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UNLV | WILLIAM S. BOYD
SCHOOL OF LAW

Boyd Briefs
March 23, 2018



From Dean Dan

Earlier this week we learned UNLV Boyd Law ranked 59th out of 194 accredited law schools in the US News & World Report 2019 law school rankings. We moved up three spots from last year, and this marks our highest ranking ever. Additionally, we are delighted that our Lawyering Process program ranked first in the nation among legal writing programs, and our Saltman Center for Dispute Resolution ranked tenth nationally. Our part-time program continues to climb and is now ranked 17th in the country. I invite you to read our press release [here](#) . While we are excited about our ranking this year, we need always to keep these rankings in perspective. Our focus remains on building a great law school that serves our students and our community.

Last week during spring break, several Boyd students spent their time off participating in our sixth annual Alternative Spring Break program. As part of the program, Julio Garcia, Morgan Hansen, Esteban Hernandez, Bailey Karas, and Hannah Nelson volunteered with Clean the World and Three Square, observed detention hearings for minors at Clark County Family Court, toured the Clark County Detention Facility, and met with a Family Mediation Center mediator to learn more about the role of mediation in custody cases. Additional activities included visiting Senator Yvanna Cancela, a first year at Boyd, along with the Culinary Union's legal counsel. Finally, there was a lunch meeting with judges at the Regional Justice Center, pictured below. My thanks to Joanna Medrano, Director of Externships and Professor-in-Residence, for organizing this experience on behalf of our students.

Best,

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



Faculty Spotlight: Jean Sternlight



Jean Sternlight is the director of the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution and the Michael and Sonja Saltman Professor of Law.

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

The most important issue facing my field of dispute resolution is how technology will change the way in which our society approaches disputes. At the most basic level we are already seeing that technology changes how disputants keep records, how events are recorded, and how disputants present claims on-line or in court. But, we will also see technology to some degree replace lawyers, judges, and mediators. And, we will see technology used

to explore the contents of the human brain. Perhaps counter-intuitively, I believe that the growth of technology will ultimately help us focus more on the less technical and more personal aspects of dispute resolution. At least on my more optimistic days I believe we will increasingly realize the importance of empathy, reconciliation, growth, and understanding.

How do you approach teaching your favorite topics? Your least favorite?

I honestly can't think of a topic that I teach that I don't enjoy teaching. Whether I am teaching civil procedure or psychology and lawyering I choose topics that I think matter or at least should matter to attorneys in practice. Then, my basic approach is to help the students understand why the topic matters, because once they see why it matters it will become more interesting. In all of my classes I try to connect the lessons to the real world as much as possible, for example using actual pleadings, role plays or videos. In civil procedure I sometimes get to play Judge Sternlight, and in psychology and lawyering I may role play a difficult client in a deposition. Through methods like these I get students involved with teaching the material to themselves.

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

For the article I am currently writing, on technology and dispute resolution, I have been reading about an amazing array of topics including the trial of Orestia in Ancient Greece, the use of DNA to trace dog poop, so-called brain fingerprinting, trials of animals and insects in the Middle Ages, confirmation bias, and crowd-sourcing on the internet. I can also tell myself that watching shows like Black Mirror is relevant to my work. Being a law professor is fun.

Student Spotlight: Eric Duhon

So your family has been in Nevada since 1866, yes?

The exact date my family arrived in Nevada depends on which relative's story you want to believe, but the most believable story is that we arrived in 1866. Regardless of which story, we have



been here a long time, and I am proud to say I am a fifth generation Nevadan.

How did a guy from Reno come to row crew at the University of Wisconsin?

I had never rowed nor seen a racing boat, but I walked onto the team after my coaches approached me at freshman orientation, like they do to every tall, athletic-looking person. I was lucky enough to make the team, and our success my freshman year had me hooked. That first year, our team won the eastern conference earning the Rowe Cup, which we had not held since 1946, and our varsity 8 won the Division I national

championships, while my boat took eighth place in the freshman division. I was lucky enough to continue to race both nationally and internationally until I graduated in 2011.

What's been the most memorable experience during your time in law school at Boyd?

Aside from the medical adventure over the last year to remove and recover from the benign mass that nearly paralyzed me, which is discussed more in the [2017 UNLV Law magazine](#), my most memorable experiences were the days I spent studying in the quiet section of the library with my now fiancé, Sarah White ('17).

And what's happening after graduation in May and the bar exam in July?

After graduation and the bar, I am backpacking in eastern Europe and Asia with my fiancé before beginning as an associate at Fennemore Craig in its Reno office with its Business and Finance group.

Alumni Spotlight : Stephanie Bedker '16



Stephanie is an Associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Las Vegas.

How did you first get into the legal profession?

My path to the legal profession was unorthodox. I have played violin since an early age, so I initially attended a music conservatory and pursued a career in music education. However, after 15 years of teaching music, it was time for a change.

I have always loved reading, writing, and analytical research, so I surmised that the legal profession could be a good fit. My decision to attend law school was a bit of a gamble, but Boyd's evening program permitted me to keep my job as a teacher while experimenting with a new field. From the first week of classes, I knew I made the right decision.

What drew you to Greenberg Traurig and what do you like most about your work there?

Greenberg Traurig is the largest law firm in the nation, but it feels like a family – one backed by amazing resources. The local office in Las Vegas is small, and the attorneys that I work with are both highly competent and supportive in helping me to grow professionally. I like working at Greenberg Traurig because the work is challenging and rewarding, and I learn something new every day.

Any particular advice you would give a recent UNLV Law graduate?

First, do not be afraid to take chances. Your career path does not have to be a straight line. Each experience can only help you grow personally and professionally.

Second, jump right into pro bono work. It permits you to develop your legal skills in ways that may not otherwise be available to you as a recent graduate. More importantly, it is so

enriching to be able to help those who cannot navigate through the legal system by themselves.

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