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Boyd Briefs
March 30, 2018



From Dean Dan

On April 5 at 4 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack Courtroom, the law school will host our annual Robert D. Faiss Lecture on Gaming Law & Policy. This year's speaker is Dr. Bo Bernhard, Executive Director of the International Gaming Institute. He will deliver a talk: *On the Shoulders of Giants: Reflections on the Foundations and Futures of the Study of Gambling* . Dr. Bernhard will also be honored as the new Philip G. Satire Chair for Gaming Studies, which is widely recognized as the most prestigious chair in gaming studies. The Satire Chair is held jointly at the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. You can RSVP by clicking [here](#) .

Over the past few weeks, we've also seen a lot of exciting developments from our students, faculty and alumni. I am delighted to share those with you:

- Last week at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Professor Rebecca Scharf was presented with the 2018 Rocky Mountain Award for "contributions beyond measure to the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Community." More well-deserved recognition for the #1 Legal Writing program in the nation!
- Congratulations to the Society of Advocates Thurgood Marshall and the Rendigs Moot Court teams. Lucy Crow and Carmen Gilbert advanced to the quarterfinal round at the August Rendigs Products Liability Moot Court Competition, held at the Potter Stewart Courthouse in Cincinnati, Ohio. Theresa Guerra and Brianna Stutz won the first place brief award at the Federal Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition, held in Washington, D.C. Kris Kalkowski and Andrew Hart took home the second place brief award at the same competition.
- Three UNLV Law grads were honored in this year's VEGAS INC 2018 40 Under 40 list of influential Las Vegas who are helping improve Southern Nevada. Congrats to Justin Carley ('06), Partner at Snell & Wilmer, Riana Durrett ('08), Executive Director at the Nevada Dispensary Association, and Xenophon Peters ('07), Peters & Associates Founding Partner. Wonderful recognition for alumni making an impact in our community.

Best,

Dan
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Faculty Spotlight: Sara Gordon



Sara Gordon is an Associate Professor of Law and a charter member of the UNLV Health Law Program. She teaches courses in Mental Health Law, Criminal Law, and Evidence.

Which of your recent books or articles should I read?

My recent research examines drug and other specialty courts, which were originally intended to divert people with criminal charges out of the criminal justice system and allow them to instead receive treatment for an underlying mental illness or substance use disorder. One article that I'd recommend is *About a Revolution: Towards Integrated Treatment in Drug & Mental Health Courts*, which is forthcoming in the North Carolina Law Review. In this paper, I examine the structure of specialty courts, which often segregate defendants into drug court or mental health court based on the crime that led to their arrest. Many of these individuals, however, do not just suffer from a substance use disorder or a mental health disorder; instead, many have a "co-occurring disorder." I argue that this segregated specialty court model often fails to provide integrated treatment for the multiple disorders a defendant might present, and further stigmatizes drug and alcohol use disorders.

Another recent piece, *The Use and Abuse of Mutual Support Groups in Drug Courts*, 2017 Illinois L. Rev. 1503, examines the gap between what we know about appropriate treatment for the disease of addiction, and the treatment received by individuals who are ordered into treatment as a condition of participation in drug court. Many drug courts, for instance, will not accept participants who are undergoing medication-assisted treatment for addiction and substance abuse, partly because of a persistent belief that medication-assisted treatment allows individuals to simply replace one substance with another. Yet these medications have been shown to be safe and highly effective for many people and participants in drug courts should be permitted to use this evidence-based treatment.

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

If I told you that sugar won't make your kids hyper, would you believe me? And what does that have to do with drug courts? Despite overwhelming scientific support for the efficacy of medication-assisted treatment for addiction, many drug courts are reluctant to embrace these pharmacological treatments because of concerns about "addiction substitution." Ordinary decision-makers are similarly reluctant to believe new information when it contradicts their existing beliefs. Sugar does not make kids hyper, but you may find it difficult to believe that if you have always understood that it does. My current work focuses on these "sticky myths" and the reluctance of legal decision-makers to embrace challenges to their longstanding ideas or practices, even in the face of credible scientific evidence suggesting that the old approaches might be incorrect or misinformed. As a more serious example of this phenomenon, most people think that fingerprint evidence connecting a defendant to a crime scene is infallible and that such evidence always produces the correct conclusions. Yet fingerprint identifications have significant error rates and the first appropriately designed study of the validity and reliability of latent print evidence wasn't conducted until 2011! Like my work on the legal system's need for a more contemporary and evidence-based approach to addiction, this project focuses on the disconnect between what we believe about forensic evidence and what has been established by the scientific community, and on the resistance of people to believe new information that contradicts or disproves the things they have always assumed to be true.

Student Spotlight: Steven Brecher

What are the upsides and downsides of life as a professional poker player?

A downside is the ups and downs — the volatility of results. I specialized in poker tournaments, which are characterized by



frequent famines and rare feasts. Each tournament of the kind I was playing lasts three to six or more days, but only 10-15% of the entrants come away with any prize money. I enjoyed the challenges of matching wits with opponents and of mastering the subtleties of tournament play.

Why, at this point in your life, did you decide to give law school a go?

I was feeling a lack of intellectual challenge. I recalled that, long ago, I had applied to and been accepted by some law schools but elected instead to go forward in computer software. In 2016, I investigated the possibility of volunteering as a paralegal, but soon realized that jurisprudence fascinated me, and that I could develop more fruitful opportunities to volunteer as a lawyer.

So as well as playing poker professionally, you were a computer software developer. Tell us about that work.

Software was my primary career before I got into poker tournaments later in life. As a philosophy major undergraduate I happened to take an introductory software class and loved it. Programming is a kind of puzzle solving that continued to fascinate me.

You were a pilot. What was your favorite flight destination?

I flew my plane to and from the Nassau, Bahamas airport once for a poker tournament. Because it was my only international flight as a pilot, it required a lot of preparation. I was rewarded by a successful flight and good sightseeing weather. My most *frequent* destination from my base in Reno or Carson City was ... North Las Vegas Airport!

Alumni Spotlight : Lauren Calvert '07



Lauren is an attorney at Bighorn Law in Las Vegas as well as General Counsel at Filevine .

Tell us about your legal career.

I work for two firms: Bighorn Law (a.k.a. Morris Anderson) and Filevine. In 2011, while driving to work, my car was struck by a speeding semi-truck that ran a red light. Nathan Morris became my attorney for the ensuing personal injury lawsuit. After four years as his client, he suggested I might as well work at his firm since I spent so much time there! The day of that collision turned out to be one of the best of my life because it led me to where I am now. Another four years after that, Nathan's business partner, Ryan Anderson, asked me to spend half my time as General Counsel for the legal software company Filevine, which was such an honor.

For me, it's not so much about the type of law you practice or your position within a firm: it is all about those with whom you work. As a lawyer, you will spend the overwhelming majority of your awake hours with your co-workers, not your family or friends. If you enjoy and respect those people, you will love your work and your life.

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

To new women attorneys in particular, I would say don't give up your power. Stand your ground. Don't let men interrupt you or start mansplaining. Don't let male associates, bosses or partners convince you that their value to the firm is greater than yours or that you should share more of your fees. Leave bad work relationships early. Find solidarity with other female lawyers early on, and speak up when you see them being treated poorly, too.

Tell us about a case that you are particularly proud of.

I am very proud of all the collective actions I have been a part of, from mass tort lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies to class actions against Nevada strip clubs. Each has

been a David versus Goliath battle. The courage of my clients to knowingly go into such a fight is inspirational. It has always been important to me that everyone have a voice in our judicial system.

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