



### From Dean Dan

Tomorrow we celebrate our 2017 Commencement. It is an exciting day at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, and we are proud to congratulate all of our graduates. This year we welcome Senator Harry Reid as our commencement speaker.

Senator Reid joined the law school in April as the first Distinguished Fellow in Law and Policy. He served 30 years in the U.S. Senate and is the longest serving Senator from Nevada. He served in the leadership of the Senate for 18 years, including nearly a decade as the Senate Majority Leader, where he took a leading role in shaping landmark legislation.

This year's faculty remarks will be made by Professor Leslie Griffin. Professor Griffin was nominated by the students enrolled in the full time, part time and LLM programs at the Boyd School of Law.

Additionally, student remarks will be made by LLM student Patrick Nelson Lambert, full time students Keith Jason Douglas Hightower and Mackenzie Warren and part time student Jessie Folkstead.

The ceremony will recognize the outstanding achievements of our J.D. and LL.M. students.

### Dean's Awards

Recognizes individual contributions or accomplishments of note to the law school community

*Heather Armantrout  
Heather Marie Caliguire  
Emily L. Dyer  
Adam Ellis  
Chelsea B. Finnegan  
Jessie Folkestad  
Keith J. D. Hightower  
Aarin Elyse Kevorkian  
Katherine Colleen Maher  
John Tyler Mowbray  
Alysa N. Piraino  
Timothy Edward Revero  
Chelsea Marie Stacey  
Michael A. Viets*

**Barbara Buckley Community Service Award**

Recognizes outstanding commitment to community/public service

*Andrea Dail Orwoll*

**James E. Rogers Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award**

Recognizes outstanding overall scholastic achievement

*Kyle M. Wyant*

**William S. Boyd Outstanding Graduate Award**

Recognizes scholastic achievement, overall leadership, and contribution to the law school community

*Emily Ruth Haws*

**Clinic Legal Education Association Award**

Recognizes excellence and achievement in the clinical program

*Emily L. Dyer*

**American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence**

Recognizes academic achievement in bankruptcy studies

*Connor Harrison Shea*

**Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writers**

Recognizes excellence in legal writing while in law school

*Heather Armantrout*

*F. Shane Jackson*

*Emily Ruth Haws*

*Kristen Matteoni*

*Andrea Dail Orwoll*

For a full list of our graduates and award winners, please see the announcement [here](#).

Join in the celebration — send your congrats and share your graduation photos on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or Instagram using [#UNLVLaw](#).

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)

**Upcoming Event: Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM**

**Shamil Idriss, Search President & CEO**

will present



## **The Hidden Truth About Violent Conflict: Igniting Social Change in a Polarized World**

As political divides deepen, interreligious tensions build, and terrorist threats loom - the way we approach our differences will determine whether we advance or destroy our society.

**Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 PM  
UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law  
Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom**

Join us as Shamil shares the secret of stabilizing violent conflict and sparking social innovation in an interconnected world. From interpersonal disputes to international crises, Shamil explains how we can build the culture and infrastructure for safer, healthier communities using the Common Ground Approach. The talk will also take a close look at how this approach applies to current crises, such as the Syrian Conflict.

This event is free and open to the public.

Please register [here](#).

### **Faculty Spotlight: Leslie Griffin**



*[Leslie C. Griffin](#) is William S. Boyd Professor at the Boyd School of Law. Her courses include Constitutional Law, Bioethics, and Law and Religion.*

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

I'm very grateful to be alive and healthy. Most of the law school is aware that a local man attacked me last October 7. I spent the next three weeks at Sunrise Hospital. I still have no recollection of the attack or of my initial hospitalization. I appreciate how faithful

everyone here was to me while I was unconscious, fighting against death and brain injury. People just kept checking in on me at the hospital, hoping and praying that I was getting better.

I woke up only after being flown to Houston, Texas, for further treatment. My former Houston colleagues and friends visited me regularly, just as all the Las Vegas had here. Fortunately, once I came to I got better quickly, and I was allowed to fly back home on December 23.

My experience has committed me to work for better health care for patients, whose real needs are too frequently ignored by doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel.

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

By pure coincidence, I am on sabbatical this semester. I've given successful talks to three very different audiences: at a Toronto, Canada, [law school](#) ; at a Stanford [BioLawPalooza](#) conference; and at a Chicago [conference](#) with the New Ways Ministry, a religious organization that has long fought to protect LGBT rights.

I spoke about my two favorite topics, namely bioethics and religious freedom. My new focus in bioethics is on protecting patients' rights more carefully. My recurring focus in law and

religion is explaining how many individual Americans are harmed by our mistaken, current understanding of employers' religious freedom.

Some of the religion themes are mentioned in my recent [article](#), *Marriage Rights and Religious Exemptions in the United States*.

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

Almost no one is as helpless as an injured patient. I hope my students can learn how to use the law to protect lonely individuals who suffer ill health and/or injustice.

I am inspired and motivated by my law students and colleagues who wished, hoped, prayed, and helped me back to good health.

