



### From Dean Dan

I am proud to recognize Boyd Charter Class member Daron Dorsey, who last night was honored as the William S. Boyd School of Law Alumnus of the Year at the [2017 Annual Alumni Awards](#). Daron was selected for this award by Boyd's Alumni Chapter Board for his many contributions to the law school. Daron started the Alumni Chapter's very successful annual golf tournament. He also co-founded and co-chairs the Alumni Leadership Circle and co-chairs the Law Fund. We are incredibly grateful for Daron's tremendous service to the school, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

Last weekend, we were proud to host the 19th Annual Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) / William S. Boyd School of Law Moot Court Competition for the students in the first year class. We are particularly grateful to attorney Robert Eglet for hosting the final round of the competition in the terrific moot courtroom at the Robert T. Eglet Advocacy Center. Please join me in congratulating the final four competitors: first place winner **Will Carter**, second place winner **Lucy Crow**, third place winner **Steven Kish**, and fourth place winner **Jonathan Moss**. I'd also like to congratulate the other students who competed in the two-day competition and thank the local attorneys, judges, faculty, staff, and volunteers for helping to make this event a success. Special recognition goes to our final round judges: Justice Kristina Pickering, Nevada Supreme Court; Judge James Mahan, U.S. District Court, District of Nevada; and Robert Eglet. The judges were extremely impressed with the quality of our students' arguments.

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law  
[daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu](mailto:daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu)  
[facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton)

### Faculty Spotlight: Sonya Miller



*Visiting Assistant Professor Sonya Miller currently directs the externship program at Boyd. She is a Boyd Alum (Class of '13) who also holds an LL.M. in Taxation from Villanova University. After graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Mary S. Brennan, J.T.C., in New Jersey Tax Court.*

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

*Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. *Evicted* is a textbook but reads like a page-turner novel, depicting several low-income families struggling to maintain housing without government assistance, concluding that housing is a fundamental right. Ask yourself, can there be life, liberty, and happiness absent housing? Life largely happens in the home. Privacy, a mainstay of liberty, is largely afforded by having a home. Happiness is largely tied to home life.

Growing up in Las Vegas' "Historic Westside," I never experienced housing insecurity but saw it often enough and I just thought, "That's life—people have to pay their rent." *Evicted* really made me stop and reflect, which is a skill I teach in the Externship Program. For those already public interest oriented, it will inspire them to keep "fighting the good fight." For others, it may inspire them to get in the ring.

**When students ask you what they should read outside the required textbooks and other law-related books, what do you suggest?**

I suggest students read books on networking. I then ask, "What is networking?" Their answers vary, but many of them center on some foggy notion of mingling with strangers and collecting business cards (which they often discard later). The very idea of having to do this sends some students scurrying—it can be uncomfortable schmoozing with strangers! Then comes the relief when I explain that even the shyest person can be an excellent networker because networking is about building and maintaining relationships rather than making superficial connections. I had a sense of this early in life but gained a fuller and formal understanding of the concept after writing a paper on relationships for Professor Sternlight's Psychology and Lawyering course.

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

The mere privilege of teaching in a law school inspires and motivates me. By no means did I set out to pursue a career in academia nor did I ever dream of one. The idea did not occur to me but to others, including our very own Professor Lipman, Professor Keith Fogg of Villanova Law, and Eunhyong Choi formerly of Washington University Law. As my clerkship with the New Jersey Tax Court came to an end, they frequently sent me job postings for law school tax clinic director positions. I did not think myself a teacher but then I thought, "They must know something I don't," and I decided to apply to one of those postings. The rest is history.

**Student Spotlight: Adrian Viesca**



**Tell us about your work with the Nevada State Legislature prior to law school.**

My job at the legislature was phenomenal and one of the most gratifying work experiences I've ever had. I worked for Senator Tick Segerblom, and I enjoyed working with citizens, legislators, and community organizations to craft legislation that helped thousands of Nevadans. Even now when I am not there, I often have the committee hearings streaming online in the background while I study.

**Fill in the blanks: "My favorite class at Boyd was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."**

This is tough to answer. But one of my favorite classes at Boyd was Judicial Writing because of Professor Joe Regalia's insistence that all of his students grow as writers. He stressed how important it is to continue to learn, refine, and reflect on your writing. Even if you do not plan to pursue a clerkship, I think his class is helpful. It builds upon Boyd's top-notch legal writing curriculum.

