



From Dean Dan

In this Boyd Briefs we highlight the law school's thriving Health Law Program. We are delighted to share the news that [David Orentlicher](#) will be joining our faculty. Professor Orentlicher comes to Boyd after serving as the Samuel R. Rosen Professor of Law and the Co-director of the William S. and Christine S. Hall Center for Law and Health at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Professor Orentlicher is one of the leading health law scholars in the country. He is a member of the American Law Institute, and former president of the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics. Professor Orentlicher earned both his medical and law degrees from Harvard, and he is the co-author of the casebook *Health Care Law and Ethics*. He joins our already outstanding health law faculty including Lehman Professor of Law Stacey Tovino, Professor Max Gakh, William S. Boyd Professor of Law Ann McGinley, and Professor Sara Gordon, who is featured below.

Adjunct Professor Cynthia Asher has organized two excellent CLE programs coming up in April. First, on Friday, April 14, 2017, [Samuel R. Maizel](#), a partner in the Los Angeles office of Dentons, will give a talk titled "[Unique Issues That Arise in the Restructuring of a Financially Distressed Healthcare Business](#)." On Friday, April 21, 2017, [Cory Talbot](#), a partner in the Salt Lake City office of Holland and Hart LLP, will give a talk titled "[Antitrust Considerations in Health Care and Ways to Protect Your Transaction](#)." Both of these talks are free and approved for two hours of CLE.

The UNLV Health Law Program also now offers law students the opportunity to concentrate their elective studies in health law. Our first Boyd student to earn the new Health Law Concentration is Vanessa Rendon, a December 2016 graduate. I want to congratulate Vanessa on recently placing second in two national writing competitions sponsored by the American Bar Association and the American College of Legal Medicine for her outstanding paper on medical repatriation.

Finally, this week the law school partnered with the Brookings Institution, together with the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution and the Desert Research Institute, for a wonderful conference on water law and policy in Washington, D.C. You can watch videos from the conference [here](#). After the conference, I had the opportunity to meet with some of our Congressional delegates, including Congresswoman Jacky Rosen, Congressman Mark Amodei, Congresswoman Dina Titus, Senator Dean Heller, and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. They were happy to hear about all of the great things happening at the law school, and we are very grateful for their continued support.



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Faculty Spotlight: Sara Gordon



Associate Professor of Law

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

My current research focuses on the treatment of individuals with mental illness and addiction in the legal system, and specifically in drug and other specialty courts like mental health court.

Specifically, I have been looking at the high rates of co-morbidity of addiction and mental illness, as well as co-occurring substance use and behavioral addictions. Addiction frequently co-occurs with

or contributes to a wide range of medical conditions, including physical conditions like heart disease, as well as mental health and behavioral disorders like depression and anxiety.

Moreover, many people who are addicted to substances also engage in addictive behaviors, like problem gambling. But while we know that these types of disorders often occur in tandem, drug and other specialty courts are typically segregated; that is, individuals are diverted into a specialty court that might address one problem, like drug or alcohol use, while failing to address another problem the individual may also have, like a gambling disorder. Because of the significant advances in our understanding of the frequency of co-occurring disorders since the original conception of the drug court model, my research suggests that the basic structure of drug and other specialty courts might be improved by shifting the focus away from discrete substances or behaviors, and towards the underlying causes of addiction and the intersection of addiction and mental illness.

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

I think the most significant issue facing the legal system as it attempts to deal with individuals with addiction is the continuing lack of understanding that addiction is a brain disease, one with a biological basis similar to cancer or diabetes. This is a problem for any individual with an addiction who finds herself involved with the criminal justice system, but I think it is also a problem for individuals who become involved with drug and other specialty courts. Many drug courts, for instance, will not accept participants who are undergoing medication-assisted treatment for addiction and substance abuse, treatments which have been shown to be safe and highly effective for many people. I think many people still believe that addiction is a type of character flaw or weakness, and this attitude is reflected in the types of addiction treatment we are willing to provide to people both within and outside of the justice system.

When you are working on an article or a book, what's your favorite part of the process?

My favorite part of the process of any writing project is the moment (and for me, it is usually a fairly discrete moment) where I feel like I've reached the top of the mountain and the rest of the way is downhill. Sometimes, this is when I have a pretty good draft of something and I can start fine-tuning. But more often, it's when I can see where all of the pieces will (eventually) go. Even if I still have a lot of—or most of—the work to go, that stage is much more satisfying than the beginning when I feel like one idea could go in a dozen different and unpredictable directions.

