’t prevent a young boy from helping his father during surgeries, and I came away with a type of medical experience that still helps me to this day. I assisted in every kind of surgery, from orthopedic procedures to emergency procedures. In addition, I had a highly specialized role as “Chief Kennel Boy.” I fed the patients, cleaned blood (and other things) off walls, and mopped floors. My Dad taught me no one is better than anyone else, and you have to work hard in life; there are no substitutes for those two things. Importantly, I also learned about being a boss, having employees, and dealing with difficult situations with objectivity.
What advice would you give to current UNLV Law students? Work hard while you're in law school, and take advantage of every opportunity the school has to offer. Dedicate these years to your future. It may not be fun, and it will challenge you at every turn, but the persistence, hard work, and dedication you demonstrate now will reward you in the future. When the bar exam comes around, you will be better prepared; whatever your job future holds for you, you will be better off. It is only three years spent investing in the rest of your life.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I enjoy spending time at home with my family. They are the most important things in my life. I also spend as much time as possible running, road or mountain biking, swimming, and lifting weights. My life is about mileage, distance, and endurance. My main hobby is to compete in triathlons, although since becoming Chairman I've only done a handful. Prior to that, I would compete in four or five a year. I still train every day though. A long run or bike ride does more for my stress levels than anything else. I live in Reno, just 24 minutes from Lake Tahoe, so much of our time is also spent there, or better yet, in the mountains and forests in between.