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UNLV WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

Boyd Briefs
January 25, 2018



From Dean Dan

Each year the law school welcomes a number of distinguished faculty from other law schools around the country to teach at Boyd. These nationally recognized scholars and teachers enrich our curriculum and our scholarly community. This semester we are delighted to host three leading scholars in constitutional law, criminal law, and statutory interpretation.

- **Linda L. Ammons**, former dean at Widener Law and a national leader in legal education, will teach Administrative Law. Dean Ammons is on the faculty of the National Judicial College and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.
- **Joshua Dressler**, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus and the Frank R. Strong Chair in Law Emeritus at The Ohio State University, will teach Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure - Investigation. A recipient of multiple teaching awards, Professor Dressler is the author of, among many other publications, the leading casebook on criminal law.
- **Mark G. Yudof** former president of the University of California System, former chancellor of the University of Texas System, former president at Minnesota, and former dean at the University of Texas School of Law, will visit the law school for two weeks this spring semester and teach a course on the First Amendment. This course will conclude with a mini-symposium on the First Amendment and free speech in the context of higher education. That symposium, which will be open to the public, will begin the morning of Feb. 13 and end shortly after lunch.



Linda Ammons and Joshua Dressler will be on campus throughout the semester and Mark Yudof will join us from late January through mid-February. I very much hope you'll have an opportunity to join us for some of the events we'll be hosting and to meet our very distinguished guests.

Best,

Dan

Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law

daniel.hamilton@unlv.edu

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Faculty Spotlight: Rachel J. Anderson



Rachel Anderson is a Professor of Law. She has expertise in Civil Rights, Corporate Governance, International Law, Human Rights as well as Diversity and Inclusion..

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

I am currently working on an International Business Transactions textbook for Wolters Kluwer tentatively titled, "Business Around the World: International, Transnational, and Comparative Law." It is designed to familiarize students with key issues in international, transnational, and comparative law. This textbook incorporates explicit learning outcomes and emphasizes experiential learning opportunities. It includes exercises that I developed over my past ten years teaching at the William S. Boyd School of Law. Some of the exercises are particularly meaningful to me because I developed them together with my mentor Douglas Nordlinger, with whom I had the privilege to work with in London at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP.

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

In addition to the ongoing changes connected to globalization and advances in technology, political fluctuations can have significant effects on the regulatory and risk environment in which business is transacted that has cross-border components or effects. From the business side, keeping up with potential and current changes in regulations is an important part of identifying and mitigating potential risks in cross-border transactions. From the government perspective, staying abreast of technological changes and regulatory arbitrage is an important part of designing laws and regulations that achieve their intended goals. Comparative law provides an important approach that promotes a better understanding of foreign legal systems and a deeper understanding of one's own legal system.

Which of your recent books or articles should I read?

I suggest my article entitled "[Inattentional Blindness: Psychological Barriers Between Legal Mandates and Progress Toward Workplace Gender Equality](#)," in the *Santa Clara Journal of International Law*. Inattentional blindness is a psychological theory that essentially says that people often do not see or hear things that they are not expecting. I argue that this phenomenon can explain why two people can experience the same event but see or hear very different things. In my article, I posit that this may help to explain why people in different demographic groups, for example, women and men, may report different perceptions of behavior or fairness in the workplace. I think that this theory makes it possible to imagine the possibility of another person being present for the same experience but remembering it very differently without imputing willful ignorance or nefarious intent. That in turn, I believe, allows us to approach difficult issues in a way that often can result in finding common ground.

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

For me, the three are inextricably intertwined. Scholarship is a space that allows me to work through the approaches to and intricacies of an issue. Teaching is an opportunity to share that knowledge with others and engage in a substantive discussion with others that often leads to new insights. My service on campus and off is an opportunity to put theory into action and to identify issues that could benefit from scholarly theorizing. For me, each of these aspects of being a professor enriches and enhances the others.

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

The many different ways you can contribute to society. We come into contact with so many different people who are involved in many different issues and industries. That gives us the opportunity to make a difference in a lot of ways from each individual person we meet, to the people whose lives our students will touch as legal practitioners, to our scholarship that can help inform and improve society's structures and all types of economic activity.

Student Spotlight: Seleste Wyse



How have you enjoyed your experience as a Boyd Public Interest Fellow?

I absolutely love the Public Interest Fellowship (PIF) Program because of the numerous opportunities that focus on an important area of law. As future lawyers, we will have specialized legal knowledge to assist those who lack the tools and time to understand the law. The program focuses on this idea while connecting students with public interest-minded attorneys.

Aside from being a PIF, which of your many activities in law school has been the most memorable?

I enjoy every activity in which I participate, but I will always remember Upward Bound. Our school hosted college-bound high school students from low income households. Just like myself, these students will become first generation college students. One freshman had numerous questions for me about affording college. I will never forget asking him what he wanted to be one day. The boy stood up taller and firmly stated that he wanted to be a scientist. In that moment, I knew that I wanted to work with youth and encourage them in their educational pursuits.

Tell us about someone who's been a guiding influence in your life.

My parents. They always stressed how vital it is to be college educated. My mom and dad taught me to be selfless and to help others whenever one can. They are a contributing factor behind my love of volunteering and, now, public interest work.

Graduation in May, the bar in July... then what?

After the bar exam, I will begin a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Tierra Jones at the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada. I am thrilled for this opportunity, and I'm ready to learn. Once I complete my clerkship, I want to practice criminal law here in Clark County.

Alumni Spotlight : Brett Smith '08

Brett is a Discovery Staff Attorney at Google in San Francisco .

Can you share with us some details of your work life?

I am sure the experience of becoming part of an in-house counsel group can run the gamut, but mine has been a really positive one. If you have a strong interest in a particular industry, I think it is a good career option to explore when entering the job market. I have really



enjoyed the past five years at Google, and I plan on sticking around. For me, the work/life balance it offers has been great and I still have the opportunity to work on noteworthy cases and issues.

Participating in art and culture is important to me. So, I push myself to bring that part of me to work. For instance, with the help of our art group at Google, I have had two 'galleries' installed on campus. Running the galleries has given me the opportunity to reach out and connect with some of my favorite regional artists (Sylvia Ji, Ferris Plock, Kevin Earl Taylor), as well as allowing me to bring a part of myself to work that otherwise might not have been present.

Last, I would say that one thing I have been pushing myself to do more of is participate in pro bono clinics. Most of the time, it is as simple as helping people fill out paperwork, but it allows me to flex my skills beyond the day-to-day work and support a cause I care about. Most of the clinics I participated in have been immigration-related.

What do you enjoy in your off hours?

Music is and has always been really important to me. I would say it dominates my interests outside of work. Luckily, I live in a city where there are at least a couple of good shows per week so I try to attend as many as I can. I also collect Soul 45s and vintage synthesizers. Since space is at a premium in San Francisco, building both collections is at odds with the "one in; one out" policy we have in the apartment. Never take for granted all the house and apartment space you get in Las Vegas!

Is there a nugget of advice you would give a current Boyd Law student?

If I had to pick one piece of advice for those still in school, it would be to feel confident and unashamed in reaching out to chat with anyone whose job interests you. Do it early, and do it often. You would be surprised at how willing people are to share their experiences - and you never know what doors it will open.

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