



From Dean Dan

Our wonderful colleague Professor Chris Blakesley is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in international and comparative law. In honor of his retirement at the end of this year, the law school is hosting a symposium called [Reconsidering the International Legal Order in Changing Times](#) on Friday, April 7 in the Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom.

The symposium will include discussion of emerging trends and challenges in international law and human rights law; cybercrime and cyberterrorism; global issues in criminal law; prosecution and alternatives in international criminal law; comparative criminal law and criminal procedure; international and comparative family law; and terrorism and the Constitution.

Professor Blakesley has been recognized by UNLV as a Barrick Distinguished Scholar, and he holds the Cobeaga Law Firm Professorship at Boyd. He is the author of a dozen books on topics ranging from terrorism to family law. He is also a member of the American Law Institute as well as the boards of editors and boards of advisors of many international publications, institutes, and research centers.

To honor Professor Blakesley's years of service to the law school, we have created a scholarship in his name. If you would like to contribute, please visit <https://netcommunity.unlv.edu/givetolaw>, select "Professor Chris Blakesley Fund" from the drop down menu, and under tribute information, type "Chris Blakesley." Thank you, Chris, for all you have done for Boyd and our students.

Also, we hope to see you tonight at the [18th Annual Public Interest Law Association Auction](#) from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. We hope you will join us to support this great cause and help PILA raise funds to finance summer internship grants for Boyd students working in public interest.

Lastly, I encourage you to join thousands of Nevadans today by taking part in [Nevada's Big Give](#). It is one extraordinary day to support the organizations that make Nevada special, including the Boyd School of Law. And, it's your chance to make a real impact. Please join us in supporting our community by donating online [here](#).

Dan

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Faculty Spotlight: Jennifer Gross

*Head of Collections at the Wiener-Rogers Law Library and
Associate Professor*



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

My primary responsibilities focus on my role as Head of Collections for the library and my work in providing research support to other faculty members. On the research side, I am currently working with Professors Rapaport, Sternlight, and Griffin. These projects range from researching promotion and tenure guidelines at other universities to collecting resources on attorneys and jurists and materials that address doctor-patient communications.

Undertaking substantive research for law faculty involves both being able to track down hard-to-find materials and intuit what materials will be most useful for the faculty member; faculty themselves are often trying to determine what's out there before narrowing the scope of the subject on which they will write. In addition, keeping track of three different projects simultaneously can be challenging.

One of my favorite duties as Head of Collections is reviewing new books that are available and selecting those that the library will purchase – basically, I get to spend a lot of time shopping (for books, but it's still shopping). Because the library's collections support the research and teaching at Boyd, I have to know what topics our faculty and students are interested in and writing about and what new curricular offerings are in the mix. This means I am always trying to keep tabs on what is going on at the school; it lets me be a bit of a busybody and satisfy my intellectual curiosity at the same time.

What is the most significant issue facing your field and how should it be addressed?

Many in librarianship are currently focused on information literacy. I started in this profession before the internet existed and just as Lexis and Westlaw were becoming widely available. At that time, we were intent on teaching law students how to find enough information and especially how to make sure that the authorities they found were still good law. Now our focus is on how manage too much information, and how to separate the useful sources from the superfluous ones. We are still learning how to effectively teach students to separate relevant and valid information from an overwhelming background of static.

Which of your recent books or articles should I read?

I edited and partially authored a reference book titled *Nevada Legal Research Manual*. I don't believe I would encourage anyone to read it cover to cover. However, if you or anyone you know has a question about Nevada legal research, I would love it if you remembered that there is a book that can answer your question.

Student Spotlight: Chelsea Finnegan



Tell us about how you were able to live your dream to be a Nebraska Husker athlete?

Training was a full-time job in high school, so it was an honor to play for such an accomplished college tennis team. Representing Nebraska on court and in the community was challenging and exciting. And while waking up for 6 a.m. training was not always fun, I made lifelong friends and acquired skills that I transferred to law school, like time management, dedication, and teamwork.

Last summer you were a legal intern for the United States Army JAG Corps in Virginia. What did that experience teach you?