Student Spotlight: Bryce Moir

You are taking both the Health Law and HIPAA Privacy courses with Professor Stacey Tovino this semester. How are you enjoying those courses,



and how are they shaping your professional objectives?

My mother has been in the medical field for over 20 years, so I have always been fascinated with anything medically related. I also love politics, law, and policy so Health Law and HIPAA are a perfect amalgamation of policy and health. I could not have asked for a better combination! I hope to take these HIPAA skills and be a HIPAA privacy officer after I graduate.

Tell us about your work with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Consumer Rights Project.

As a law clerk, I researched many topics about bankruptcy law and bankruptcy fraud. We were working on a case where a woman was trying to commit bankruptcy fraud, so that was extremely exciting to be a part of an actual case with real life consequences. The best part of LACSN, however, is that face-to-face connection I made with so many people that needed our help. Really nothing can be better than helping those in need.

You studied music as a high school student at the Las Vegas Academy. Do you still find time to play while now studying the law?

While my violin days are over, I still play piano every day. It keeps me calm and sane in this chaotic world of law school. It really has been my saving grace in times of extreme duress.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I see myself somewhere in the health law profession either working as general counsel for a hospital or doing something HIPAA related. Either way, as long as I am happy and comfortable I cannot ask for anything more!

Alumni Spotlight: David Klink '11



David Klink Attorney at Law, Phoenix

What piqued your interest in health care law as a student?

While at Boyd, health care reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were part of the national debate. So, I focused my studies on health care legal issues, believing it to be a growth field where I could find a job after graduation, since we were also in the middle of the recession.

The health program at Boyd was in its infancy and I was able to study with Professor Stacey Tovino while externing at UMC's Office of Risk Management. Everything from physician credentialing, EMTALA regulations, patient privacy laws, STARK compliance, mental health patient legal issues, institutional review boards for clinical trials, and malpractice claims were part of hospital projects where I experienced classroom legal concepts played out in real life at a large fast-paced hospital.

Tell us about your solo practice working in health care.

My practice is devoted primarily to defending health care providers. I help nurses, doctors, and other health care professionals respond to complaint notices from their licensing boards. This unique area of administrative law has different procedural rules than civil or criminal litigation; however, I frequently draw on civil, criminal, and constitutional law to effectively represent my clients.

Additionally, I advise health care providers and others for general business and litigation matters; and represent personal injury plaintiffs. I have helped clients with provider reimbursement disputes, credentialing issues, employment non-compete agreements, medical marijuana compliance, physician employment and operating agreement reviews,

and many other issues affecting health care providers and their businesses.

The growing field of health care is a great practice with many different areas where lawyers can find a niche.

Is there a nugget of advice you would give a recent Boyd Law graduate?

First, understand that your client is often facing one of the most difficult and stressful situations of his/her life. Clients trust us to help them through the unfamiliar legal system. Second, never be afraid to ask other attorneys for guidance in unfamiliar situations. Most attorneys are more than willing to share information and advice because it is impossible to know everything. Asking questions and sharing information about your practice with other attorneys is a great way to develop professional relationships. Third, make time to pursue activities that have nothing to do with the practice of law. This will help refresh your mind and manage the pressures of legal practice.

Community Member Spotlight: Lynn Stange



Chief Compliance Officer at Nathan Adelson Hospice, Member of the Health Law Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law

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

I came to the Advisory Board initially to attend in our CEO Carole Fisher's place but once the conversation started, my unique experience in the regulatory arena appealed to the Board and I was asked by Stacey Tovino to participate as a regular member. The Board and its mission are meaningful to me because it creates an opportunity to share with community members from all professions regarding health care law and how it relates to actual practice.

What was your first or most memorable job?

My first job was at McDonald's in Helena, Montana. I met my husband of 32 years there, making it very memorable. Beyond that, it was a great place to meet new people from different parts of the city and create this space to have fun and engage in new friendships.

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

Be open to new possibilities and not limit those possibilities. I also think what CEO Carole Fisher and I share is that we believe we should always be in "learning mode" versus "knowing mode."

Where is your favorite travel destination?

Rome, Italy. You can wander the streets endlessly and always encounter something new and interesting. Of course the people are very special and the food is delicious too.

Tell me about a book you have read that has made a real difference to you.

The Shack by William P. Young is a wonderful story of forgiveness, closure and redemption.

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