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From Dean Dan

On Monday, April 23 the law school is please to host two terrific events. First, we are delighted to welcome **California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu** who will deliver the annual Judge Lloyd D. George Lecture on the Judicial Process. Justice Liu joined the bench after a distinguished career in private practice and as a law professor at UC Berkeley. Justice Liu will engage in a conversation with Professor Anne Traum, Director of the Appellate Clinic at the law school, and topics will include: the judicial response to new challenges from the executive branch, issues around sentencing and incarceration, the role of specialty courts, the unique challenges around appellate judging, elected versus vs appointed judges, and the federal appointment process. This talk honors Judge Lloyd George, a long-time Nevada federal judge and mentor to generations of law students and fellow judges. Follow this [link](#) to register.

That evening, the Society of Advocates together with the Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) will host the final round of the Boyd/CCBA Moot Court Competition. The final round will be judged by Justice Liu, Justice Kristina Pickering of the Nevada Supreme Court, and Judge Andrew Gordon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada. This event will be at 4:30 pm in the Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom. Come cheer on our students!

Our Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution is now accepting applications for its 2018 Summer Institute in Dispute Resolution. This year's program includes Dispute System Design, Mediation Essentials, Mediation Representation and Negotiation. These intensive short courses are taught by leading experts in the field of ADR, and classes are geared to give law or graduate students, attorneys, and other professionals the chance to earn academic credits or Nevada CLE credit. Learn more [here](#) .

Best,

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Faculty Spotlight: Eve Hanan



Eve Hanan is an Associate Professor of Law with expertise in Criminal Law, Trial and Appellate Practice, Restorative Justice, as well as Clinical Legal Education.

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

I am designing a misdemeanor defense clinic with Professor Anne Traum that will provide Boyd students with the opportunity to represent clients in the Las Vegas Justice Court. These will be clients who would not otherwise qualify for a public defender because they are not facing incarceration. Even though they do not face jail time, the consequences of criminal misdemeanor convictions can be devastating. I'm so excited to be able to offer students the opportunity to develop client counseling and courtroom advocacy skills while provided our clients with much-needed access to justice.

Which of your recent books or articles should I read?

I have an article that will be published in the Missouri Law Review this spring – titled [Remorse Bias](#) - that analyzes whether implicit racial bias impacts how judges assess defendants' remorse for the crime. Remorseful defendants often receive leniency, but it's very hard to know whether remorse is sincere. My thesis is that implicit racial bias may cause judges to discount African American defendants' displays of remorse in the courtroom. This is likely to contribute to racial disparity in sentencing.

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

I refer to my experience practicing as a trial and appellate attorney in order to develop examples and problems that are realistic and entertaining. I find that curiosity is my best weapon against disfavored topics. If a topic seems less enjoyable to teach, it is usually because I haven't given it enough attention to uncover its intriguing aspects.

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

I am reading *The Feminine Sixth: Women for the Defense*, by Andrea Lyon. She interviewed a diverse group of women who practice as criminal defense attorneys. She presents their stories and perspectives in a compelling and accessible manner. I recommend the book to anyone interested in criminal defense, and particularly to women interested in succeeding in this once male-dominated area of legal practice.

Student Spotlight: Brent Resh



Duke University gets a lot of attention for its basketball program, but what was your takeaway from your undergraduate experience there?

For better or worse, basketball will probably always dominate the public's perception of Duke. It's certainly how I first heard about Duke. And while I will always appreciate the excitement of Cameron Indoor, when I reflect on my time there now, my thoughts turn to Duke's more quiet, lesser-known places. After a brief stint in Duke's engineering school, I rediscovered my love for books. So my fondest memories of Duke are about the books that made me who I am and my favorite places around campus where I enjoyed reading them.

Does environmental law remain your primary professional interest?

I'm not sure exactly where I'll ultimately leave my mark, in the law or otherwise, but environmentalism will certainly always be a theme in my life, professionally and personally.

I've tried to use my time in law school to explore new interests, including, more recently, my foray into intellectual property law. But I can't say just yet where all of it will lead.

If you could meet up for coffee with one person currently walking this earth, who would it be?

For a Dukie there's only one correct answer here: Coach K.

Graduation in May brings a chapter to a close. How do you envision the subsequent chapter unfolding?

It's hard to believe that my time in law school will draw to a close so soon, but I'm excited for what's in store next. I start my two-year clerkship with the Nevada Supreme Court in August. I'm getting married to my fiancé, Danielle Holt ('13), at the end of this year. So while I can only guess at the exact details, I know the next chapter will be my most exciting yet.

Alumni Spotlight : James '08 and Heather (Thompson) Robertson '07



James and Heather live in Sacramento.

Tell us about each of your legal career paths?

James : I am originally from Carson City and was General Counsel, and eventually CEO, for a gaming manufacturer headquartered in Reno from 2008-2012.

Heather : I am a Las Vegas native and clerked for one year in the First Judicial District Court of Nevada, followed by practicing family law and general litigation, as a staff attorney for Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, and later as an associate for two firms.

James: In 2012, we returned to Las Vegas where I served as General Counsel for a private investment fund and its portfolio of businesses, which included a gaming manufacturer, an online gaming company, and a casino.

Heather : I worked remotely as a contract attorney for my Reno employer and quickly expanded my work with writing, research, and litigation support for other firms. Six years later, I have developed my own business working as a contract attorney with clients in Reno and Las Vegas and now continue my legal practice remotely.

James : In 2016, I accepted an offer to join Downey Brand's corporate practice group in Sacramento. I am now a partner at Downey Brand, with a practice focused on mergers and acquisitions, securities and financing transactions, corporate governance, and gaming law matters.

What volunteer interest do you both have?

James : I serve on the board for Easter Seals of Superior California.

Heather: And I am active as a volunteer for three Sacramento hospitals.

Heather, any business advice you would give to someone just starting the profession?

Get comfortable asking for help and guidance throughout your career; and pay it forward when you can. James and I both had times we needed help with a case or client and it was not obvious where to turn. Mentorship is often key--I am always impressed with how well fellow Nevada attorneys support one another. Our work is exhausting. Oftentimes, the last thing you want to do in your free time is attend a professional event or talk about the law. But, these alumni and professional networking events, groups like Inns of Court, various social events, CLE, et cetera end up being so enjoyable; plus, the friendships you form are essential. Also, do not hesitate to call bar counsel when you need guidance. I find them so patient and supportive.

What is the toughest lesson you've learned so far in your career?

You can be practicing for 10 years and *finally* feel like you know what you are doing, but, then change jobs or practice areas or get a difficult new case and once again feel like you are fresh out of law school. Both of us made career changes that, at times, felt like starting over. It helps to remember practicing law can be humbling. It requires constant learning and knowing we can rely on our fellow attorneys for advice and moral support.

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