From Dean Dan

Boyd School of Law has one of the most robust and successful post-graduate judicial clerkship placement programs in the country. Each year, a quarter to a third of Boyd’s graduating class secure clerkships with Nevada judges. Boyd graduates routinely clerk at the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Second Judicial District Court, the Nevada Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Nevada, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In the Class of 2017, 29 graduates will go on to work as judicial law clerks. One of these graduates will clerk for Boyd’s first alumna in the Eighth Judicial District Court family division, Judge Linda Marquis.

In addition to producing capable law clerks, Boyd congratulates 2006 graduate Tierra Jones on her recent judicial appointment by Governor Sandoval to the Eighth Judicial District Court. Jones is the first Boyd graduate to serve in the Eighth Judicial District Court civil/criminal division. Jones is currently a Deputy District Attorney with the Clark County District Attorney’s Office and has served as both a prosecutor and public defender during her career.

Finally, as we prepare for graduation next week, I wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate our graduating Public Interest Fellows, Jonathan Chung (2017 Pro Bono Student of Distinction) and Andi Orwoll (2017 Barbara Buckley Community Service Award Recipient). The Public Interest Fellowship Program offers financial resources, mentorship, and experiential learning opportunities to students with strong academic credentials, a demonstrated record of community service, and a clear commitment to public interest work after graduation from law school. Fellows receive academic and career counseling from faculty, career guidance from alumni who have undertaken public interest work, and hands-on experience with committed community partners. To learn more about the Program, click here.

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu
facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton

Faculty Spotlight: Kay Kindred

Kay P. Kindred is the Sara and Ralph Denton Professor at the Boyd School of Law. She teaches in the areas of contracts, family law, education law, children’s law, and law and society.

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

As rapidly evolving reproductive technologies have offered new avenues to parenthood, biology and parenthood no longer necessarily go hand in hand. The rise of these new technologies, and an increased use of third
parties to assist in the creation or the gestation of an embryo, has created a number of novel legal issues, challenged our collective notions about family and the importance of biology in determining parental rights, and caused confusion and contradiction with the application of existing statutory and common law to resolve issues of parentage. There is surprisingly little regulation of the fertility industry and very little law that directly addresses the rights and interests of participants in the process of assisted reproduction. I am working on a couple of projects looking at some of the legal issues created by the use of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (“ART”). One project is an article looking at the ways in which law, technology, and the market intersect in the area of ART to create both new opportunities and obstacles to parenthood, and how issues of race and class factor into that equation. A second related but broader project focuses on some of the myriad legal and ethical issues generated by so-called “reproductive tourism,” that is, the practice of individuals traveling from one state to another or from one country to another to utilize fertility services or surrogacy services.

How does your research and scholarship influence your teaching and service and vice versa?

My research, teaching, and service interests tend very much to intersect, and work in one area informs that in the other areas. My current project with the Uniform Law Commission (the “ULC,” formerly known as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws or “NCCUSL”) is a good example of such an intersection. I am a Commissioner with the ULC and, at present, I am serving on a committee charged with amending the Uniform Parentage Act (“UPA”). As a family law professor, this project draws directly upon my research and teaching and uses that work in a very concrete way in the context of my professional service. The UPA, originally promulgated in 1973 (“1973 UPA”), was enacted into law by the legislatures of over half the states, and served as a model for the parentage laws of many other states that did not enact the uniform law in full. The 1973 UPA removed the legal status of illegitimacy and provided a series of presumptions used to determine a child’s parentage. The Act was streamlined and augmented in 2002 to include provisions governing genetic testing and rules for determining parentage of children whose conception was not the result of sexual intercourse. The current project, the 2017 Amendments (“2017 UPA”), addresses parentage issues resulting from changes in related laws or changes in the technology of assisted reproduction that have occurred over the last fifteen years. For example, the 2017 UPA seeks to, among other things, ensure equal treatment of children born to same-sex couples, (changes required to address potential constitutional infirmity of the Act resulting from the United States Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015), that held laws barring marriage between two persons of the same sex to be unconstitutional), update the law governing parentage in the context of surrogacy to reflect recent developments in that area, and establish rules governing the right of a child born through the use of assisted conception involving a third-party donor to genetic information. Professional service projects like this one draw directly from my scholarly research and teaching, and in turn, generate ideas and provide insights that I incorporate regularly into my scholarship and teaching.

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

I believe that I am incredibly fortunate to be able to do what I do for a living. I enjoy teaching, and I’ve been lucky to have many wonderful students through the years. It is extremely satisfying to watch my students as they grow in their knowledge, find their own direction, and follow their passion on the road from law student to attorney. I’ve always considered it a privilege to be able to use my own legal training to make a positive contribution to my profession and to my community. It is no less a privilege to be able to play some small part in helping to prepare my students to be in a position to make their own contributions as members of the legal profession.

Student Spotlight: Adam Ellis

You’ve had a goal of running a marathon. How are you doing with that?

