From Dean Dan

In support of our students and our community, the UNLV Immigration Clinic will be assisting with preparation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal forms for Nevada residents free of charge between now and October 5. I’m also very proud of our student organizations, La Voz; the Immigration Law Society; and the Black Law Student Association, who have come together to host a panel discussion regarding DACA on Sat., Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. in the Thomas & Mack Moot Court. More information about available resources can be found on our website.

The fall season is a great time to see our alumni. Our annual Alumni Dinner and Awards Presentation, which recognizes classes from 2002, 2007, and 2012, will be held at the Las Vegas Country Club on Sat., Sept. 23. On Wed., Sept. 20 I’ll be in northern Nevada for the Boyd Law Alumni Night at the Reno 1868 FC Soccer Match. There are just a few more spaces left for the happy hour and soccer match. And, finally, one of my favorite alumni events: the 4th Annual Alumni Chapter Golf Tournament on Oct. 20. This year we are hitting the links at the Palm Course at Angel Park Golf Club.

I would like to take a moment to extend a special thank you to the Entertainment Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada. Our students have access to a vast array of organizations and events which help them grow as professionals. This year, UNLV Law students have the opportunity to join the Entertainment Law Section as “Honorary Members,” as well as participate in upcoming Entertainment Law CLEs. The first panel takes place on Wed., Sept. 20 at 12 p.m. and is titled "Representing Visual Artists and Photographers. You can read more about it here.

Finally, I want to congratulate Director of the Family Justice Clinic and Professor of Law Elizabeth MacDowell who was selected for a prestigious Fulbright Award to conduct research on family law in Turkey during the 2017-18 academic year. As a Senior Researcher at Anadolu University she will be looking closely at issues of access to justice for domestic violence survivors.

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Faculty Spotlight: Eve Hanan

Eve Hanan is an Associate Professor at UNLV Law. Her expertise is in Criminal Law, Clinical Legal Education and Teaching, Trial and Appellate Practice, Criminal Procedure, and Restorative Justice.
What's the most important thing you are working on right now?

Right now, I am getting to know the most pressing juvenile and criminal justice issues in Clark County as I design the new juvenile and criminal defense clinic that will begin next fall. I want to make sure that the clinic students can, though individual client representation and policy projects, make a real difference in Clark County.

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

Mass incarceration is the most important issue in criminal law today, and it is also one of the most pressing issues in American society. Its ramifications cannot be overstated for imprisoned people and their families. Within the field of criminal law, mass incarceration prompts us to address two challenges: (1) how to reduce crime without relying on prisons, and (2) how to reduce racial disparity when enforcing criminal laws. Legal changes, like reducing maximum sentences and re-invigorating the Eighth Amendment, are not enough. The best solutions derive from interdisciplinary analysis that uses social science data to inform law and policy reform.

When you are working on an article or a book, what's your favorite part of the process? What do you do during the process that others might find odd?

I spent many years working as a criminal defense lawyer in Boston, D.C., and Maryland, so, when I sit down to write, I often have a former client in mind, or a pattern of practice I observed over time. This anchors me in real-world problems, but I find it’s also important to move away from practice and analyze the problem from a rigorous, academic prospective. When I return to think about solutions, I reality-check them using my experience representing low-income people at trial and on appeal.

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

I wholeheartedly recommend Bryan Stevenson’s Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption. It is a personal account by one of our nation’s finest criminal defense attorneys who has dedicated his career to representing people charged with the most serious crimes. In it he recounts his advocacy for clients on death row who were likely innocent, and juveniles sentenced to life in prison where they spent years in solitary confinement. As the title suggests, he not only discusses justice in the legal sense, but he also reasserts the legitimacy of mercy and forgiveness in our legal system. Whether students plan to become prosecutors, defense attorneys or judges in criminal court, Stevenson’s book is a must read.

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

I caught the criminal law and procedure bug from my law school professors, who talked passionately about the Bill of Rights from the podium and guided me through my first client representations in the clinic. They sparked in me a sense of intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for criminal law that propelled and sustained me during my years in practice as a public defender. I walk into the classroom with the goal of doing the same for my students.

Student Spotlight: Jocelyn Murphy

You discovered your affinity for the law accidentally, right?

Yes, I originally wanted to be a news reporter. I attended a magnet high school that specialized in broadcast journalism and even entered college as a journalism major. However, I signed up for an internship program one summer and was unexpectedly placed at the Clark County Public Defender’s Office. It was my first real exposure to the legal profession. At the end of internship, I knew the legal field was where I belonged.
As an undergrad, you joined the UNLV Mock Trial Team. How has that experience been useful to you in law school?

Extremely useful. It introduced me early on to many legal terms and courtroom jargon that I encountered during my first year. I would definitely say that it eased my vocabulary learning curve.

Looking back on it now, what was the most memorable moment of your first year at Boyd?

Participating as a divorce course instructor in the community service program. I think it’s great that the school requires all students to participate in the program. I enjoyed assisting attendees each week with their legal problems. The experience also opened my eyes to the larger community need for more lawyers to participate in pro bono work.

