



### From Dean Dan

As the Boyd School of Law's alumni base grows to more than 2,000, some of our first graduates are taking leading roles in strengthening alumni support and engagement. Charter Class members Joe Cain and Daron Dorsey founded the Alumni Leadership Circle last year, and the group has since grown to nearly 40 alumni who play a vital role in the strategic direction of the school. The Alumni Leadership Circle is instrumental in developing the Law Fund, which supports the law school's highest priorities, including scholarships, faculty retention, academic resources for students, and public interest initiatives.

I want to thank Joe, Daron, and our Alumni Leadership Circle members for helping recruit talented students to Boyd through scholarships, for helping provide an opportunity for our Public Interest Fellows to pursue public interest work, for helping fund our Alternative Spring Break Program so students can learn about access-to-justice needs in Nevada, and so much more.

The impact of the Alumni Leadership Circle grows with each new member. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Assistant Dean for External Relations Layke Martin at [layke.martin@unlv.edu](mailto:layke.martin@unlv.edu) or (702) 895-2425.

#### Alumni Leadership Circle Members:

**Paola Armeni '03**

*Gentile, Cristalli, Miller, Armeni, Savarese*

**Brian Irvine '01**

*Dickinson Wright*

**Brian Blaylock '12**

*Snell & Wilmer*

**Matthew I. Knepper '12**

*Knepper & Clark LLC*

**Alison Brasier '07**

*Cloward Hicks & Brasier*

**Michael B. Lee '06**

*Michael B. Lee, PC*

**Ogonna Brown '01**

*Holley Driggs Walch Fine Wray Puzey & Thompson*

**Kfir Levy '03**

*Mayer Brown*

**Adam Bult '04**

*Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck*

**Terry A. Moore '01**

*Marquis Aurbach Coffing*

**E. Joe Cain '01**

*Fine Properties*

**Billie-Marie Morrison '01**

*Craig P. Kenny & Associates*

**Justin L. Carley '06**  
*Snell & Wilmer*

**Casey G. Perkins '10**  
*Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff*

**Holly E. Cheong '10**  
*Snell & Wilmer*

**Becky Pintar '01**  
*Pintar Albiston*

**Sean K. Claggett '03**  
*Claggett & Sykes*

**Robert Potter '02**  
*Affordable Concepts*

**Zachary B. Conine '13**  
*Joseph Beare & Co.*

**Terina Salerno '01**  
*Salerno Law Group*

**Aleem A. Dhalla '16**  
*Snell & Wilmer*

**Quinton R. Singleton '08**  
*NYX Gaming Group*

**Miles Dickson '11**  
*JABarrett Company*

**Rosa Solis-Rainey '01**  
*Morris Law Group*

**M. Daron Dorsey '01**  
*Ainsworth Game Technology Inc.*

**Leon Symanski '01**  
*Craig P. Kenny & Associates*

**Kelly Dove '07**  
*Snell & Wilmer*

**Melissa L. Waite '07**  
*Jolley Urga Woodbury & Little*

**Marjorie Hauf '02**  
*Ganz & Hauf*

**Trevor Waite '14**  
*Alverson Taylor Mortensen & Sanders*

**Kara B. Hendricks '01**  
*Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

**Brenda Weksler '02**  
*Federal Public Defender*

**Jean-Paul Hendricks '06**  
*Morris Law Group*

**Kendele L. Works '05**  
*Christiansen Law*



Special thanks to Joe and Christina Cain for hosting an Alumni Leadership Circle mixer at their home last week.

Dan

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### Faculty Spotlight: Jeanne Price

*Professor Jeanne Price is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She is one of the co-authors of the just-published textbook, Examples and Explanations: Legal Research. In addition to all this, she teaches courses on research and writing in business contexts.*

**How does your reading -- law-related and not -- influence your teaching, service, and other work and vice versa?** I could read until pigs fly. And there's nothing better than losing yourself in a book and, afterwards, hearing what someone else thought about it. I've lately been reading criticism, and a book by Josef Albers and an essay by

Salman Rushdie have stuck with me. Albers was an artist; he drew boxes of colors (over and over again) and, in *Interaction of Color*, he illustrates (literally) that we see a color -- its vividness, gradations, and brightness -- differently depending on the other colors that surround it. This sounds familiar in terms of what we experience as readers -- our enjoyment depends on what we bring to the book -- and what we do as lawyers -- we cast issues in different lights depending on our sources and how we describe the interplay of those sources. Salman Rushdie's piece, "Out of Kansas" is about, of all things, *The Wizard of Oz*. There's something about both his very different perspective -- the context in which he watched the movie could not have been farther from mine -- and what we share when we think about it that reminds me of how my students and I approach a text.

