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From Dean Dan

We kick off a new year with lots of wonderful news from Boyd Nation!

I want to recognize the student and alumni award winners from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's 2017 Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon. Please join me in congratulating:

- Public Interest Law Student of Distinction: Seleste Wyse, '18
- Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono award: Mona Kaveh, '09
- Louie Wiener Pro Bono Service Award: Marilyn Caston, '08
- Lied Award for Most Hours Donated by an Attorney: Dawn Hathaway Thoman, '14

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the hundreds of students and alumni who have donated thousands of hours providing pro bono legal services to our community.

More good news from all over:

- Law students David Chavez (2L) and Ariana Reed (2L), while externing for Judge Richard Boulware, joined him in Seattle when he sat with the Ninth Circuit.
- Cody Frederick (2L) has been honored as the community service student of the year. In recognition of his outstanding work in the guardianship program, Cody was awarded the Richard L. Brown Community Service Scholarship.
- Nevada State Senator and Gaming LL.M. alumna Becky Harris ('16) has been appointed as the first woman to chair the state Gaming Control Board.
- Kali Fox Miller ('09), Boyd alumna, was sworn in as president of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Nevada Bar Association.
- Alumna Sandra Douglass Morgan ('03) was appointed by Governor Sandoval to the Nevada Athletic Commission.
- Scott Vivier (2L) was named the outstanding student in the fall 2017 community service program for his contributions to the work on small claims proceedings.

We are excited to announce that the UNLV Boyd School of Law mock trial team placed second in the 50th Annual Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition hosted by the National Black Law Students Association and will advance to the national competition in Brooklyn, New York this spring. Additionally, our chapter of the Black Law Students Association was named the 2017-2018 Western Regional Chapter of the Year. My congratulations to all of its members and faculty supporters!

Happy New Year,

Dan
Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu
[facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/DeanDanHamilton)

Faculty Spotlight: Elizabeth L. MacDowell



Elizabeth MacDowell is a Professor of Law and Director of the Family Justice Clinic. She is currently in Turkey as a prestigious Fulbright Scholar researching family law.

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

I've been in Turkey since September as a Fulbright Scholar and Senior Researcher at Anadolu University, interviewing lawyers and activists who are working on gender violence issues. This is a politically volatile time in Turkey and gender is on the front lines. The Turkish group "We Will Stop Femicide" reports that 365 women were killed by men in the first eleven months of 2017; nearly 2000 have been killed in the last eight years. Human rights activists report that police routinely ignore violence against LGBTQ+ individuals, especially trans women. Yet, Turkey's ruling AKP party promotes religious conservatism and traditional gender roles, and is pushing back on earlier legal reforms intended to address gender violence and promote equality. I am trying to document and learn from social movements working for gender equality under increasingly difficult circumstances.

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

It is critical to recognize, study, and address the global phenomenon of rising populism, nationalism, and authoritarianism. Women, gay, and gender nonconforming people are especially at risk in these anti-democratic regimes, which use traditionalism to cloak attacks on social supports and civil rights. In Turkey, under the state of emergency in place since an attempted coup in July 2016, human rights activists and scholars allied with the feminist movement have been targeted for arrest and detention, universities have been drained of academics working on gender issues, and LGBTQ+ activities have been banned. Legal scholars need more than ever to take a global perspective, and to help our students to think and act globally. It is essential to support and amplify the voices of those targeted by repressive regimes, while recognizing and resisting the rise of anti-democratic politics in the U.S.

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

Researching in a country where academics are under attack has made the importance of academic freedom and the role educators play in the fabric of democracy so much more concrete for me. More than 7,500 academics have been purged from universities in Turkey since 2016. These include members of Academics for Peace (AKP), a group of academics targeted for repression after signing a petition protesting human rights abuses against Kurdish areas in Southeastern Turkey. Last month the government began individual prosecutions of AKP members on the charge of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization." Their experience lends urgency to the question: how can I best use my position as a legal scholar and educator to support democracy? At present this includes thinking about how to make my research more accessible outside of university settings as well as to my students, and developing new, international partners for collaborative efforts.

Student Spotlight: Paige Foley

The coolest thing I've done as a Boyd student has been...

...joining the Society of Advocates (SOA). It has provided me with countless opportunities to practice and hone my advocacy skills,



including traveling to New York City last year to compete. That's something I am anxious to repeat this coming spring!

You are chair of the third annual Frank A. Schreck Gaming Law Competition taking place here at Boyd in the spring. How are things shaping up?

Thanks to the success and amazing momentum built up by last year's chair, Valerie Gray, there are currently more teams registered for this year's competition than last year, so I am very excited about that! We released the competition problem thanks to the help and support from Charlotte Buys, the Special Projects Editor on the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal*, and Professor Jennifer Roberts. We will soon grade the briefs and then organize and host the competition here at Boyd -- all the fun stuff!

If you could have dinner with one historical figure, who would it be?

Queen Elizabeth I. I would love to meet the woman whose birth unsettled nations but who was beloved in her reign. In an era dominated by patriarchy, famine, and war, England flourished under her rule and experienced a period of economic and political stability that was unprecedented.

So what's the plan following graduation in May?

After taking the Nevada bar exam in July, I am taking two weeks off to tour Egypt and then reading a few non-law related books prior to starting my career at Messner Reeves as an associate. Later, I plan to take the Texas and Florida bar exams to ensure familial happiness.

Alumni Spotlight : Michael J. Gayan '08



Michael is a partner at Kemp, Jones & Coulthard, LLP in Las Vegas.

Tell us about your background!

I'm a proud cheese head from Wisconsin. Growing up on a small farm gave me plenty of opportunities to work hard. Doing farm chores and watching my dad work long shifts at the local factory helped me realize that I wanted something other than a lifetime of manual labor. Fortunately for me, I had a knack for school and became the first person in my family to go to college. Then came Boyd. Seeing as I never knew a lawyer as a kid, I literally never dreamed of becoming one. Life truly is what you make of it.

What has the promotion to partner meant to you?

The opportunity to work with top-notch lawyers at Kemp, Jones & Coulthard has meant more to me than the new title. The current and former partners at the firm have been great mentors over the years and modeled what it takes to be a good litigator. Without that, I would not be where I am today.

Are you particularly proud of any cases?

I do quite a bit of class action work, and the Kitec plumbing case really stands out. We represented 32,000 Las Vegas homeowners with defective plumbing systems. The litigation involved more than 50 defendants, and ended up going to trial two times for different subclasses--both of which we won as plaintiff representatives. When all was said and done, we recovered more than \$240 million with all net proceeds getting to the class members.

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