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From Dean Dan

Though the semester has just begun, our students and faculty never stop demonstrating the impact of the law school in both community outreach and research. I would like to take a moment and recognize some of the outstanding accomplishments from around Boyd Nation.

The Thomas & Mack Legal Clinics launched a new Misdemeanor Clinic working in Department 12 of the Las Vegas Justice Court. UNLV's Misdemeanor Clinic aims to put law students at the vanguard of a national wave of legal reform efforts to improve procedures for and representation of defendants charged with minor crimes. Misdemeanor crimes typically include petty theft, trespass, disorderly conduct, vandalism, and driving offenses. Though misdemeanor convictions often have long-term consequences, including large fines and fees and a corresponding loss of employment and housing, many misdemeanor defendants do not qualify for a public defender because they are not facing jail or prison sentences. I want to thank Professors Eve Hanan and Anne Traum for launching this important initiative.

Law student Robin Gonzales, 3L, has won the American Bar Association's (ABA) James B. Boskey Law Student Essay Contest on Dispute Resolution. His paper, entitled "Is the Bargaining Table Broken? Improving Nevada's Interest Arbitration Procedure for Clark County School District and its Teacher's Union," was deemed the best submission in the country by a panel of eminent law professors. Robin will be honored at the annual meeting of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution this spring in Minneapolis.

Both of our UNLV Immigration Clinic fellows, Bernstein Fellow Laura Barrera and University Legal Services Fellow Mayra Salinas-Menjivar, were two of 50 Latina lawyers selected from around the country for the Latina Leadership Academy. Hosted by the Hispanic National Bar Association as part of its annual convention, the Academy offers leadership training and professional development for Latina lawyers.

Best,

Dan
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Faculty Spotlight: Howard Siegel



Howard Siegel, until recently a senior partner in Pryor Cashman LLP's Entertainment Group in New York, teaches The Law & Business of the Music Industry as part of Boyd's Intellectual Property curriculum. Over his career, Mr. Siegel has represented such prominent recording artists, songwriters, producers, managers, and executives as the E-Street Band, Paula Abdul, Carly Simon, the Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman, and all of the American Idol finalists during the show's first five seasons.

What is the most important thing you are working on now?

Of late, I've been focused on the recently released Fifth Edition of my treatise on entertainment law – cleverly titled *Siegel on Entertainment Law*. The book was first published in 1989 – nine years before Boyd was founded! I served as editor-in-chief of the first four editions, leading some people to comment that both the books and I had been around for a very long time (as someone once put it, since the Dead Sea was just feeling ill)! The content has evolved *dramatically* over the past 30 years. Indeed, few if any industries have been as significantly and as pervasively impacted upon by the new and emerging technologies as the entertainment business. In fact, the first edition made only occasional and passing references to the internet in its nine chapters comprising 475 pages. This latest version features 13 chapters written by 19 authors and co-authors and contains more than 1,400 pages. It is, given the ambitious title of the book, a rather comprehensive work. We are doing a book launch on November 6, 2018 at Boyd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that I'm really excited about. You can email Melissa Tom (tomm@gtlaw.com) for more information.

Sounds like Entertainment Law doesn't leave much time for any other entertainment. Is that wrong?

Absolutely! As I am retired from the practice of law, I am able to engage in hobbies like amateur radio, riding my Harley, travel, and my early American stamp collection. I have the time to give back to the community, by volunteering with the Animal Foundation and the Nevada SPCA. I'm also a big fan of the theater and the American songbook. I have a very musical ear, but I can't carry a tune in a wheelbarrow.

Student Spotlight: Ellsie Lucero



An internship with the Nevada State Assembly set you down the path to law school, yes?

Yes, I interned for Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams the summer after my sophomore year of undergrad and it was an invaluable experience! I gained a unique insight into the law-making process in Nevada. Also, I met several inspiring legislators and attorneys whose encouragement solidified my interest in law school.

What are your goals as this year's president of La Voz [Boyd's Latino law student association]?

This year I want to increase high school and undergraduate student participation in the Huellas program. La Voz has begun working on these efforts by participating in the Latino Youth Leadership Conference and outreach to Nevada State College. Also, I want to continue fundraising for scholarships and remain actively involved in the community. Particularly, given the recent heartbreaking events, this year will have a focus on border patrol and immigrant children.

What does the Huellas program mean to you personally?

The Huellas program means family and access to opportunity for me. Like many Huellas participants, I don't have any family members in the legal field. For someone who doesn't know anything about law school, the application process can seem very daunting. My Huellas mentors were the family members that I could turn to for help. A referral to an LSAT prep course and a simple answer to a question made all the difference in the application process and transition to law school.

If you could assume the identity of any living person for one day, who would it be?

Queen Elizabeth II. The queen has had a long and incredible reign throughout times of enormous social change. Plus, who wouldn't want to be royalty for a day?!

Alumni Spotlight : Kimberly Lou Goodnight '06



Kimberly Goodnight is a staff attorney for the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

What does a federal district court staff attorney do?

In our district, staff attorneys work for the court at large on prisoner cases. This caseload includes prisoner civil rights cases and capital and non-capital habeas corpus petitions. I only work on prisoner civil rights cases.

Generally speaking, prisoner civil rights cases are when an inmate complains about events taking place inside the jail or prison that they believe are in violation of their fundamental civil rights. Usually, this involves suing the jail or prison officials. Under the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), the court is required to "screen" all prisoner civil rights cases before service. In other words, staff attorneys, like me, draft orders for the court that "screen out" claims that are frivolous, malicious, or fail to state a claim.

What is it like to read prisoner complaints all day long?

One law clerk told me that I was the "prisoner whisperer" because he did not know how I made any sense of one inmate's complaint. I do feel like a translator for the court at times. I read handwritten complaints and motions all day long and need to organize the inmates' (often incoherent but possibly worthy) allegations into documents usable by the court and parties. Bad handwriting and stream-of-consciousness writing styles aside, I find the job rewarding. Yes, there are those inmates who try to sue because their food is cold, but there are many more inmates suing over serious health care matters that need to be addressed.

What piece of advice do you wish you had at the beginning of your career?

Don't be afraid to leave a job that does not feel right. After my clerkship, I went into private practice, but immediately knew that it was not a good fit. When deciding what to do, I struggled on the one hand with whether I would ruin my career if I left too soon. Yet, on the other hand, I was very unhappy. In the end, I stayed less than one year and left to move across the country to become a federal appellate staff attorney. That move ultimately set me on a career path in the federal judiciary where I am very happy.

Do you have a favorite law school memory?

Most of my law school memories revolve around my classmates. I was fortunate to have classmates who were bright, sincere, and caring. I recall friends attending other law schools talking about their cutthroat classmates, but I never felt that way. I have a lot of pride for the Boyd Class of 2006. I enjoy seeing my classmates excelling in this profession—whether as partners at law firms; hardworking district attorneys and public defenders; general counsels; and even a few as judges. The impact Boyd Law is having on the legal profession in Las Vegas, in Nevada, and across the country is truly impressive.

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