



### From Dean Dan

As we wind down the year, I want to recognize some of the many accomplishments and contributions of Boyd students and alumni. On November 3, two of our students and three alumni were recognized by Nevada Legal Services at its annual Champions of Justice Luncheon for their contributions to the organization and the community. Our congratulations to Public Interest Fellows Alysa Grimes and Seleste Wyse for being honored as Law Students of the Year. We're also extremely proud of James Beecher ('11), Rural Attorney of the Year; Daniel Gobaud ('14), Solo Practitioner Award; and Whitney Short ('15), Pro Bono Attorney of the Year.

Recently, students in our own intellectual property program were at the Urban Chamber of Commerce hosting "What's the Law? Protect Your Business Identity." Our thanks to Paxton Fleming, Jesselyn Marie De Luna, Monica Martinez, and Joseph McKay for providing information to entrepreneurs and others about trademark and copyright protection.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Brian Casey Thomas and Daniel Garrison who placed first, and Austin Barnum & Christopher Guy who placed second in the 19th Annual Client Counseling Competition. Brian and Daniel will represent Boyd at the ABA Regional Client Counseling Competition in the spring of 2019. The client counseling competition provides an opportunity for students to conduct an interview with a person playing the role of the client, elicit facts, advise about the relevant law, provide options for proceeding, and assist the client in making informed decisions. I would like to thank Lena Rieke, our faculty advisor, and Society of Advocates members Julia Barker and Alysa Grimes for organizing this event. Thanks also to our final round judges, Eleissa Lavelle, Robert Eglet, and Judge David Barker for donating their time to our competition, and for providing wonderful feedback and advice to our final round competitors. Finally, thanks also to Mr. Eglet for graciously hosting the semi-final and final rounds at his law firm, Eglet Prince.

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)





19th Annual Client Counseling Competition  
November 4, 2017

### **Faculty Spotlight: John Valery White**



*John Valery White is the Ralph Denton Professor of Law. He recently served as Acting Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education, and was the second Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law (2007-2012).*

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

I am working on a couple of projects examining the place of rights jurisprudence in a world increasingly skeptical of the rule of law and given to instrumental arguments (political or otherwise) focused on outcomes for particular interest groups. While rights jurisprudence is often useful in these kinds of debates, the discourse itself eschews the very premises of rights jurisprudence – namely, the rule of law, commitment to just processes to achieve just results, and the independence of the judiciary on key jurisprudential questions. These challenges are acute in both domestic and international contexts where objections to human rights principles and processes have informed contempt for civil rights principles and processes domestically, and so forth.

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

Across areas of law we are (very slowly) contending with the effects of social media and other aspects of a hyper-connected world, the result of which seems to be a questioning of legal processes. Whether it is the use of camera phone video in capturing use of force by police or the community of social media providing rape and harassment victims the support they need to come forward, our new media universe has been beneficial in many ways. However, a common theme of the resulting public discussion seems to be the view that the legal processes built to respond to these and other social issues are inadequate to the challenge, overly concerned with process, or even captured by powerful interests. That this is the growing impression of law in general and civil rights law in particular is a crisis that has emerged so rapidly few have had a chance to contend with it. The current mood is increasingly fatalistic and nihilistic with an often overt hostility to the rule of law and an impatience with its underlying requirements that I believe should trouble us all.

#### **How do you approach teaching your favorite topics? Your least favorite?**

I try in both cases to try to capture what the court (or the legislature) was trying to accomplish and its means of doing so. Often courts' means are not consistent with their professed ends and seemingly "good" opinions are really the beginning of the problematic decisions just down the road. I believe this approach is great for teaching but also provides the necessary critical distance to make even topics about which you are not otherwise interested quite fascinating.

## **Student Spotlight: Jessica Story**



### **Aviation very much runs in the Story family, yes?**

Yes! I was the fourth generation in my family to work for Boeing, but the first of us to actually fly a plane!

### **You're originally from the Pacific Northwest... how are you adjusting to the dry Vegas heat?**

I love the heat but maybe that's because it is still new and exciting to someone used to continuous rain. I joke to everyone that I'm now solar powered! The hardest adjustment was attempting to start a garden...in June. It's okay, go ahead and laugh!

### **Seriously, though, what drew you to Boyd?**

One of the things that was important for me was being part of a close-knit community. I didn't want to be just another number in a classroom. Boyd was actually the first school I visited before I started applying and I immediately felt that there was so much potential to build a life and career here with how genuinely supportive everyone was. There are so many opportunities I don't think I would have had elsewhere as a 1L. Just in my first few weeks I was able to help with some of the DACA renewals, and it was a great feeling to feel part of the community and give back.

### **As you navigate the first year, what have you learned about the landscape of law school?**

I'm still figuring out the lay of the land, but I have definitely learned that there are abundant resources to help find your way. And if one person doesn't have the answer, they usually know someone who does, so don't be afraid to ask.

## **Alumni Spotlight : Edward Wynder '15**



*Edward is an associate at the Nettles Law Firm.*

### **What do you enjoy in your off hours?**

In my free time, I keep active playing for the Las Vegas Irish Rugby Club. Rugby has some similarities to football--but with the constant running of soccer and without the protection of pads and helmet. I started playing during college. After a few years' hiatus, I got back into the game during law school. With practice twice a week and games on Saturdays, it's been a great way for me to get away from the keyboard and work out any stress from the practice of law.

In some ways, rugby and litigation are similar. Both are inherently confrontational, yet they also require working together as a team and practicing skills off the field. That said, unlike in rugby, I've never gotten a black eye in trial.

### **Are there any nuggets of advice you would give a recent Boyd Law graduate?**

First, jump right into pro bono work. There are cases big, small, and very small in which you can really help someone in need who simply could not do it themselves. To your clients, you will be that hero attorney you have always wanted to be. Starting pro bono work at the beginning of your career will also give you opportunities to appear in court and meet other colleagues interested in service. Whichever organization you volunteer for will be there to help you with advice and know-how every step of the way. The cases I have worked on were not ground-breaking, but I have helped real people in truly meaningful ways. You can,

too.

Second, as attorneys, we are sometimes the bearer of bad news, but we should strive to never be the bearer of a bad attitude. As in law school, professional practice brings with it a degree of stress--occasionally even great stress. Don't let it get you down. Stress management skills are an essential part of the practice of law. Begin learning--and practicing--to be a source of positivity and encouragement in your workplace.

**What is something you love about living in Nevada?**

I love our vast desert landscape. There is something peaceful about driving out of the city and seeing the beauty of wide-open spaces we have so close to home. Red Rock Canyon and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge are two of my favorites.

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

[Newsroom](#) | [Events](#) | [CLE Events](#)



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

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

STAY CONNECTED