Working for the Army was a highlight of my law school career. I drafted appellate briefs and practiced oral arguments for the Army's highest court. The experience taught me a lot about responsibility; they do not take excuses, so there were high expectations of my work product, physical training, and attitude.

What's been your proudest accomplishment as a law student at Boyd?

My proudest accomplishment is currently happening. As a student attorney for the Family Justice Clinic, it is rewarding to already help people with their legal needs. Tackling my 1L oral argument was also huge for me. Most people don't know I am terrified of public speaking! I'd like to think I have come a long way since then.

You graduate in May and take the bar in July. Then what?

In the fall, I will enter the U.S. Army JAG Corps. After training, I will go to my first assignment which could be anywhere in the world. On my first day of law school, I told my Torts class I wanted to be a JAG, so I am excited for this adventure and very thankful to the law school for helping me achieve my goals.

Alumni Spotlight: Trevor Waite '14



Associate at Alverson Taylor Mortensen & Sanders, Member of the Alumni Leadership Circle at the Boyd School of Law

Tell me about your decision to attend Boyd Law.

My decision to attend Boyd Law was easily made for several reasons. First, I am a Las Vegas native and completed my education from elementary through undergraduate here. Attending Boyd meant that I would complete all my schooling in my hometown, which is something not many people I know can say. Second, in the years leading up to my attendance, Boyd was consistently ranked in the top 100 law schools in the nation. This was extremely important in my decision because it was an indication of the caliber of students attending Boyd, as well as a reflection on the caliber of professors teaching at Boyd. Finally, when compared with other top 100 law schools, Boyd's tuition was reasonable and (at the time) almost half of what some top 100 law schools cost. Vegas + Top 100 + Reasonable Tuition = No Brainer!

You're a member of the Alumni Leadership Circle. Why do you feel it is important to donate to the law school?

I have been very blessed in both my education and business endeavors and therefore have always tried to live in accordance with the concept of gratitude and giving back embodied in one of my favorite quotes by Elder Neal A. Maxwell, a prominent figure in the LDS church: "We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count." Donating to the school allows me to give back to the community that has given me so much and is a way for me to help the next generation prepare for their future in the same way I was helped when I attended Boyd.

What's the best business advice you ever received?

My father, Dan Waite, gave me this advice after swearing me in to the Nevada State Bar: "As an attorney you are endowed with power and trust over the lives and business of your clients. Remember that your most valuable asset is your integrity and if you lose that, you lose everything."

Community Member Spotlight: Bo Bernhard



Executive Director of UNLV's International Gaming Institute, Member of the Gaming Law Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law

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

I serve as Executive Director of UNLV's International Gaming Institute, and my history here at UNLV dates back twenty years now (longer, if you count summer camps I attended on

campus as a kid growing up in Las Vegas). I have been deeply impressed by the law school's growth since it was launched here at UNLV, and I jumped at the chance to get involved. In fact, I would say I am as proud of my affiliation with Boyd as I am of any that I have in my academic career. As a partner with Boyd in our new International Center for Gaming Regulation, I am convinced the collaborative work that our International Gaming Institute and Boyd Law does together is unmatched globally.

What was your first or most memorable job?

I worked out in the cart barn at a golf course -- and as soon as the golf pros went home, we would race the carts, backwards, down the fairways. Probably not a smart thing to admit to an audience of attorneys, but there it is.

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

The same advice that I give all of my students: the days of linear 30-year careers are long gone. As such, the key today is to work hard, do great, and then marvel as fantastic things "fall into your lap."

The secret, though: you have to train your brain to scan for those positive opportunities, as positive psychology researchers note that we often do the opposite, scanning the world for adverse circumstances, via a "negativity bias" that long served humans well from an evolutionary perspective.

Today, though, that thinking does us no good. Scan for good -- that's the lesson.

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

I'm an academic, which means that my career can be tracked through a long line of great books, so this question is hard. Most recently, I've become enamored with the new "positive psychology" research literature that has emerged over the past ten years or so, studying those who manage to remain resilient and flourish.

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