



From Dean Dan

The law school is fortunate to have strong relationships with the Nevada and federal judiciary, and this has been an exceptional month for these important partnerships.

On Oct. 3 we welcomed the first ever en banc oral arguments held by the Nevada Supreme Court at the law school. On Oct. 11 we welcomed US District Court Judge Andrew Gordon who held motion hearings. Next, on Nov. 13 it is our great honor to host the **The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**. A three-judge panel will hear oral argument in three cases which can be seen [here](#).

We are grateful to the Ninth Circuit Court, and we are not done yet. In February we will host the Nevada Court of Appeals, which has held argument at the law school every year since the Court's creation in 2015.

This remarkable lineup provides an exceptional opportunity for our students to see these courts in action and to learn from the lawyers and judges in cases, not only drawn from their books, but taking place before them at their law school.

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Faculty Spotlight: Francine J. Lipman



Francine Lipman is a William S. Boyd Professor of Law and qualified tax expert for the Rosenblum Family Foundation Tax Clinic.

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

My research and scholarship have been focused primarily on tax issues for vulnerable individuals and their families. For example, tax system relief for victims of disasters, people with disabilities, struggling seniors, unauthorized immigrants, college students, farmworkers, and lower-income working families. With the welfare-to-work movement, Congress has restructured social benefits from a means-tested system to a means-tested system contingent upon work, often using federal and state income tax systems to calculate and deliver wage subsidies or antipoverty relief. As a result, my tax research and scholarship has focused increasingly on measurements of poverty and relief delivered through income tax systems. I have been

fortunate to be able to use this knowledge through my pro bono efforts on the frontlines working directly with taxpayers to ensure they access critical tax benefits or economic-tax justice.

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

Most recently, thanks to generous donations, the law school has launched the Rosenblum Family Foundation Tax Clinic that formalizes my work with vulnerable taxpayers. The Tax Clinic coursework will include a substantive tax seminar and clinical training for Boyd law students who will learn how to represent and serve tax justice to qualifying taxpayers throughout Nevada. I am also looking forward to working with Boyd law school tax and business law alums who I hope will support the Tax Clinic as volunteers and donors. These contributions of time and money will ensure that we can maximize matching grants. For more information about "Friend of the Clinic", "Tax Justice", and "Passion Warrior" donor level opportunities, please check out the details linked [here](#).

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

The business section of the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, or local newspapers. The practice of law is a business and many clients are also business owners. Lawyers should have a good sense of how businesses and markets function and the current state of the local, U.S., and world economies. Transactional lawyers are often relied upon to serve clients beyond narrow legal analysis as wise and trusted counselors. Therefore, business lawyers should be comfortable discussing business matters and transactions with their clients as well as with accounting, banking, and finance experts and advisors. I teach a course titled "Accounting and Finance for Lawyers" that is intended to achieve these goals for any Boyd law student especially those students who have had no business training or experience. Indeed, the law students who I most enjoy having in the classroom for this shared, often challenging, experience are the students who most fear numbers, math, and financial concepts.

Student Spotlight: Michael Linton



You served our country in the United States Navy. How did that experience shape your world view?

The Navy shaped me as a person. I joined at the young age of 17. The whole experience taught me discipline in my work and how I conduct myself in everyday life. My military service has given me a heightened sense of patriotism and respect for my country.

Since your discharge, you have undertaken many interesting enterprises here in Las Vegas, yes?

Yes, I worked at Wynn Las Vegas as a hotel manager and eventually moved over to revenue management, where I yielded hotel room rates. I also started a company called Night Owl where we manufactured a product in China, imported it to the United States, and distributed it to a nationwide retailer. After completing my undergrad, I joined Vegas.com as Client Development Manager, handling hotel partnerships for the company. Eventually, I became General Manager of LasVegas.com, which was a partnership between Vegas.com and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. Currently, I am the Business Development Director at a hotel technology provider called Travel Tripper. I negotiate large agreements with hotels to use our technology products.

How have you managed to successfully juggle a busy full-time work schedule with part-time law study?

Prioritizing has been key. I try to establish a schedule and stick firmly to it. This has enabled me to successfully balance the demands of a full-time job and law school.

You are the editor-in-chief of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal*. How goes the journal's work this year?

We are doing some exciting things with Volume 8 of the *Journal*. Issue 1 goes to publication this fall and is designed to provide useful information to practicing gaming attorneys. Issue 2 goes to publication this spring and will be composed of traditional academic material.

Alumni Spotlight : Leah Martin '02



Leah is Managing Attorney at Leah Martin Law in Las Vegas.

How did you first get into the legal profession?

It all began with a John Grisham book. After reading *The Firm* in the 7th grade, I knew I was heading down the legal path. Though life is certainly not a John Grisham book, I really enjoy the ability to practice in a number of different areas, and the benefits a legal degree provides in business as well as law.

What do you wish you would have learned at the beginning of your career?

Don't try to do it all. "Just do it" is a really good tagline for Nike but it really doesn't make good business sense. I tried that approach in opening my own firm. I jumped in with neither business experience nor a plan; as a result, I really struggled in my early years. I learned the hard way that you should only go with "just do it" after you've formulated a plan and then do it in a logical and systematic order.

The same is true with regard to practice areas. If you try to do everything it is difficult to be an expert in anything. It is better to find your passion and focus in that area.

What do you like most about your work?

I really enjoy being able to work with a variety of business owners in different industries. I particularly appreciate seeing small start-ups develop into successful enterprises. I like being able to work with these owners for years, guiding them through legal issues and challenges. While I have worked on many interesting clients on single projects, I really enjoy the relationships I form with my long-term business clients.

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