



From Dean Dan

We are delighted that the Nevada Supreme Court will hear two cases at the law school next week. This is an annual tradition at the school and gives our students the opportunity to hear appellate arguments before the state's highest court firsthand. On February 15, we will welcome the Southern Panel of the Court, and our thanks to Justices Michael Douglas, Mark Gibbons, and Kristina Pickering. Thanks also to Chief Justice Michael Cherry and all those at the Supreme Court for making this visit possible.

The spring semester is a busy one for law school teams competing all over the country. This past weekend, two teams from Boyd competed in the ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition. Third-year students Michael Stannard and Katherine ("Kacey") Maher placed second overall in the competition, and second-year students William Nobriga and Nathan Lawrence made it to the semi-finals. Michael and Kacey also did very well at the American College of Bankruptcy LawMeet in Los Angeles, placing third overall. This is the first time that Boyd has participated in this competition. We are grateful to the students who represent Boyd so well in these competitions, as well as to the faculty and attorneys who volunteer their time to help our students prepare.

Finally, if you are one of our many alumni living in Arizona or Utah, we hope that you will join us for our upcoming alumni events in your area. We will be in Scottsdale on March 4 for our annual [happy hour and spring training game](#). On March 6, we will be in Salt Lake City for our annual [mixer and Utah Jazz game](#). These are such great opportunities to spend time with our alumni and their families, and we hope that you will join us.

Dan

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Faculty Spotlight: Richard F. Jost



Director at Fennemore Craig, Adjunct Professor at the Boyd School of Law

How do you see the legal profession evolving in the next 10 years or so and what does that mean for legal education?

While I do not have a crystal ball that clearly tells me how the legal profession will continue to evolve over the next 10 years, I can see how it has changed in recent decades and what that may suggest for the future. It is not enough for a new lawyer coming out of law school and entering the practice of law to be competent on the basic legal subjects that they are likely to encounter, nor is it enough for a new lawyer to be a decent written and verbal communicator. Today, clients are ever more demanding that the lawyers they hire are understanding of what the clients are trying to accomplish and the areas of business in

which the clients operate. It is not enough to know the rules, statutes, regulations and common law that impact the client's situation, today clients expect that their lawyer understands the context of the matter which the client is consulting the lawyer on and expect the lawyer to put themselves in the client's shoes before trying to address an answer. What that means for legal education, I believe, is that law school classes need to cover more than just the black letter law and try to give students a more comprehensive understanding of the context in which client matters arise and exist.

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

The State of Nevada and its Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems ("NIAS") is currently in a leadership position with the FAA and NASA in developing the information needed to safely integrate unmanned aerial systems into the national airspace. As many commentators have observed, this cannot happen soon enough as there are now millions of small unmanned aircraft in the hands of people with little or no training in flight rules and, more concerning, very little, if any awareness of the catastrophe that would follow a collision of even a small unmanned aerial vehicle with a commercial airliner. As general counsel to NIAS, I am privileged to be in the middle of that effort on a daily basis.

How does your "day job" affect your teaching?

Both of my answers above are a reflection of my day job as a practicing lawyer. When I teach I am constantly considering how to help students communicate better so that they will be able to seamlessly transition from being a law student to being a lawyer. Teaching the class on drones and privacy at the law school allows me to both share with students the most up-to-date information on the FAA's integration efforts and conversely think about the privacy issues related to the expanding use of unmanned aerial vehicles that I would not, as general counsel for NIAS, always have the opportunity to reflect on and consider.

Student Spotlight: Charlotte Buys



You wrote your first(!) book at age 15. What's the story, so to speak, behind that?

I started high school at the age of 10 and started college at the age of 15, where I became fascinated by psychology.

Particularly, I was very interested in developmental psychology due to my age. While studying the impact of bullying on children's development, I began writing the book *Scott the San Diego Sea Lion* to start a dialogue encouraging anti-bullying for children at an early reading level to empower children to better cope with intimidation. After working on the illustrations, the book was published when I turned 19.

