



From Dean Dan

The 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature begins on February 6, 2017, and with the start of the Session comes the extraordinary opportunity for ten Boyd Law students to experience the legislative process up close through Boyd Law's legislative externship program. The students and organizations participating in the legislative externship program this spring are: Leonardo Benavides with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Alanna Bondy with the ACLU of Nevada, Ann Dunn with the Clark County District Attorney's Office, Daniel Hansen with the City of Reno, Keith Hightower and Alex Velto with Governor Sandoval's Office, Steve Jimenez with the Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus, Angela Lee with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, Mayra Salinas-Menjivar with McMullen Strategic Group, and Brittany Walker with Holland & Hart.

Externs will earn law school credit while living and working in Carson City during the Session. In addition to field work, students will complete a legislative externship course with adjunct Professors Sam and Erin McMullen. We are grateful to each of the externship placements for providing these great learning experiences for our students, and for scholarship donations from ACLU of Nevada, City of Reno, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, McMullen Strategic Group, and the Regional Transportation Commission that enable our students to participate in this unique opportunity.

Also, I want to invite you to join us at the law school on February 2, 2017 at 4 p.m., when we welcome Former United States Solicitor General Theodore Olson as part of the Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. The talk and reception are open to the public, but [registration is required](#).

Dan

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Faculty Spotlight: Judge Jennifer Dorsey



Judge Jennifer Dorsey is a United States District Court Judge for the District of Nevada. Before taking the bench in 2013, she was a partner in the civil litigation firm of Kemp, Jones & Coulthard LLP, which she joined immediately after receiving her J.D. from Pepperdine in 1997. A grammarphile and Life Member of Scribes—the American Society of Legal Writers—Judge Dorsey is dedicated to improving the writing skills of young lawyers, eradicating rogue apostrophes, and preserving the serial comma. She teaches judicial writing for law clerks and externs as an adjunct professor at the Boyd School of Law.

What is it about being a law school professor that inspires or motivates you? The opportunity to make Nevada's future litigators better. Litigators must be good communicators. And because so much law-and-motion work—particularly in

the federal system—is resolved without a hearing, a litigator’s written product is often her one chance to pitch her case to the judge, so it has to be clear, succinct, persuasive, and right. Typos and grammatical errors distract and dilute the real message. Judges have no time to slog through needless “comes now plaintiff, by and through counsel” windups. A misstatement of the law can result in long-term loss of credibility. In my Writing for Judges class, I get to sensitize students to these and other practice pitfalls while we relearn long-forgotten grammar and punctuation rules and test drive different writing techniques in a workshop-style setting.

When students ask you what they should read outside the required textbooks and other law-related books, what do you suggest? Read Stephen King, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain, and other great storytellers. Let their mastery of language and the narrative form inspire you to use clear and evocative prose to punch up even routine pieces. Good legal writing is really just good writing that happens to be about law.

What’s the most important thing that you are working on right now outside of work? Refining my capsule wardrobe. It’s almost impossible during the holiday-shopping season to find neutral-colored platform stilettos that strike the perfect stylish-professional balance.

Student Spotlight: Nathan Collins



You’ve been a football coach while in law school. Tell us about that.

Being a high school football coach while in law school has been fun and rewarding. I have been able to focus on something other than law school and mentor high school freshman in a sport I greatly enjoy. I truly get to be a role model and help mold the future.

As president of Boyd’s Sports and Entertainment Law Association, what do you see as the organization’s greatest accomplishments?

One of the greatest accomplishments for SELA has been the annual panel that has been held with the Sports Lawyers Association. I had the pleasure of setting up the panel this year with Caleb Jay, an attorney for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Additionally, the people who attended the panel had a better understanding of what issues sports and entertainment attorneys deal with on a regular basis.

Is a career in sports law the dream?

Ideally, I would like to be an attorney for the Denver Broncos. However, recently I have been doing some work focusing on entertainment law. If I couldn’t get a position with the NFL, I would consider entertainment law. With the NHL’s move to Vegas, and the growing sports culture here, I believe sports law is a very big possibility for me.

What’s been the highlight moment of your time at Boyd?

I was lucky enough to be the coordinator of the Spring Fling Softball Tournament, as well as I had an interesting response in Con Law with Professor Bartrum that became infamous (come find me and ask about this). But my highlight was being asked to be a coordinator for a community service project regarding IP law. The opportunity showed me that I have a knowledge and understanding in an area of the law that not many others have.

Alumni Spotlight: Holly Cheong '10

Attorney at Snell & Wilmer, Member of the Alumni Leadership Circle at the Boyd School of Law

Tell me about your decision to attend Boyd Law.



The primary reason I chose the Boyd School of Law was the part-time program with evening hours. While working as an environmental planner, I always toyed around with the possibility of going to law school as the next step in my career, but I could not take three years off from work to go back to school. When I found out about the part-time program at Boyd and toured the law school, I was really impressed and applied right away.

When did you know that working in the legal field was for you?

Probably when I completed the Appellate Clinic at the Boyd School of Law. Although handling a Ninth Circuit appeal for a complicated immigration case was terrifying, I also enjoyed the process of pouring over the necessary documents and collaborating with my team. This practical experience made me realize that I would enjoy the day-to-day work of a lawyer.

Why do you feel that it is important to donate to the law school?

The law school has done a lot to develop and support my career. I feel it is only fair to give back what I can.

What is the best business advice you have received, and whom did it come from?

Early on in my career as an environmental planner, a co-worker told me not to delegate control of my licenses and certifications to my employer or anyone else. That advice has served me well in my career.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I enjoy rock climbing, hiking, and, now that I live in Colorado, skiing.

What is something people might now know about you?

I'm the youngest of eight children.

Community Member Spotlight: Patricia Lee



Partner at Hutchison & Steffen, Member of the Public Interest Law Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law

Tell me about your decision to serve on the Public Interest Law Advisory Board and what makes Boyd Law's mission meaningful to you.

As a member of Nevada's legal community, I feel very tied to our law school. I know that we as practitioners have the awesome privilege of influencing our next crop of attorneys. The Public Interest Law Advisory Board is an amazing platform from which to exert that influence. Our profession and community as a whole benefit when we have compassionate lawyers entering the field. Anything I can do to help encourage that is a win-win.

What was your first or most memorable job?

My first full time job as a lawyer is also my most memorable one. When I first started with Hutchison & Steffen, I was the only woman and the only person of color. Over the past decade and a half, I have watched my firm grow, diversify, and flourish. I have the distinct honor of having my mentors now be my contemporaries. That type of longevity with one firm is fairly rare, and I'm so grateful to be working at the Yahoo of law firms!

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

Find time to do something meaningful while you're in law school, besides slaying it in the classroom. Your reputation is, and will continue to be, your most valuable asset as you enter into the practice of law. Start thinking about what's important to you, and do something to make a difference in that area.

Tell me about something you've read that's made a real difference to you.

In high school I read the autobiography of Malcolm X and it really opened my mind to issues outside of my little small town bubble. I believe that book inspired my activism throughout my college years and even today to a certain extent.

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