



From Dean Dan

Today we welcome Former Solicitor General Theodore Olson to the law school as part of the Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. This event is made possible by the generosity of donors, in particular William Hill and MGM Resorts International. The talk begins at 4 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom. It is open to the public, but seats are limited and [registration](#) is required.

Theodore Olson is a Partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Washington, D.C. office. He served as Solicitor General of the United States from 2001 to 2004. His sixty-two Supreme Court arguments have included cases involving separation of powers, federalism, voting rights, the First Amendment, the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses, patents and copyrights, antitrust, taxation, property rights, punitive damages, the Commerce Clause, immigration, criminal law, securities, telecommunications, the internet, the 2000 presidential election (*Bush v. Gore*), campaign finance (*McConnell v. FCC* and *Citizens United*), same-sex marriage (*Hollingsworth v. Perry*), and other federal constitutional and statutory questions.

Today's event is the first in a great lineup of prominent speakers coming to the law school this spring, including the [Philip Pro Lecture in Legal History](#) with Professor Ajay Mehrotra, Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation, on February 23; the [Saltman Center Lecture](#) with Professor Deborah Hensler of Stanford Law School on March 30; and the Robert D. Faiss Lecture on Gaming Law and Policy with Jan Jones Blackhurst on April 18, 2017.

Dan

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Leslie Strasser Murdock



Owner of ELM Educational Consulting, Adjunct Professor at the Boyd School of Law

How does your "day job" affect your teaching?

As the owner of an education consulting firm, I have a responsibility to keep up with current education law and best practices to provide the best possible counsel and advocacy services to my clients. Additionally for my business to succeed, I am responsible for listening to my clients' educational needs and using my expertise to help meet those needs. I bring that same sense of responsibility to my teaching. I consider my students "clients" as well. I use the law practically in my work every day. I am able to show students how a knowledge of the law can be applied in the real world to help children and

families receive services they are entitled to under the law that will significantly affect their school success in a positive way.

What's the most important thing you are working on right now?

As the Educational Liaison for the Clark County Department of Family Services, I have been tasked with reviewing all of the Nevada Bill Drafts on Education and recommending our position as an agency on them for the benefits of our children in foster care. Community and public opinion on bills is an important part of the legislative process so that legislators understand how new legislation affects Nevadans on the ground level. I feel privileged to be able to provide my recommendations and be a part of the legislative process in this way.

What is it about being a law school professor that inspires or motivates you?

My experience as a Boyd student and my Boyd students inspire and motivate me. I remember being a student and being so optimistic about how the law can open doors to services for clients and can affect positive change for them. I enjoy seeing that optimism in my students from the other side of the desk. It drives me and keeps me refreshed professionally. I am lucky that I am able to use my legal background and expertise to better the lives of my clients. I want students to see how their law school experience and legal backgrounds can allow them to pursue their own dreams like they did for me.

Student Spotlight: Heather Armantrout



You had a successful career in nursing but decided to pursue law. Why?

After more than fifteen years as a bedside nurse, I decided that I needed a new challenge. I eventually decided that public interest law would provide for me the best opportunity to continue to work on behalf of the people of Clark County, some of whom may once have been my patients.

How have you enjoyed serving as a teaching assistant in our Lawyering Process Program and as a student mentor in our Academic Success Program?

Aside from my work with Boyd's Clean Slate Program, working with my colleagues and friends as a teaching assistant and a CASE mentor is the thing I've done in law school of which I'm proudest. My fellow students are some of the best people I know, and helping them and watching them grow and flourish has been a sheer joy.

Tell us about your internship with the Clark County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal law is fascinating, never the same from one day to the next. I am grateful to the men and women of Clark County DA Litigation Team 4 who took me under their wings, taught me so much, and then pushed me out of the nest, always watching carefully, ensuring that I not fall too hard on my face. They gave me my very own misdemeanor trial! I prepared it myself (with lots of advice), and under the supervision of team chief Jake Merback, I performed direct examination of four witnesses and cross examination of two more. It was at once truly terrifying and incredibly rewarding.

