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From Dean Dan

This weekend we are delighted to host the fourth annual Judge Lloyd D. George Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. This is a regional competition that prepares teams for the national Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, which will take place next month in New York. The George Competition is made possible by the hard work of the Society of Advocates, in particular, William Nobriga and faculty supervisor Lena Rieke. We appreciate the many attorneys and judges who volunteered to judge, including our final round judges: Judge Mike K. Nakagawa, attorney Talitha Gray, and alum Matthew Knepper. We are also grateful for support from the American Bankruptcy Institute, Candace Carlyon, attorney Ford Elsaesser, and the judges of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Special recognition also goes to friend of the law school and competition namesake, The Honorable Lloyd D. George, for his ongoing support.

I would also like to congratulate students Will Carter (2L) and Connor Sapphire (2L) who represented Boyd at the American Bar Association's Region 12 Client Counseling Competition last weekend at the University of Wyoming College of Law in Laramie, Wyoming. Will and Connor impressed the judges in the preliminary rounds taking the first place position going into the final round, and completing the competition in third place.

Next week we welcome back to the law school the Nevada Court of Appeals to hear oral argument in the Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom. Special thanks to Chief Judge Abbi Silver, Judge Jerome T. Tao, and Judge Michael P. Gibbons. Beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, they will hear three cases:

- Wallace vs. Smith: a breach of contract action between Shafer Smith (aka NE-YO) and his manager.
- Robins (Damien) vs. State: claims of error in a case involving attacks with a sledgehammer.
- King vs. Desert Palace, Inc.: questions arising from a settlement agreement in a negligence case against Caesars Palace after an employee spilled hot coffee in her lap.

Best,

Dan
Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law
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Faculty Spotlight: Stanford B. Owen



Stanford Owen serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law.

What is it about being an adjunct law professor at Boyd that has motivated you to make 286 round trips from your home in Salt Lake City Utah to teach at UNLV?

In addition to being an adjunct at Boyd each Thursday, I teach at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham University in Provo, Utah, Monday through Wednesday. On Thursday I fly to Boyd - down and back the same day. Why would anybody do that?

In answering this question, I have considered but ruled out insanity, poor judgment, and an uncontrollable desire for airplane snacks.

I think the answer is simply the wonderful, diverse student body at Boyd. Although all of the students are terrific, it is the endearing mix of delightful students at Boyd that makes me endure the constant middle seat assignment on Delta Airlines, the "cattle call" boarding process of Southwest Airlines, and the inevitable turbulence descending into McCarran Airport.

The lyrics of an old Peter, Paul, and Mary song "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" best express my feelings.

*All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now.*

*Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony.*

(Lyrics by Bill Staines) Recently re-recorded by Peter Paul and Mary in their Album In these times

I simply love the symphony of diversity at Boyd, from the eagle who makes law review and soars in the sky to the whale who flounders a bit and just gets by.

And that is what motivates me to fly in and out each Thursday.

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

There are two books I recommend -*Make Your Bed, Little Things that can change your life... and maybe the world*, by Admiral William H. McRaven and *GRIT, the Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. Both contain life lessons that lead to success.

Student Spotlight: Nicole Lutey

Tell us about your work at Zappos.

Working at Zappos is great. It's not work as much as it's going to hang out a clubhouse where you have a couple of responsibilities besides just having a good time. It's the most fun I've ever had working. I've had a couple of roles at Zappos. Right now, I am a Senior Systems Analyst in Finance. Before that, I worked in the tax department on Sales and Use Tax. If you ever have a minute (or hour), I can definitely make your eyes glaze over talking about sales tax.



You came to Boyd with interest in tax or intellectual property law. Where does your interest stand now?

I definitely still have the same interests especially after taking a class with Professor Francine Lipman. With her enthusiasm in teaching tax, it's hard to imagine that not everyone in her classes wants to practice tax law.

You've lived in Las Vegas over 30 years. Of all the changes you've seen, which is the most remarkable?

While there's definitely a lot of change, it's amazing how much has stayed the same. For example, I can stand in the mall outside the law school building and look north and it's pretty much the same view I had 25 years ago when I was working on my undergrad degree. In terms of change, it's amazing how big the hotels are now compared to 30 years ago...and they still all fill up with visitors.

When not working or studying, what's your go-to fun thing?

I love to scuba dive but I really only do that on vacation. I also really like to just hang out on the couch with my two golden retrievers and read or watch TV.

Alumni Spotlight : Alexandra Varela '13



Alexandra is an attorney and owner at Varela Law in Placentia, CA.

Is there a nugget of advice you would have for a Boyd law student or recent grad?

My advice to a Boyd law student or recent grad is to not close any doors. Take every class and externship opportunity as a chance to explore and discover what interests you. You never know where life may lead and what experiences may change your perspective.

I went to law school because I wanted to work in child welfare. While at Boyd, I started a student organization called the Child Advocacy Law Association, and all of my externships related to that practice area. After law school, I worked as a Deputy District Attorney in the Nevada Child Welfare Division, which was extremely rewarding. However, because I was so passionate about the work, I quickly found myself burnt out and emotionally-drained.

When my husband's career prompted a move back to Southern California where we both grew up, I began seriously considering a change in practice areas - something I never thought I would do. Now, I am an estate planning attorney. I never dreamed that I would enjoy the work as much as I do.

What inspired you to start your own practice?

While in law school, my grandmother became very ill. She was the pillar of strength on my dad's side of the family - the person everyone went to for advice and comfort. She and my grandfather did not have much by way of financial assets, aside from a home in Southern California that was owned outright, so my dad and his sister never went to see an estate planning attorney. After my grandmother passed away, my dad and his sister had a lot of conflict over the estate, sadly resulting in disintegration of their sibling relationship. I know, without a doubt, this is not what my grandmother would have wanted. Because of this, I started my own estate planning practice where I help clients make empowered decisions for their families in hopes of avoiding as much conflict and stress as possible.

What do you enjoy doing in your off hours?

I am currently building my practice, which is a labor of love and requires much time and attention. But I do have two young children who are my inspiration and my world. During

my off hours, I enjoy cuddling with them, watching Daniel Tiger, going to ballet practice, and picking up toys.

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