**Anybody in particular you'd like to give a shout out as you approach graduation in May?**

A huge shout out to my girlfriend, Beatriz for her unconditional support throughout law school. Many thanks to my law school crew who have become my closest friends since our very first 1L classes. And a shout out to La Voz and the executive board that I served with during my 2L year; we worked together to help high school students pursue their dreams of becoming lawyers. Even though they won't see this, a big shout out to my family -- I couldn't ask for more.

**Graduation. The bar exam. What then?**

I'm headed to Reno, Nevada where I will be clerking for Judge Patrick Flanagan in the Second Judicial District of Nevada.

## Alumni Spotlight: Jason Frierson '01



*Nevada State Assembly Speaker, Assembly District 8, Member of Dean's Council at the William S. Boyd School of Law*

### **How did you first get into the legal profession?**

Honestly, my life was at a crossroad and I was ready for a new direction. I viewed my propensity for argument as more of a hobby (or annoyance to my parents) than a career. When UNR President Joe Crowley suggested I join the Boyd Law charter class, it seemed a natural career transition.

### **Tell us about your decision to attend Boyd**

#### **School of Law.**

Despite habitually belaboring important decisions, once I decide, I do not look back. I devised an elaborate rating process for law school options. My initial thought was to return to California for law school. But Boyd Law was the exception. No matter how I scored the options or developed new criteria, Boyd came out on top. Every factor from proximity to family in southern California; likelihood of accreditation; cost of living; quality of life; et cetera was evaluated. I visited Boyd several times and tortured Associate Deans Christine Smith and Frank Durand with question after question. Eventually, I accepted my destiny to remain a Nevadan.

### **If you could be any fictional character, who would you be?**

Easy choice--Marvin, the Martian.

### **What was the catalyst for your legislative career?**

Not all attorneys practice law, as you know. I have always gravitated towards representation. I've been a class president or leader since the 7th grade; then onto high school, college, and law school. But campaigning for Boyd alum William Horne '01, and watching his contributions, inspired me to take it further.

### **You're involved in a lot. How do you keep everything balanced and organized?**

I don't keep it balanced nor organized! I wish I had more of both. My wife and children remind me of my imperfections and keep me centered as I grow as a husband and father. As I have matured, they are my focus; and so long as my work helps me take care of them, I remain fulfilled.

### **What advice would you give to a new colleague.**

Stay true to yourself. Life is too short to try to be someone else. Work hard for money if that is what drives you, but work hard for making a difference because that is what completes you. If you find a way to do both, consider yourself one of the few who figured this whole thing out.

### **What advice you would give a recent Boyd Law graduate?**

Be proud of your school and carry that into your practice. Remember that everything you do reflects on Boyd alumni--past and future. You must not only think like a lawyer as your advance in your practice, but still act like a human.

### **What do you enjoy in your off hours?**

Off hours?

### **Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

I would love to say enjoying retirement on a beautiful island, but more likely still in politics in a representative capacity.

## Community Member Spotlight: Gerald Gordon



*Founding Partner of Garman Turner Gordon, 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.**

It was a no-brainer to join the Dean's Council when asked. When I attended law school, there was no choice; you had to attend out-of-state. Not only does Boyd Law provide an option that was not available to me, but it enhances the practice of law in Nevada by providing resources that can only be provided by a traditional law school. As a member of the Dean's Council, I try to assist in this regard. Besides, our daughter, Sara, is a faculty member.

### **What was your first or most memorable job?**

Not my first, but my most memorable job before practicing law was working the carnival games at Circus Circus during the summer before my senior year at UNLV. While I started out working various games, by the end of the summer I was the guy on the microphone who spent hours "cajoling" visitors into participating in such attractions as a jam auction. I learned that I had the ability to persuade people with words.

### **What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?**

My father, though successful in business, wanted to go to law school but was not able to do so. So, as a default, he decided that I should. I remember as a child watching the television program, Divorce Court, as well as every other television program and motion picture about the profession. His business partners and friends were attorneys. Other than a very brief flirtation with the idea of teaching, I never considered any other profession. I was lucky; the practice of law was the right decision for me. My advice to current students is to make sure that law is the right decision and not simply a fallback option. While a law school education can provide a valuable skill set, the actual practice of law is demanding and difficult.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

For me, spare time is when I simply unwind; Yvonne (my wife), travel, wine, gardening, children and grandchildren, reading, puzzles.

### **Tell me about something you've read that has made a real difference to you.**

My interests run to mysteries and history. Anything by Thomas Friedman has made a difference, but to answer this question as to a recent read, I have to be somewhat political; I have been reading *Hitler: Ascent, 1889-1939* by Volker Ullrich. It illustrates the fragile nature of what we consider appropriate societal norms and human conduct.

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