**Student Spotlight: Monica Martinez**



**You are the president of La Voz (Boyd's Latino law student group), which was recently voted the law school's Student Organization of the Year. Tell us why this year has been such a success for La Voz.**

I attribute the success of La Voz to all the support we received by engaging with the student body and other organizations. The executive board meetings were conducted in a round table method and that gave each member of La Voz an equal opportunity for

input and idea sharing. Conducting meetings like that allowed us to hear the concerns of our La Voz and Huellas members and the community. Additionally, we focused on our mission by making a concerted effort to get to know each of our members and empower and promote their success.

**How did you enjoy studying in Barcelona last summer?**

My time in Barcelona was amazing! I did a lot of traveling last summer, studying in Barcelona was a highlight because I made great friends and incredible networking contacts. I studied Entertainment Law, EU Law, and International Sports Law, but I was also to get in plenty of sightseeing.

**Which Boyd professor has had the greatest impact on your professional development?**

Coming to law school I had an idea of what I wanted to practice but it wasn't until I took Copyright with Professor Marketa Trimble that I realized my love for intellectual property law. I think I took every class she offered. She's an expert on the subject and she was enthusiastic about it, I always looked forward to coming to her class.

**What are your plans following your upcoming graduation?**

The bar! And then unwinding after the bar, maybe another trip. I hope to practice in intellectual property.

**Alumni Spotlight: Adam J. Thomson '13 and Miriam C. Thompson '14**

*Adam, '13, is an associate with Thomas & Horstemeyer; Miriam, '14, is an associate at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz P.C.; both in Atlanta, Georgia.*



**We love focusing on Boyd Law couples, so tell us your story.**

We married in Las Vegas in 2009. We each moved here because of job opportunities prior to meeting each other--Adam moving here from Buffalo, NY; and Miriam from Germany. Both are graduates of UNLV's MBA program--Adam graduating in 2009; Miriam in 2010. Miriam started at Boyd one year after Adam.

In 2014, our family moved to Atlanta where Adam began work at Thomas & Horstemeyer as a patent attorney, focusing on electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering inventions. Miriam specializes in corporate immigration at her firm, assisting international employers with global mobility issues and foreign entrepreneurs starting U.S. operations. Although their fields of law are very different, both practice before federal agencies and recognize the challenges that presents. As a result, the couple is very empathetic and supportive for each other's career.

Miriam is an active member of Atlanta's German business community. Miriam wanted to combine her business background with her international work experience and serve an international client base. She also enjoys opportunities to serve the immigrant community in pro bono cases.

Adam is active as a volunteer with GeorgiaFIRST Robotics and serves on the Advisory Council to the Board of Directors. He also is a mentor for Team 2974, Walton Robotics, helping with software development. Adam also competed in the US FIRST competition while a student in high school. Adam's choice of patent law was a natural fit because of his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering and work experience developing software in Las Vegas. While working as an engineer, Adam was an inventor on several gaming-related patents.

It was difficult to leave their friends in Las Vegas, but Atlanta provided wonderful career opportunities in their specialized work fields. Their most important achievement is daughter Victoria. With her birth, it was important to Adam and Miriam to live closer to family on the East Coast and in Europe.

## **Community Member Spotlight: Jennifer Carleton**



*Shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, 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**

When I taught at the University of Wisconsin School of Law, the Dean started a groundhog day tradition when established lawyers would come to the law school to discuss the setbacks, opportunities and unpredictable events that made up their career paths. Hearing these stories and sharing mine helped me realize how much I value those connections to students and veteran practitioners alike, so I was thrilled when Dean ("Punxsutawney Phil") Hamilton invited me onto the Council.

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

I was 14 and living in southern Indiana when I got my first job tossing melons. We had to slice the vines and then throw the melons to someone standing in the back of a moving truck. I still can't eat watermelon or cantaloupe after that job. My first day as a lawyer for an Indian tribe in Wisconsin was certainly what you would call memorable. All of the new hires were greeted by the chief legal counsel, who was wearing a loin cloth with a pair of sneakers after completing the annual "Rez Run." I knew right then that it was going to be a job unlike any other. Nine years later, I had the privilege of arguing a case before the

Wisconsin Supreme Court as co-counsel with him, though sadly he wore a suit instead of his running outfit that day.

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

Take the time during your career to remind yourself what inspired you to become a lawyer. Not every day will be fun or fulfilling, but the “Rez Run” days should outnumber the days when you feel like someone backed over you with a watermelon truck.

**Where is your favorite travel destination?**

I was born in England, so I love going back to London and Birmingham to visit my family. My kids and I went to Amsterdam for the first time last summer, which was pretty incredible. We try to get to Utah to hike and California for the beaches at least a couple of times a year – do I have to pick a favorite?

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

About ten years ago, I read *Slow Fat Triathlete* by Jayne Williams. She points out that all you need to compete in a triathlon is a swimsuit, a bike, and a pair of running shoes. The rest is just details. It was a great reminder to be comfortable with doing things at your own pace and in your own way, with or without a loin cloth.

Boyd Briefs | Read past issues [here](#).

[Newsroom](#) | [UNLV Law Blog](#) | [Events](#) | [CLE Events](#)

STAY CONNECTED



**UNLV** | WILLIAM S. BOYD  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**

UNLV is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer Committed to Achieving Excellence Through Diversity.