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**Boyd Briefs**  
February 2, 2018



### From Dean Dan

UNLV Law is committed to bringing distinguished and thought-provoking speakers to Nevada. During the next few weeks, I am pleased that we will welcome a fantastic lineup of speakers from a diverse array of scholarly and policy backgrounds.

**Joseph M. Alioto** will join us at noon on Feb. 6 to present "Antitrust: The Backbone of the Free Enterprise System ." Mr. Alioto is one of the leading antitrust lawyers in the nation and has represented independent companies and corporations of all sizes, farmers, inventors, patent holders, manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, unions, consumers, and entrepreneurs against foreign as well as domestic corporations.

On Feb. 12, historian and Pulitzer-prize winning author Professor **Eric Foner** will present "The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Changed the Constitution " as part of the Philip Pro Lecture in Legal History. His lecture on the Civil War Amendments, based on his next book, will also expand upon his work in his award-winning book, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, and *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, for which he won the Pulitzer.

Former Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Reid, Former General Counsel for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, and Deputy Director for the White House National Economic Council, **Bill Dauster** , joins us at noon Feb. 28 for "The Senate in Transition or How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Nuclear Option."

Next, the Saltman Center presents the 2018 Chris Beecroft Jr. Lecture on Conflict Resolution on March 1 featuring Professor **Andrea Schneider** 's "Gender and Negotiation: What About the Guys? " Read more about the Beecroft lecture series, as well as about the Saltman Center's two new faculty members and three new student fellows in the Winter|Spring 2018 edition of The Desert Talking Piece .

I sincerely hope you can join us for some, or all, of these upcoming events.

Best,

Dan  
Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law  
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## Faculty Spotlight: Cynthia Asher



*Cynthia Asher, JD, MPH, serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law.*

### **Tell us about your background.**

I grew up in San Francisco and moved to Washington DC after college, where I worked for a nonprofit educational organization with a focus on law. I didn't know any lawyers growing up, so the position was a crash course on the practice of law as I gained exposure to a variety of practitioners in both the public and private sectors, from law clerks to Supreme Court Justices. I enjoyed the energy of Washington DC and stayed for law school at Georgetown University Law Center. While in law school I took a health law and policy elective because healthcare reform was a hot-button topic much as it is today. That decision shaped my career as I went on to earn a Masters in Public Health at Johns Hopkins and work in the field of health law. Positions include working for a healthcare boutique law firm as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service.

### **What is it about teaching at the Law School that inspires or motivates you?**

I'm inspired by students' intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. I thoroughly enjoy the lightbulb moments during class discussions when a student understands a new concept after wrestling with it. I also enjoy seeing a student present an idea or belief and then work through the process of refining it based on discussion. Seeing students engaged and thinking never gets old.

### **What advice would you give someone just starting in the profession?**

Your reputation is very important, and the legal community is smaller than you might think, particularly here in Nevada. You can be an effective advocate and still be respectful of opposing counsel. Always act in ways that protect your reputation.

## Student Spotlight: Brittni Griffith



### **How did you enjoy your experience in Boyd's Mediation Clinic?**

Participating in Boyd's Mediation Clinic was one of the most rewarding experiences of my law school career. In law school we are so often asked to weigh both sides of an argument but in the end to choose the stronger argument. It was not until my experience in the clinic that I was able to gain the tools necessary to shelf my biases to act as a third-party neutral and still strategically facilitate productive conversation between two individuals in conflict.

### **If you could sit down for a cup of coffee with anyone from history, who would it be?**

Hands down, I would want to have coffee with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ever since I read "Letter from Birmingham Jail," I always wanted to pick his brain regarding his ability to successfully preach for peaceful protest in a time that was far from peaceful.

### **After you graduate in May, what do you think will be the thing you miss most about law school?**

The comradery. Before law school, I heard the typical stories that I think we all hear regarding how the curve gets the best of people, resulting in a cutthroat competition. I am so happy to say my law school experience has not been that way. From day one, I have always felt a sense of friendship and support as everyone seemed to be figuring out the

whole law school experience. My classmates have always been more than willing to help out, and I will miss that scholastic comradery.

**And what are your plans following graduation?**

After graduation, I will sit for the July Nevada bar exam. Following that, I will begin my one-year clerkship for the Honorable Elissa F. Cadish in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

**Alumni Spotlight : The Honorable Mason E. Simons '03**



*Judge Simons is Elko's Justice of the Peace/Municipal Court Judge .*

**What brought you to Elko, Nevada?**

Shortly after graduating from Boyd in late 2003, my wife and I married; and we were soon expecting our first child. Having grown up in a small town in southern Utah, I was drawn to the prospect of raising my own family in a smaller town. So, my wife and I decided to make the jump from "the big city" to northern Nevada . After applying for several jobs across northern and rural Nevada , I accepted a position as a Deputy Public Defender in Elko . We knew from the beginning that Elko was the right place for us. The Elko County Public Defender, the late Fred Lee, was a terrific boss and mentor. I am grateful for all I learned from him, both professionally and personally. He taught me to be a better lawyer and a better person.

**Tell us about a turning point in your career.**

As a fairly young attorney, an opportunity arose in Elko for me to apply for the position of Family Court Master with the 4th Judicial District Court. The position was under the supervision of District Judge Andrew J. Puccinelli, a former president of the State Bar of Nevada. I respected Judge Puccinelli very much. I served as a member of his Drug Court team while I was a Deputy Public Defender . I decided to apply, and ultimately was hired. This would begin what is now an eleven-year (and counting) stint of judicial service here in Elko County - six years as Family Court Master; and the past five years as Elko Township Justice of the Peace and City of Elko Municipal Judge.

**What do you want your legacy to be?**

I am proud to be a Boyd alum and very grateful to all my professors who imparted to me my understanding of the law; as well as set me on the right course in my professional career . Ultimately, I hope to be remembered as a lawyer and judge who was fair and even-handed; and who afforded respect to all those who appeared before him in the courtroom. The local bar in Elko County is one in which civility and respect prevail. I like to think I am contributing what I can to that positive atmosphere; thanks, in part, to that strong foundation built at the Boyd School of Law .

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