



From Dean Dan

We are fortunate at the law school to have outstanding partnerships with the Nevada Judiciary. We are honored to welcome courts to come sit at Boyd, and next week we have a milestone. For the first time the Nevada Supreme Court is sitting en banc at the law school, and all seven justices will hear oral arguments. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and we are excited and grateful.

The Supreme Court will hear oral argument in three cases at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law at 10 am, Oct. 3. Arguments are scheduled in two criminal cases originating in the Eighth Judicial District Court and an appeal on the distribution of recreational marijuana.

The court has scheduled 60 minutes for oral arguments at 11:30 am in **Independent Alcohol Distributors of Nevada, Inc. and Palidin LLC vs. The State of Nevada Department of Taxation and Nevada Tax Commission**. The appeal seeks to determine who can be licensed to distribute recreational marijuana in Nevada. The Supreme Court placed an injunction on the distribution of recreational marijuana pending the oral arguments and a subsequent decision by the Court.

The Justices also will hear oral arguments in two criminal cases:

State vs. Brown: The appeal seeks a writ of mandamus from the Supreme Court instructing the District Court to vacate its order compelling an intrusive psychological evaluation of a child victim.

State vs. Baker: The petition for a writ of mandamus challenges the District Court's refusal to enter a witness's testimony from a previous preliminary hearing as evidence in a second preliminary hearing. The witness was unavailable to testify in the second preliminary hearing, and the State asserts that the defendant waived his right to cross-examine the witness.

These hearings are open to the public. At the close of the oral arguments, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Justices and attorneys about the legal process and the work of the Supreme Court.

Opportunities like this provide our students an incredible chance to see the judicial process in action. I want to thank Chief Justice Cherry and the Supreme Court for making this possible.

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Faculty Spotlight: Elizabeth Manriquez



Elizabeth Manriquez is a Research Librarian as well as an Assistant Professor.

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

The fallacy that libraries are obsolete. In the twenty years since the World Wide Web became easily accessible, a school of thought has arisen that ready information is sufficient information. Although we teach children to follow the C.R.A.P. method (Currency, Reliability, Authority, and Purpose/Point of View), most adults have never heard of it. A majority of adults, 62%, get their news from social media. Information evaluation has never been more important. Libraries are answering this call with workshops and classes on information literacy. The public and students need to be taught how to find scholarly resources, evaluate information, and how to use the library. This begins with how to use the library catalog and ends with a populace capable of critical thought.

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

I'm obsessed with podcasts. One of my favorites is "The Librarian is In" from the New York Public Library. In March, they did an episode about how libraries help immigrants and underserved communities. It really sparked my interest in what services libraries offer immigrants, of all types, and I learned libraries are offering services such as legal aid clinics. I spent more time thinking about libraries as a third space and the relationship they have to their changing communities. I plan to research the effectiveness of various library programs that host legal clinics, specifically in communities with high immigrant populations, with an eye towards submission for publication this spring.

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

I love empowering people. I chose librarianship and academia over practice because I feel most rewarded when I teach someone to be an advocate rather than advocating for them. Working with students in the law school, at the moment they are deciding who they are going to be and how they are going to affect the world is a priceless opportunity. It's incredibly gratifying to interact with these young, intelligent people, taking them through concepts step by step and then seeing the confidence when it clicks. I would not be the person I am today without the generous guidance of countless professors and I am humbled by the prospect of contributing to current and future students' success.

Student Spotlight: Ben Shuman



How tough was it to grow up in Reno, attend the University of Nevada, Reno, then come to southern Nevada and archival UNLV for law school?

Growing up in Reno for most of my life, I have bled silver and blue. Unfortunately, I had to make a choice that doesn't look good to my fellow Wolf Pack alumni. It is tough seeing the red around this campus and getting constant flak from my Boyd peers who attended UNLV, but it is all in good fun and I enjoy the rivalry. I will always support the Pack!

You're bucking the family tendency toward the medical profession. Is everyone in the Shuman household good with that?

It was hard going through school and not being pushed toward a career in medicine with two nurses and a doctor in my family. However, my goal has always been to do what feels right for me, and my family is very supportive of that. Although I enjoyed science and am fascinated with workings of the human body, it was not the right career for me.

As president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Association, what are your plans for the organization?

It was an easy choice for me to run for President after serving as VP last year. Sports is what drove me to law school. We have some great events planned, starting with a new Fall bowling event and then our annual CLE where I plan to have the Vegas Golden Knights counsel as a speaker. My goal is to continue the great work that SELA has done previously and to grow the organization's presence throughout the school and legal community.

Got a prediction for the UNLV – UNR football game November 25?

My prediction is UNR – Anything, UNLV – ZERO. The cannon will remain up north. STAY TRUE, BLEED BLUE!

Alumni Spotlight: Lauren A. Peña '07



Lauren is the Directing Attorney of the Civil Law Self-Help Center at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

What drew you to the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and what do you like most about your work there?

I was drawn to Legal Aid because of its reputation for having talented and dedicated lawyers who are committed to improving the lives of so many vulnerable people in our community. As a longtime Las Vegas, I am passionate about making our city the best it can be. I always admired how Legal Aid served our fellow southern Nevadans who could not afford lawyers. My work at the Civil Law Self-Help Center at the Regional Justice Center (RJC) is truly rewarding by being able to help people at times when they are the most fearful or worried. It is hard to see people in such difficult situations, but it is also rewarding knowing that my time and information can alleviate some of their fears. And I love being in the RJC because I always bump into my old friends from Boyd!

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

First, I wanted to be a traveling nun because I wanted to travel and help people, but then I found out about all the rules. Then, I wanted to be a professional singer and dancer. I still want to be a professional singer and dancer, but having no talent has gotten in the way.

Is there a nugget of advice you would give a recent Boyd Law graduate?

Do not be afraid to admit you do not know something! When I was a recent grad, I was so afraid someone would find out that I did not know everything. But, you may have knowledge of a subject someone else does not, and other people know things that you do not! It is okay to not know something, as long as you are willing to put in the work to find the answer. Plus, know-it-alls are annoying.

And, take a pro bono case! You will be a hero to someone — and you will learn something new in the process.

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