You've also worked as a professional speechwriter. For which public figure, living or not, would you most like to speechwrite?

The Governor. I'm a hometown person, and very interested in local politics. I would love the opportunity to shape and contribute to the narrative of our state's political landscape.

Author, speechwriter... now aspiring attorney. Why law school?

After participating in a local political campaign, I saw how important it is to give back to the community, and saw how law school could give me the tools to make a difference through advocacy and expanding my writing skills. As Chair of Community Service for Boyd's Phi Alpha Delta chapter, I have been given the opportunity to give back already to local charities, including the Tyler Robinson Foundation and Three Square.

What's been your favorite course at Boyd thus far?

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my health law classes – Mental Health Law, HIPAA Disability Law, and Health Law – it's difficult to pick just one because they all provide different perspectives of the interaction between medicine and law.

Alumni Spotlight: Gordon Goolsby '09



Gordon is a Senior Deputy Attorney General in the Transportation Division at the Nevada Attorney General's Office. He works in eminent domain litigation.

Tell us about the best advice you've received.

After law school I clerked for Judge Bruce Markell in Bankruptcy Court. Towards the end of my clerkship I started looking at jobs at various law firms. My initial thought was to take whatever offer paid the most. Judge Markell's advice to me was that I should focus on other factors than salary. He said that when comparing firms, if the annual salaries from competing job offers were within \$20,000 of each other, that I should treat the offers as relatively fungible and that salary

shouldn't be the principle factor in choosing one firm over another. Instead, if the salaries are close, then the focus should be on factors like the quality of training I would receive, the type of people I would be working with and the firm's reputation. These things would have a greater impact on my development and happiness as a lawyer than how much that first job paid. He was absolutely right.

What is a little-known fact about you?

I grew up in Kotzebue, Alaska, an Inupiat Eskimo village north of the Arctic Circle that was only accessible by flight. With a population of 2,000 people, Kotzebue was the largest community in the region. My dad had a construction company and built schools, clinics and other public buildings throughout the dozen or so communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough. When I was a child, I didn't realize how remote it was but it was a great place to grow up.

When it's time to relax and leave work behind, where are some of your favorite vacation destinations?

My wife and I have a tradition of taking a big vacation every fifth anniversary. On our fifth anniversary we spent a week skiing at Banff and Lake Louise in Canada. It was my idea of perfect. On our tenth we took our whole family to Cabo San Lucas for a beach and snorkeling experience. On our 15th we spent a week scuba diving in Grand Cayman. This was my wife's idea of perfect. We've been married 19 years now so we are starting to plan our 20th anniversary trip!

Community Member Spotlight: Judge Gloria Sturman



Department 26, Eighth Judicial District Court, 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.

Founding Dean Richard Morgan, who was my Corporations professor at Arizona State University, wisely recognized the importance of teaching every law student that our profession is on the front line of protecting the access to justice. As a judge, I see people every day who are caught up in a system that is frightening and confusing because they do not understand how to access legal resources. Boyd students provide many resources to help address these problems, so I am honored to be working with the law school on the continuation of this important work.

What was your first or most memorable job?

My first job was with the U.S. Forest Service "Youth Conservation Corps" the summer between my junior and senior years in high school. We maintained campsites, hiking trails and historical sites, built barb-wire fences and rock retaining walls, all of which is way

outside of my comfort zone, but the fact that I challenged myself and succeeded is why I loved that job!

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

Pay attention to ethics and professionalism. The loss of civility in our profession is such a serious problem that the attorney oath was amended to include a pledge to “conduct myself in a civil and professional manner, whether dealing with clients, opposing parties and counsel, judicial officers or the general public, and will promote the administration of justice.” Your legal education will take you far in life, but only if you preserve your legal reputation.

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

If you were to poll any group of attorneys most would probably cite *To Kill a Mockingbird* as their favorite book. In *Atticus Finch*, attorneys have a role model for moral courage and integrity. Since I don't want that image destroyed, I just could not bring myself to read the recently published prequel, even though I was assured by a friend that “it really wasn't that bad of a book.”

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