**What's the most important thing you are working on right now?** No one needs to be reminded of all the changes in legal education and all of the challenges that our graduates face. In my fairly new role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, my job is to (among other things) look hard at our curriculum and work with all of the faculty -- full- and part-time -- to make sure that our students can choose among a range of experiences and courses that will inspire them and change their way of thinking, prepare them for practice, and help them develop professional skills.

**What is it about being a law school professor that inspires or motivates you?** The last time my brother, an engineer, visited Las Vegas, I brought him to the university. We toured the law school and the library, walked to the student union, ran into some students and colleagues, and that was about it. But my brother said something about how great it would be to work at a university. And he was right -- it is. We get to spend our days in a community where everyone is learning and thinking hard about things that matter and where public service is encouraged. I am always inspired by our students who work so hard and who bring such enthusiasm (and energy) to their studies and their service and by my colleagues who are committed to our students' success and to our community.

### Student Spotlight: Shani Coleman

**You have maintained your career with the City of Las Vegas while a part-time evening student. Tell us about your work for our city.** As the Redevelopment Manager, I get the pleasure of helping to re-shape



and re-envision the city's urban core. This includes the Las Vegas Medical District which will be home to the newly accredited UNLV School of Medicine. My job is like a real-life version of Monopoly. I get to work with great community partners who build great projects that enhance our community.

**What's been your key to maintaining work, school, and home equilibrium the past few years?** Planning is the key. I generally keep a relatively tight calendar. I schedule just about everything including playtime. Managing my time is critical to getting it all done and staying sane while doing it.

**Which law school course has been your most memorable?** I really enjoyed the constitutional subjects like Judge Jay Bybee's Law and Religion and Professor Leslie Griffin's Constitutional Law classes. However, the most memorable was Judge Frank Sullivan's Domestic Violence and the Law class. Domestic violence affects our community in so many ways, so having an understanding of how the law deals with survivors, perpetrators, and children was eye opening.

**To your BS in Management Information Systems and your Master of Public Administration from UNLV, you will add a J.D. in about a week. What's next for you?** Therapy! But on a more serious note, this is the one thing that I have not planned out. I have spent that last few years cultivating knowledge and growing as a professional with an eye toward being more engaged in my community. How that manifests after graduation? I have no clue, but I am excited about the opportunities it will present.



**Alumni Spotlight: James E. Murphy and Jessica W. Murphy**

*James '03 is the managing shareholder at Laxalt & Nomura Ltd.; Jessica '03 is at the Clark County Public Defenders Office.*

James and Jessica met during their 1L year in 2000. Many recall that the Boyd School of Law was temporarily housed in the Paradise Elementary Campus. James and Jessica were married in 2002, graduated in 2003, and both successfully passed the Nevada Bar Exam that July. Since leaving Boyd, they have advanced in their respective fields. James is a shareholder with Laxalt and Nomura, Ltd. and manages its Las Vegas offices. His practice consists of civil litigation in both State and Federal Court. James also volunteers as a member of the Nevada State Bar Association's Character and Fitness Committee. Jessica is Chief Deputy Public Defender and assistant team chief with the Office of the Clark County Public Defender. She oversees a team of attorneys and also manages a heavy volume of felony cases from initial appearance through jury trial.

More important than any professional achievements are their three children: Colin, 10; Jenna, 7; and Katherine, 4. Jessica manages to coach Jenna's AYSO soccer team and never misses a single one of Colin's baseball games in the Summerlin North Little League. Jessica also actively supports the children's youth golf with TPC Summerlin. James is the President of the Nevada State Skeet Shooting Association and helps run the Association's many tournaments. The family attends Rebel Football as season ticket holders for the past 10 years.

James and Jessica enjoy participating in the Dinner with a Rebel Program which affords them the opportunity to meet with current Boyd students over dinner. They always take the students to Lotus of Siam. Jessica and James keep in touch with the Boyd community discussing career development and changes with current law students. "The quality of the Boyd student increases year after year," James remarked after one such Dinner with a Rebel event.

If they could impart any advice to current students it would be to not take yourself too seriously

and enjoy the time that you have in school. "If you think you are busy now, just wait." Jessica and James wish everyone in their extended Boyd family the absolute best.

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