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From Dean Dan

Next week, we are delighted to welcome the Honorable **Jane Harman**, President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and nine-term member of Congress (1993-99, 2001-11), for a public talk, "[Foreign Policy and National Security: A Conversation with Jane Harman](#) ." Ms. Harman, during her nine terms in Congress, served on all of the major security committees: six years on Armed Services, eight years on Intelligence, and eight on Homeland Security. At the Wilson Center, she directs one of the leading policy research organizations in the world. I hope you can join us on Wed., March 7 at 4 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom. My thanks to the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities and the Tom & Mary Gallagher Foundation for their support for this important talk.

Last week, we were honored to host 80 Cheyenne High School government students and their teachers for the 5th Annual Voting Rights Project. The day culminated with more than 40 students registering to vote and three groups of students giving presentations that they prepared after studying the Nevada Revised Statutes and analyzing fact patterns related to voting rights. Thank you to [Professor Rachel Anderson](#) for co-conceiving and co-coordinating this event with Principal Zachary Robbins each year. Special thanks to Carmen Chang for all her efforts organizing this event. We also want to thank this year's volunteers: [Professor Sonya Watson](#) and Boyd Law students Austin Barnum, Caleb Green, Ryan McConnell, Roman Reid, and Jackson Wong.

Best,

Dan
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Faculty Spotlight: Benjamin Edwards

Benjamin Edwards is an associate professor of law whose expertise is within Business and Securities Law, Corporate Governance, and Consumer Protection.



Which of your recent books or articles should I read?

I recently published a law review article about how consumers struggle to navigate markets for professional services. The article, [The Professional Prospectus](#), argues that consumers and markets would benefit if we made more useful information about professionals available to consumers. It considers the benefits and risks of making a standardized prospectus available for professionals instead of just for securities offerings. I also wrote a couple of op-eds focused on an immigration court case to get the idea out to a broader audience. You can read them at [The Wall Street Journal](#) and at [The Hill](#).

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

Much of my research and scholarship focuses on how we need to do more to protect ordinary investors and consumers from bad financial advice. Because of the risks lurking out there, I helped coordinate a project to provide pro bono financial planning assistance for the survivors of the 1 October shooting in Las Vegas. That project is available [here](#). We brought together fee-only fiduciary advisers affiliated with the CFA Institute, the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, the Garret Planning Network, and the Institute for the Fiduciary Standard. Collectively, these advisers stand ready to volunteer their time to help survivors.

Also on the service front, I was recently elected to the Board of the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association (PIABA). Serving on PIABA's board has allowed me to combine my research interest in corporate governance with investor protection issues. In November, PIABA released a [report](#) on FINRA's governance that I co-authored. We also published an op-ed about the issues we raised in [The Hill](#).

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

I absolutely love being able to promote our students and introduce them to new ideas. Earlier this semester, we brought representatives from the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission to meet with our new Investor Protection Clinic. Next week, we're flying the students to Washington to have them at the SEC's Investor Advisory Committee meeting. We're hoping to use the time productively and meet with regulators at the SEC as well as Congressional representatives.

Student Spotlight: Steve Jimenez



Speak a little of the bond you share with the cohort with whom you've spent the last four years in Boyd's part-time evening program.

Initially I expected my cohort to be so diverse that we couldn't create a bond. I was wrong. Within a few days, differences were cast aside and we began working together. Classmates became co-counsels and we've continued supporting each other throughout our four years.

You've been very active in the Student Bar Association and La Voz [Boyd's Latino student association] over the years. What have those experiences meant to you?

Simply stated, La Voz was my gateway to law school. The Huellas program was the reason for my entry into law school and later becoming the Nevada Hispanic Caucus Legislative extern for the 2017 session. The SBA taught me to listen to constituents and make decisions for them rather than what you personally believe. I encourage all students to try their hand at representing their peers; it is as challenging as it is rewarding.

Are you still a fighter?

My goals as a Muay Thai fighter have definitely taken a back seat to law school, but I quickly transitioned to coaching. I've had to cut back on my gym time but still take the occasional swing at a punching bag at home. If I could give every student one piece of advice, it would be to take time for yourself to do something active. It will help release the emotions that can sometimes be overbearing during law school.

What's in the works, so to speak, following May graduation and the bar exam?

My current firm has offered an associate attorney position, and I am excited to grow in this new role. There is, of course, the impending 2019 legislative session of which I hope to be a part.

Alumni Spotlight : David Stoft '06



David is General Counsel at the Clark County Water Reclamation District.

How did you first get into the legal profession?

Although I have no clear recollection of my particular motive for doing so, I made the decision to attend law school in 2001 while working as a financial/manufacturing analyst for Motorola in Phoenix. I do recall being disenchanted with a career in finance (that is to say, the mundane, routine reporting of financial figures, highlighted only by creative reformatting of graphs reused ad nauseam), and being attracted to the legal profession by Hollywood portrayals of the profession in shows like *Law and Order* , *A Few Good Men* , *The Rainmaker* , and the like.

I maintained this healthy naivete through to my graduation from Boyd Law School in 2006, and into the legal profession itself when I took a position as a commercial litigator with the law firm of McDonald Carano Wilson ("MCW"). Although the Hollywood version of the legal profession has proved elusive, I spent eight great years at MCW, then three exciting years as the Corporate Counsel of The Siegel Group. I now work as General Counsel for the Clark County Water Reclamation District.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be?

A Jedi. A professional athlete. An inventor. My childhood aspirations changed often and were usually influenced by a recent movie I saw, the sport I was playing, or a book I read. That unbounded impression and imagination is the greatest thing about a child's mind. My daughters are the same way. One week they want to be fashion designer; the next week it is a professional soccer player. However, certain professions do not always capture a child's imagination – being a lawyer among them, at least for me. That came later.

Any business advice you would give to someone just starting in the profession?

Take full advantage of employment opportunities and remain in a new position long enough to get good at it and to maximize the educational and professional growth it can provide. When you are looking for a change, be patient. The really good opportunities have a way of finding their way to you.

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