



From Dean Dan

This week, we held our annual awards dinner to recognize the contributions of the [Nevada Law Journal](#), the [UNLV Gaming Law Journal](#), and the [Society of Advocates](#) (SOA). Our students, faculty and alumni joined together to celebrate another successful academic year and to recognize the achievements of these student organizations. I want to congratulate the three award winners. The *Nevada Law Journal* gave its third annual Judge Elissa Cadish Award for Outstanding Student Note to Brent Resh for his article "Something New Under the Sun: The DRECP and the Future of Utility-Scale Solar on the New Energy Frontier." The *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* gave its fourth annual Anthony Cabot Award for Best Student Note to Victoria Allen for her article "What's in a Game: Collective Management Organizations and Video Game Copyright." The SOA gave its fourth annual Franny Forsman Award for Excellence in Advocacy to Emily Haws for her overall SOA performance; she participated in the Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition and argued before Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

Congratulations to all the award winners, and special recognition and thanks to friends of the law school and award namesakes Judge Elissa Cadish, Anthony Cabot, and Franny Forsman. I'd also like to thank the leaders of these student organizations for their excellent work all year long: *Nevada Law Journal* Editor-in-Chief Emily Haws, *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* Editor-in-Chief Adam Ellis, and SOA President Adrienne Brantley. Thanks, finally, to SOA faculty advisor Andrew Martineau, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Frank Durand, and Administrative Assistant Kelly Boan.

We are once again partnering with the Association of Corporate Counsel and the State Bar of Nevada to provide a [Legal Bootcamp for Nonprofits and Entrepreneurs](#) on Friday, April 28, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Thomas and Mack Moot Courtroom. This free event is designed to address many of the legal issues faced by early-stage nonprofits and for-profits. Breakout sessions will be conducted by members of the Association of Corporate Counsel and Boyd's own Small Business and Nonprofit Legal Clinic students. The bootcamp will cover many topics, including formation issues, intellectual property, contracts, licensing and permitting, and employment issues.

Finally, I want to congratulate our colleague [Terrill Pollman](#), who this week received the UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award. A member of Boyd's founding faculty, Professor Terry Pollman developed the law school's nationally recognized legal writing program, and she is now pioneering a leadership, rhetoric, and law course.

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Faculty Spotlight: Linda Berger



Linda L. Berger is the Family Foundation Professor of Law and has recently completed a term as Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research at Boyd. She is also the Immediate Past President of the [Legal Writing Institute](#) and a nationally recognized leader in legal rhetoric and writing.

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

My co-editors and I are preparing for a conference in May in Oñati, Spain, that for the first time will bring together the organizers of Feminist Judgments projects from around the world. Seven different groups in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and across Europe are working independently on projects in which lawyers, scholars, and even a few judges are rewriting court opinions on gender issues. The purpose is to explore whether the judicial reasoning process or the outcome or both would change if those doing the judging applied some of the methods and perspectives that have emerged from feminist and critical theory. For the first time at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, organizers of the different projects will meet to compare and contrast their approaches and what they have found ([Comparative Socio-Legal Perspectives on Judicial Decision Making and Gender Justice](#)).

In the U.S., the Feminist Judgments project encompasses the published volume, [Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court](#), a just-sent-to-the publishers volume of rewritten tax opinions, and proposals-in-progress to rewrite opinions on reproductive justice, family law, corporate law, torts law, and employment discrimination. In addition, an upcoming issue of the Nevada Law Journal will include a Feminist Judgments Symposium collecting articles from a conference last October.

What have you read, listened to, or watched recently that has influenced you or your work?

The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel was published ten years ago, but I re-read selected stories every year or so. Hempel's stories remind you of how much a writer can accomplish in a sentence. Hempel's work is often heartbreaking and sometimes hilarious. Her use of language illustrates what she learned from being a journalist: "you have to grab readers instantly and keep them."

I've also been following #appellatetwitter, where lawyers, judges, and various legal writing experts share diverse views as well as practical and impractical advice on questions from font preferences to oral argument techniques. We often talk about encouraging conversation between practicing lawyers and academics, but this forum actually does that!

Student Spotlight: Marckia Hayes



You were an extern for United States District Court Judge Richard Boulware. What was your takeaway from that experience?

My experience externing for Judge Richard Boulware was probably one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences during my law school career. Judge Boulware provides an externship experience that I believe is unlike any other. I had the opportunity to act as a law clerk and handle my own case load.

My biggest takeaway from this experience is that it reinforced that I have the abilities to succeed in the legal field.

And how did you enjoy serving as a teaching assistant to Professor Sara Gordon in her Lawyering Process course?

I thoroughly enjoyed my time serving as a teaching assistant to Professor Gordon. In the course of helping 1L students with their briefs and oral arguments, the opportunity helped me hone my mentorship abilities by providing students with constructive feedback and

valuable advice. And of course, it is always a pleasure to learn from Professor Gordon whether as a student in her class or her teaching assistant.