How was your summer?

My summer was incredible. I worked as a law clerk for the Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada in the capital habeas unit. The capital habeas unit is responsible for assisting state prisoners who have been sentenced to death with filing for federal relief. I had the opportunity to draft petition claims, observe court, and visit a state prison. Overall my experience was most valuable because of the incredible attorneys with whom I had the opportunity to work.

Alumni Spotlight: Richard Andrews '13

US Navy JAG Corps
Command Judge Advocate, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

What drew you to the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps, and what do you like most about your work there?

The perks of the job—diverse practice areas, immediate responsibility, seeing the world—are great. But my real motivation is the Sailors that make up my client, the U.S. Navy. These young men and women took an oath to support and defend our country, and to obey all orders. They sacrifice their personal freedoms and comfort in what some would say is the prime of their lives. Anything I can do to support them in the fight is meaningful and worthwhile.

You recently joined the Dean’s Alumni Leadership Circle. Why do you give back to Boyd?

I firmly believe in being responsible with what I have and how I live. That means using my time, abilities, and resources in a productive way for society. Besides, I have found that generosity and giving feels a lot better than taking.

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

Great question! I wanted to rotate among several choices throughout the week: astronaut, baseball player, cowboy, and fireman.

Do you have a motto and what is it?

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." -Ben Franklin
"If the wind will not serve, take to the oars." -Latin proverb
"There’s only one way to find out."

What do you enjoy in your off hours?

I am happiest outside, especially on the water. I enjoy everything from a surfboard to a kayak to a 50-foot sailboat—it’s all good! I will take any chance to hike or trail run. I also
enjoy talking and joking with friends, especially when combined with the outdoors. And I read— a lot.

What advice you would give to a new colleague.

In our role as JAGs, we are an adviser and not the decision-maker. Our commanding officers generally have decades of experience and training to lead Sailors. These officers are entrusted to make decisions others will have to obey. We provide recommendations and insights. Also, the JAG Corps (and the Navy) is a small world. Everyone’s reputation precedes them—for better or for worse.

Recommend a favorite book or movie.

So many books—get in touch and I am happy to provide personalized recommendations. My fiction and non-fiction favorite reads of 2016 were: “We, the Drowned” by Carsten Jensen and “War” by Sebastian Junger.

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

Indiana Jones — an adventurer, captivated by the world, who vanquishes the bad guys.

Community Member Spotlight: Noah Malgeri

Noah Malgeri is the Pro Bono Director for Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and a member of the Public Interest Advisory Board.

Tell me about your decision to serve on the Public Interest Advisory Board, and what makes Boyd Law’s mission meaningful to you.

As the Pro Bono Director for Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, I work full time in legal services. As a former large firm attorney, I understand how the demands of a busy practice can interfere with the best intentions to give back through pro bono service. Pro bono service is a practice and professional culture, which like other aspects of professionalism, must be intentionally developed. The attorney’s responsibility of pro bono service reflects our profession’s shared values. There is something wonderful about this shared sense of service transcending divisions in legal discipline, plaintiff and defense roles, and politics. Given the popular perception of attorneys and the legal field in general, pro bono may serve as one of the last, best redeeming features of our vocation’s proud tradition of justice. The leadership of UNLV Law understands this, and at every step in the ascent of Boyd Law on the state and national stage, careful thought has been given to ensuring that Boyd students will have the benefit of the best opportunities to develop skills and perspectives in the area of legal services and pro bono. UNLV Law’s leadership understands that training a new generations of community leaders, policy makers, jurists and influential practitioners brings an obligation to equip its students with a healthy understanding of professional responsibility. Because of this tremendous perspective, working with Boyd Law on public interest presents a real opportunity to contribute to our common mission with an organization for which a “Public Interest Advisory Board” is a fundamental part of an institutional mission.

When did you decide to get involved in public interest law?

I first had the opportunity to work directly in public interest law while serving as an associate at a large law firm with a well-supported pro bono program. In that position, I was able to take on pro bono case matters including representing renters in housing court, veterans’ benefits appeals, immigration asylum law, and even a criminal defense matter. Practicing law on behalf of paying clients while simultaneously representing indigent clients pro bono, I was struck that in many cases, the indigent clients had stronger and more sympathetic claims, but those claims would never be addressed absent an attorney taking them on pro bono. I also learned the critical importance of a meaningful culture of pro bono within a legal services
organization, such as a law firm. Without the express encouragement and meaningful support of the pro bono work of its employees, most attorneys will simply not have the opportunity to volunteer their services on behalf of the many deserving clients.

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

Short of retirement, most of you likely won't again have as much flexibility to choose the way you spend your time, or time to spend, as you do right now. Use that time and flexibility to explore different ways to use your education and skills to serve those who really need it. You'll never regret helping someone who needs it. Finally, it is much wiser to spend your energy learning how to be content with less money than to spend your energy trying to get more money.

**Do you have a motivational theme song?**

So many songs are motivational to me; a couple I listened to recently on Pandora that come to mind include Working Man by Rush, Panama by Van Halen.