I’m not as far along as I had hoped, but I’m slowly getting back to training. Before law school, I ran a half-marathon, and my right knee decided not to cooperate a few miles in. I basically ran a majority of the race sideways to avoid bending the knee, and I think that did more damage than good. But I think sitting in class for the last three years has helped me recover!

What’s been the highlight of your tenure as editor-in-chief of the UNLV Gaming Law Journal?

Besides working with all the great members of GLJ, the highlight has been interviewing Jack Binion over lunch for our recent Oral History Issue. He was around
for so many historic events in Las Vegas, and it was fascinating hearing his stories about gambling, the mob, and growing up the way he did. And I’m not going to lie, as a long-time Las Vegas resident, I was a little starstruck.

Tell us about a class you took at Boyd that you loved.

I absolutely loved being part of the Small Business and Nonprofit Legal Clinic. Getting to work so closely with clients taught me a lot about myself, as well as the practice of law, while at the same time giving back to the community. Everyone should take one the Clinics—the experience has been invaluable.

Graduation is almost here and the bar exam is next. What’s after that for you?

I have a one-year clerkship with Judge Nancy Allf, and then I’ll join Snell & Wilmer as second-year associate. I’ve always been interested in businesses, so I feel extremely lucky being able to work in the Business Court and then with a firm that focuses on commercial litigation.

Alumni Spotlight: Gabrielle Angle ’10

Global Compliance Manager, Zuffa, LLC

What drew you to the UFC and what do you like most about your work there?

I came across a Global Compliance Coordinator job posting about four and a half years ago, while working for Nevada Ballet Theatre. My externship in Senator Harry Reid’s office handling immigration casework stood out on my resume and led to an interview with the UFC. The rest, as they say, is history. Now, I know more about aspects of domestic and international immigration law than I ever imagined I would know, but I love it. Though definitely not very knowledgeable or a fan when I started, I have developed a great appreciation and respect for mixed martial arts. Every day is a new challenge, and I have learned and grown professionally and personally working there.

You’re involved in a lot – working for the UFC, teaching ballet, President of the Boyd Law Alumni Board, and a fee reviewer for the Caesars bankruptcy case, among other things. How do you keep everything balanced and organized?

Keeping myself this busy forces me to constantly think about what is next, what else needs to be done, which deadlines loom, etc. Having many responsibilities makes me more efficient than I probably would be otherwise. Each activity sparks a different interest for me—from the constant challenges teaching and choreographing 70 dance students—to leading the Alumni Board and setting an example for others both personally and in the community. It is also my privilege to work for someone whom I admire most in this world and gain knowledge in the process.

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

Dagny Taggart, the protagonist in Ayn Rand’s novel Atlas Shrugged. She is an incredible blend of strength, compassion, drive, and is beautifully flawed. Despite living in a world dominated by men, and surrounded by a terrifying political culture, she forges ahead—refusing to let anything stand in the way of doing what she believes is right.

If you could live anywhere else in the world, where would it be?

Manhattan, New York City. Although many other cities and countries are on my travel list, New York City captures my heart. I visited there in my youth, and I have traveled there twice in the last two years. Each time has been among my most incredible experiences. Experiencing the energy of the city, walking the streets, seeing the people, the shops, the architecture, the culture—for me, it is indescribable.
Community Member Spotlight: Judge Lloyd D. George

Senior U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Nevada, Past Chairman of the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic Advisory Board at the Boyd School of Law

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.

As I think anyone who is familiar with the early history of Las Vegas is aware, some of the most influential people responsible for the remarkable development and success of Las Vegas are Parry Thomas and the Mack Family. I was happy when I first learned that the Thomas and Mack families would continue their marvelous work supporting the Las Vegas community by funding an endowment for Boyd Law’s Legal Clinic, and was pleased when I was asked to serve as Chairman of the Advisory Board. Over the history of Boyd Law School’s service in the community, the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic has played a marvelous role in providing help to those who are in need of assistance. And the members of the Advisory Board have been very cooperative in providing some direction and assistance for the success of the Legal Clinic. I was very happy to serve on this wonderful board.

What was your first or most memorable job?

I have, in my lifetime, been blessed with several memorable and enjoyable jobs. I would count among my most enjoyable jobs my three years serving as a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. I also piloted a B-47 bomber with targets in certain parts of the world, but fortunately I never had to fly those missions.

As a youth, one of my more memorable jobs was working for a local bank. My duties included picking up silver dollars from the Post Office and transporting them to the bank. They were shipped in $1,000 bags, and often the bank would get fifty bags. I would go to the Post Office and load the silver dollars on the back of an open, flat-bed truck. I would then sit on the pile of silver dollars as the truck drove through town to the bank.

What is your favorite travel destination?

As a federal judge, and because of my friendship with Chief Justice Rehnquist, I was privileged to receive assignments to travel virtually all over the world lecturing on the United States judicial system. I particularly enjoyed the two-months I spent lecturing and representing the United States’ judiciary in Poland.