Ten years from now, what moment at Boyd will you look back on and smile?

As a member of the Society of Advocates moot court competition team, I've had the opportunity to travel to and compete in cities I've never had the chance to visit, such as New York and Washington D.C. My partner Valerie Gray and I had the honor to argue Supreme Court cases in front of prominent attorneys and judges across the country. From these experiences, I have received valuable insight that I will be able to take with me throughout my practice in the legal field.

What are your plans after graduation in May and the bar exam in July?

On July 31, 2017, I begin my clerkship at the Nevada Supreme Court with Justice Michael L. Douglas.

Alumni Spotlight: Edgar Flores '12



Nevada State Assemblyman, District 28

When you were a child, what did you want to be?

Like many children born to immigrant parents, I translated as they struggled with English. While still very young, I participated in very grown-up conversations. Everything from explaining leases to negotiating car purchases, and more. Each conversation empowered me more. Two legal battles drained my family and led to my becoming a lawyer. Feeling utterly helpless and voiceless--feelings my parents suffered for too many years in this country--I sat in a courtroom whispering into my father's ear as the judge announced his order forever separating my family. Too young to know exactly what a lawyer did, I resolved at that moment to

become one, so I would never again feel so powerless and defenseless.

Tell me about your decision to attend Boyd School of Law.

Born here, I felt indebted to Las Vegas. Attending Boyd allowed me to surround myself with people I care about and who share the same ambition to make this state better than we inherited it.

Is there a case that you are particularly proud of?

A desperate mother walked in 10 minutes before closing on a Thursday. Her son would be deported Friday. One all-nighter later, after an Emergency Stay and Motion to Reopen, followed by ICE and detention center visits, her son stayed in Las Vegas and was released a few days later.

I take pride in legislation I sponsor: creating parity between federal and state laws to protect immigrant children; shutting down predatory businesses preying on our most vulnerable members of society; closing loop-holes used by pay-day and title-lending companies to keep unwitting borrowers on the debt treadmill; providing annual career and college counseling to all 9th graders and above to facilitate their paths to success; and so many more.

Whom do you admire and why?

I admire my parents most. They persevered through many hardships, but I never heard them complain. They instilled a confidence to belong wherever I found myself; while reminding me I must earn a right to be there—striking the balance between understanding I am not entitled to anything, but also not prohibited from anything. They arrived in the U.S. with no money, no support structure, and limited education. They toiled seven days a week for years at multiple minimum wage jobs, yet always exhorting their children to believe anything was possible. Their grit and passion follows me into each courtroom and committee hearing. I am a lawyer and Nevada state legislator to fight for people like them.

If you were speaking to a group of recent Boyd Law graduates, what would you say?

Stay true to and never abandon the grit, determination and fundamental values that got them into law school through graduation. Resist the forces constantly eroding those strong, foundational values into something less sturdy. That strong foundation is your floor (never your ceiling) to build upon. Generating ever more billable hours should never be at the expense of your integrity, health, and reputation. Constantly check your foundational pulse and moral compass to avoid becoming something you never intended to become. Last, refrain from big purchases your first two years in practice. Incurring debt ties you to a paycheck and limits opportunities to grow and move to another firm to find your best fit. It is hard to leave even something you hate if anchored by a stack of bills.

Community Member Spotlight: Yvanna Cancela



Nevada State Senator, District 10, Member of the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law

You are the first Latina in the Nevada State Senate. Can you talk to us a little about that?

It's an honor to be the first Latina in the State Senate, and I know I won't be the last. I feel strongly about opening the doors for others to find their place in the political process. Nevada is full of young leaders. I want to do my part to make sure the door that was opened for me is left wider for those who follow.

Tell me about your decision to serve on the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic Advisory Board and what makes Boyd Law's mission meaningful to you.

"A laboratory for justice," is the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic's motto. I truly believe the work of the Clinic exemplifies that. I was honored when asked to serve on the Advisory Board. I was and am constantly inspired by the innovative work done by Clinic students. There is a real understanding that students benefit from hands-on work. I believe that's true in all areas of Boyd Law. The impact students and alumni have made in our community ripples across sectors; from non-profits to politics to business to private practice, Boyd graduates shape the fabric of our state. It was easy to say yes to serving on the Clinic's Advisory Board.

What was your first or most memorable job?

My first job was as a bartender at a sports bar in Miami. I finished bartending school during high school and got a job to earn money before starting college. It was hard work. I never would have thought that a summer job would end up having such a marked experience on my future job at the Culinary Union. It's because I never earned more than \$2/hour as a bartender that I believe in ensuring service jobs are good jobs. No one should have to rely exclusively on the generosity of guests to be able to pay their bills.

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

Stay focused. Work hard. Dream big.

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

I recently finished a book on Michelle Obama. Her family's story is one of grit and determination. It was deeply moving.

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