



From Dean Dan

The fall season is a great time for us to travel and visit the alumni of Boyd Nation, now over 2,000 strong. Over the past few weeks, I've attended many great events and want to thank each of you who continue to stay connected with the law school.

I am delighted to share with you some event photos, including: Boyd Law Alumni Night at the Reno 1868 FC Soccer game, our 2017 Alumni Dinner and Awards, as well as our newest graduates being sworn into the Nevada Bar in Reno and Las Vegas.

Please mark your calendars now for two alumni events in January. First, the Boyd Alumni & Friends Holiday Party at my home on Jan. 19 and then the Northern Nevada New Year's Party on Jan. 23. We look forward to sharing these details soon.

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Reno 1868 FC Soccer Match
September 20, 2017



2017 Alumni Dinner and Awards
September 23, 2017



July 2017 Admission Ceremony, Reno
October 18, 2017



July 2017 Admission Ceremony, Las Vegas
October 20, 2017

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. David Orentlicher



Dr. Orentlicher is the co-director of the UNLV Health Law Program and the Cobeaga Law Firm Professor of Law.

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

Income inequality. One of our country's great strengths has been its promise as a land of opportunity. But that's becoming less of a reality for many Americans. The odds of climbing the socioeconomic ladder are low for those on the bottom rungs, and well below the odds they would face in other Western developed countries.

I'm particularly interested in the role of "economic residential segregation." The well-to-do are less likely than in the past to live next door to the indigent, leaving many of the poor in neighborhoods that are isolated from their more prosperous counterparts. As a result, many children live in "high-disadvantage" communities that suffer from high rates of poverty, low-performing schools, high levels of unemployment and crime, and unhealthy levels of lead or other toxic substances. Research has shown that what matters most for upward mobility is not how poor your home is but how poor your neighborhood is.

In my [research](#), I'm developing policies that would replace our incentives for economic segregation with incentives for economic integration.

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

Some of my most important ideas have come from my teaching. When you have to explain a theory or a concept to other people and answer their questions, that's when you really find out how much you understand the topic. The give-and-take with my students is critical not only for their learning, but also for mine.

My past service as a state representative also has had a major impact on my scholarship. Seeing the problem of partisan polarization from the inside helped me recognize the ways in which our political system encourages conflict and how we can change our system so it [encourages cooperation](#) across partisan lines.

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

When we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, we commit ourselves to a nation that provides "liberty and justice for all." It's such an important principle to guide our country, and the law plays a critical role in promoting it. In my teaching and research, the most important question for me to ask myself and my students is whether our legal rules really are providing liberty and justice for all and how we can change the law to make sure that it does so.

Student Spotlight: Leah Carson



What did you learn growing up in El Paso, Texas?

I learned an odd juxtaposition of self-reliance and selflessness. My family admired people who handled challenges on their own. Yet they bent over backwards to pitch in whenever someone needed help. No one in my family ever asked for help, but they were always there when a car needed repair, or a house needed some work. So I learned that whether it's you or someone else who is struggling...you don't *ask*, you just *do*.

You earned a master's degree in anthropology. What drew you to the field, and how did you enjoy your studies?

I was drawn to anthropology because of the human element. I loved viewing behavior and beliefs from different perspectives, and how to discern patterns and meaning in all kinds of human interaction.

You've been to exotic locales worldwide. Which stands above the others?

Having a backstage pass to Mayan sites was a dream come true. The high point, though, was working in Egypt because of the sheer grandeur. That said, Egypt also made me extremely grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States.

What then drew you to law, and how are you enjoying your studies at Boyd so far?

I recently had to advocate for a loved one who became disabled. I learned firsthand the difference a passionate advocate can make in someone's life, and it was more rewarding than any of my archaeological adventures.

I am thrilled with Boyd! I've only been here a month, and I have helped community members with DACA renewals and guardianship questions, been awed by my professors, and personally met Nevada and Texas Supreme Court Justices! I'm grateful for everyone and everything that brought me here, and I feel like I'm right where I always belonged.

Alumni Spotlight : Carmela Reed '11



Carmela is a Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada.

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

Public Interest is immensely important to me because I come from very humble beginnings. I grew up in a low-income neighborhood in Las Vegas and in my youth, I followed the wrong path. I dropped out of high school at age sixteen and became a teen mother soon afterward. However, I never gave up my hopes of becoming a lawyer and I will never forget the people that refused to let me surrender my dreams. Now that I have attained my goals, I am driven to help other people who experience the same strife and despair that I once felt. I have the utmost respect and appreciation for Boyd's dedication to public service. I am honored to be a Boyd Alumni and I think that the students, professors, staff, and administration of Boyd truly embody what it means to give back to the community. I am happy to be a part of it.

What advice would you give to current Boyd Law students?

First, never give up. No matter how much stress you feel, no matter how desperate the situation appears, and no matter how impossible it seems, you can and you will persevere. The problem at hand may seem daunting but always remember that somewhere, someone has succeeded against even worse odds. Second, enjoy law school! Learning truly is a gift and an opportunity. Oddly enough, you will miss it once it is over. Lastly, always pursue your goals and the things that you want but also try out something you hadn't considered before. Maybe you went to law school with dreams of becoming a family law attorney but why not give intellectual property a try? The beauty of law school is that you can try on many different hats. Maybe you'll find a new passion. You may find your true calling in the most unexpected place.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

My favorite thing has always been spending time with my family. My loving husband and my three wonderful boys truly are the highlight of my life. In our spare time we enjoy hiking,

picnicking, and traveling together. We have also participated in a number of 5K runs! I like to keep my mind active as well and I enjoy reading and logic puzzles.

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