From Dean Dan

The new Workplace Law Program at UNLV Boyd, led by Professor Ruben Garcia and William S. Boyd Professor of Law Ann McGinley, is at the forefront of exploring issues surrounding labor and employment law. Created in 2017, the Program offers students a rigorous introduction to workplace law through courses taught by faculty and practitioners, and through educational programs and symposia that highlight internationally known speakers who address issues of national and local importance.

On April 20 at 4 p.m., in partnership with the UNLV Workplace Law Program, we are delighted to present "Reconceptualizing Sexual Harassment, Again" from Yale Law School’s Ford Foundation Professor of Law and Social Sciences, Professor Vicki Schultz. Professor Schultz teaches courses on the family, family law, employment discrimination law, workplace theory and policy, work and gender, feminist theory, and related subjects. Her work has been influential in scholarly circles in both law and the social sciences, and has also been cited widely by courts and the national news media. Please register here.

Tomorrow, we’re excited to head out to the UNLV Eller Media Softball Stadium for our 9th Annual Spring Fling. Members of the Boyd Community are invited to join us for a day of softball, fun and fresh air! Learn more on our website, and my thanks to this year’s sponsor Blackfish Investments.

Best,

Dan
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Faculty Spotlight: Anne R. Traum

Anne Traum is Director of the Appellate Clinic and a Professor of Law.
How do you approach teaching your favorite topics? Your least favorite?

As an advocate, I love oral argument, so preparing a student to argue in the Ninth Circuit - as Annie Avery did this week - is a joy and a challenge! Oral argument is a complex task that requires mastery on so many levels: the record, the substantive law, the theory of the case, and the actual live performance. To develop that mastery, we watched and listened to arguments, crafted over 100 questions and answers, mooted the case in role with four sets of lawyers from the community, and practiced in small groups for dozens of hours. And I know it worked, because Annie had a stellar solo performance, thanks to a big supporting cast!

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

Right now, I am focused on the early stages of criminal cases. In the community, I am privileged to serve on the committee on evidence-based pretrial release and the right to counsel commission. At the law school, Professor Eve Hanan and I are starting a Misdemeanor Clinic, to provide students a hands-on experience representing clients in municipal or justice court.

In my scholarship, I’m examining early-stage adjudication from a different angle, focusing on what I call front-end systemic reform litigation. These civil suits, which challenge criminal procedural issues like bail and the appointment of counsel, are disruptors to the traditional role and perceived-limits on systemic reform litigation. Whether or not these cases succeed in the courtroom, they may be having a catalytic effect by bringing a new perspective to the attention of policymakers.

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

Lately, I’ve been fascinated by the New York Times series “Overlooked,” which contains obituaries of remarkable people, including many women and minorities, whose lives, deaths and contributions to society were not reported by the paper. As an appellate lawyer at heart, I love the exercise of revisiting a record, whether legal or historical, and filling the gaps. The obituary series is doing this person by person, trying to make the record whole. The detailed portraits are windows into history - and the choices embedded in public recordmaking - on the most human scale.

Student Spotlight: Robert Anders

What made you decide to leave your native Colorado for the Silver State and Boyd?

Moving to a new city in a new state was a difficult decision. Leaving behind friends, family, relationships; leaving behind the known for the unknown. But moving to a new city in a new state is also a rare opportunity, one that I didn't know if and when I would get again. I had been in a fifty square mile area of Colorado for my whole life. Staying there for law school would have made it unlikely that I would ever leave. Carpe diem.

Having earned your undergrad degree at Colorado State, do you now have divided Mountain West Conference allegiances with UNLV?

Not a chance. Go State! CSU>UNLV>UNR

You are a devout sports guy. What is the sporting event you would move mountains to attend?

The next time the Broncos are in the Super Bowl, I will be there, come hell or high water.
What's the most important lesson you've learned so far in this, your first year of law school?

There is a learning curve, but you get used to it. It becomes natural. It's a drastic change at first, but at some point, you stop and take a look at yourself and realize you are, in fact, doing it. It's kind of like Karate Kid. Wax on/wax off, over and over, and before you know it, you know kung fu. You know how to read the cases, how to manage your time, how to process the information. The more you do it, the better you get.

Alumni Spotlight: Jenny Lee ’12

Jenny is an attorney and owner at Jenny Legal in Las Vegas.

Tell us about your decision to attend UNLV Law.

When I decided to attend law school, Boyd was my top choice. At first, it was about location and affordability. Then, I met faculty, alumni and other admitted students. I am not exaggerating when I say they were all, without exception, genuinely friendly and eager to help. The Las Vegas legal community is relatively small compared to other cities, so I was also influenced by all the networking, mentorship and career opportunities Boyd provides to its students and graduates. Equally impressive were all the resources made available to students. As an alumnus, I still benefit from - and am impressed by - all that Boyd does for its graduates. In sum, deciding on Boyd was easy.

What was a turning point in your career?

After graduating Boyd, I was hired at a law firm and given challenging work in workers’ compensation law. Together with many wonderful co-workers and clients, I could accomplish many great things in these endeavors during my time with the firm. I never planned to go out on my own, but friends and family planted the seed that I should go into practice for myself. After that, I could not stop thinking about it. It was hard taking the leap of faith and giving up a steady salary to start my own firm from scratch, but it was the turning point my career needed. I am much happier on my own than ever before. Owning your own practice involves much more than just practicing law, but it can be very rewarding.

You’re involved in a lot - business, philanthropy, entrepreneurism. How do you keep everything balanced and organized?

Keeping things balanced and organized is a constant effort, so all I can hope for is to do my best. Boyd instills strong community and philanthropic values in their graduates, so I enjoy volunteering, but I would love to do more philanthropic work. When I started my own office, it certainly was harder to find balance and organization when every responsibility fell on my shoulders. As a solo-practitioner, keeping things balanced and organized became much more manageable after getting more help and delegating work. Making sure to have enough help is one lesson worth learning sooner, rather than later.
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