And what are your plans after graduation in May?

I'm honored to have been hired by Nevada Court of Appeals Judge Jerome Tao to be one of his clerks next year.

Alumni Spotlight: Sandra Douglass Morgan '03

Director of External Affairs for AT&T Services, Inc.

What's your role with AT&T?



I am responsible for AT&T's legislative and community affairs activities in southern Nevada. This involves working collaboratively with business leaders, legislators, and policy makers to help meet AT&T's objective of connecting people with technology everywhere they live and work.

Is there any particular business advice you would give to someone just starting in the profession?

Do not put yourself in a box. Do not be your own worst enemy by limiting your thoughts, dreams, and ability as to what you can do and achieve. My law degree has allowed me to take a career journey beginning as a litigator to in-house counsel to City Attorney and now, as a telecommunications executive.

What drew you to AT&T and what do you like most about your work there?

My position at AT&T is the best of both worlds for me. As a native Nevadan, I care deeply about this community and understand that technology is shaping the future for education and healthcare. Representing the company in this capacity allows me to continue to use my legal background working on legislation with government officials and policy makers. At the same time, I have the amazing opportunity to work with caring, dynamic community leaders while advancing AT&T's philanthropic efforts.

I understand you serve as the Director for the Jobs for Nevada's Graduates Board. What are the goals of this program?

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) in Nevada is an innovative, effective, data-driven non-profit program that strives to ensure every student, particularly at-risk students, graduates from high school and to set them on the path for higher education, a career, or both. JAG was formed at the request of the Governor's Office. The JAG curriculum prepares high school students across the state for success by teaching them valuable workplace skills and competencies - along with mentoring and placement services - that will help them thrive at work and in higher education. As a product of the Clark County School District, I am proud to serve on a Board that is dedicated to investing in education to ensure that future generations have the necessary skills to enter the workforce or continue on to higher education.

Community Member Spotlight: Michael Bonner



Co-Managing Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Member of the Dean's Council at the Boyd School of Law

Tell me about your decision to serve on the Dean's Council and what makes Boyd Law's mission meaningful to you

I am a native of Las Vegas, and I attended UNLV as an undergraduate student. Supporting UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law is important to our community and to UNLV.

Helping to build Boyd into one of the top law schools in the country will support UNLV's Top Tier Initiative, and it will help drive Las Vegas' efforts to improve workforce quality to attract and retain higher quality companies and jobs. I believe, as lawyers, we have a responsibility to not only represent our clients

well but to also give back to the communities in which we live and work. My decision to serve on the Dean's Council is one of the best ways I can think of to give back to my community. To support Nevada's only law school and help its students as future lawyers is very rewarding.

What was your first or most memorable job?

My first job was as a runner for my father's law office in downtown Las Vegas in 1966. At the time, there were just over 100 attorneys in Las Vegas and almost all law offices were downtown. If we needed to photocopy something, we went to the Clark County Law Library and the law librarian made the copies for us at five cents per copy (secretaries made carbon copies of all documents and pleadings as they were being typed.) One of my favorite places

to go was the old Post Office (today's Mob Museum), because they had a coke machine where you could get a Coke for ten cents.

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

I have a few pieces of advice:

Get as much practical experience as you can before, during and after your law school education. Study the business world and understand that if you go into private practice, law firms are businesses. The business world is changing constantly, and we all need to learn to be flexible and adaptive.

Become the best writer you possibly can. We sometimes see new lawyers who are lacking in their writing skills. Learn to communicate succinctly.

Work on your people skills. Good people skills will help you be a better lawyer and will help you when you are trying to network to meet new clients.

Where is your favorite travel destination?

I love to travel. My favorite destinations include Ireland, Mexico beach resorts, Tuscany and Bali.

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