

Share:

Tweet

-
-
-
-



From Dean Dan

I am delighted to share ongoing good news from our Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic . The clinical program at Boyd regularly demonstrates the impact the law school and its students have on our community.

Students in our Appellate Clinic, directed by Professor Anne Traum, recently won a pro bono family law appeal in the Nevada Supreme Court, *Herzog v. Herzog* . The Clinic provides our students a wonderful opportunity to pursue appeals and present oral arguments in state and federal courts. Congratulations to students Annie Avery, Andrew Clark, Sabrina Clymer, and Alex Velto (all class of 2018).

The UNLV Immigration Clinic was once again recognized for its valuable work. On Sept. 20, Professor Michael Kagan, Bernstein Fellow Laura Barrera and University Legal Services Fellow Mayra Salinas-Menjivar were honored as "Unsung Heroes in Our Community" by the Asian American Advocacy Clinic.

Professor Terry Pollman, the founder of number one ranked Lawyering Process Program, has been selected by the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute as the winner of the 2019 Thomas F. Blackwell Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Legal Writing. This distinguished award is presented annually to a person who has "made an outstanding contribution to improve the field of legal writing by demonstrating an ability to nurture and motivate students to excellence, a willingness to help other legal writing educators improve their teaching skills or their legal writing programs, and an ability to create and integrate new ideas for teaching and motivating legal writing educator and students." The award will be presented on January 4 at the 2019 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Best,

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

Faculty Spotlight: Addie C. Rolnick



Addie Rolnick is a Professor of Law who specializes in Critical Race Theory, Indian Law, and Criminal Law and Procedure.

What is the most significant issue facing your field?

The idea that ancestry is always equivalent to race. Tribal affiliation can be determined in many ways, but one important way is to trace ancestry. Here, ancestry is a way to identify the kinship ties that form the basis of most Native societies. This week, a federal district court struck down the Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law that protects Indian children and tribes by enabling tribal governments to exercise jurisdiction over the fate of their children. The court ruled that, in using ancestry in part to define who is Indian, the statute "uses ancestry as a proxy for race." I have written about these kinds of challenges in my essay *Racial Anxieties in Adoption: Reflections on Adoptive Couple, White Parenthood, and Constitutional Challenges to the ICWA* and my article *The Promise of Mancari : Indian Political Rights as Racial Remedy*, and this decision strikes an enormous blow.

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

Next week I will be in Hawai'i to assist with Ninth Circuit oral arguments in a case called *Davis v. Guam*. It is a "reverse discrimination" case that has the potential to significantly affect indigenous rights in the future. Guam plans to hold a plebiscite (a sort of advisory vote) to determine the views of the Native inhabitants of Guam regarding whether they want to pursue independence, free association, or statehood. This right of self-determination is guaranteed to colonized peoples under international law, so the Guam plebiscite is limited to those people who became citizens as a result of U.S. colonization of Guam, and their descendants.

A resident of Guam who is not in the statutory class sued, arguing that the law denied him voting rights and equal protection. While it involves different facts and law than the ICWA case, it is premised on the same incorrect assumption that ancestry always means race. If he succeeds in making his argument that any ancestry-based classification amounts to unconstitutional race discrimination, it will be difficult to recognize decolonization rights or the rights of indigenous peoples for any purpose under U.S. law outside the context of federally-recognized Indian tribes (which Pacific Islanders are not).

Two weeks ago, I testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on juvenile justice. Because of the unique jurisdictional rules affecting federally recognized Indian tribes, Native youth who get in trouble may come under tribal, federal, or state jurisdiction. The data is unreliable, but it seems to show that in state systems Native youth (especially girls) are over-represented among young people who are detained, placed out of the home, and placed in secure confinement. This is true even though they are not over-represented among youth arrested for serious or violent offenses and they are most likely to come into the system as a result of alcohol-related and status offenses. My work in this area is focused mainly on bringing more young people into tribal (as opposed to state or federal) court and making sure tribes have the resources to develop innovative programming that does not rely on incarceration the way the other systems do.

Student Spotlight: Julio Garcia

You attended and graduated from a virtual high school. What was that experience like?

I actually went to a few other high schools in Las Vegas. First Western High then Palo Verde. I was homeschooled my last year of high school – I only needed a few credits to graduate and didn't want to go to an actual school for two or three classes. I liked being homeschooled, because I could work ahead and finish assignments a lot sooner, and once I finished, I could just spend my free time playing video games.



Of all the courses you've taken at Boyd, which do you recall most fondly?

Civil Procedure with Professor Jean Sternlight was one of my favorite classes. It was where we learned how a case traveled through the legal system. I found the class to be very interesting and easy to follow because I was able to visualize the different stages on procedures.

What does it mean to you to have been awarded this year's Eglet Prince Scholarship?

I realized early on that an attorney who can write well is an effective advocate. I see this as an incredible opportunity to learn from great attorneys at an equally great law firm. At Eglet Prince, I get to practice and improve my legal writing to become that effective advocate. Less than two percent of civil case go to trial. I am extremely fortunate and happy to be at a firm that handles that two percent.

Who is your real-life superhero?

My dad. He (and my mom in case she sees this) has always supported and motivated me in everything that I've wanted to do. He is the greatest man I know, and he's my hero.

Alumni Spotlight : Jennifer Durcan Andrews '02



Jennifer Durcan Andrews is a Partner at Andrews & Arbenz in Tacoma, Washington.

Share a brief overview of your legal career?

I have practiced law in the Puget Sound region since 2002. First in private practice, specializing in domestic relations, guardianships, and collections, then I served the public for five years as a Deputy Prosecutor in the family support division of the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office. Since 2012, I have been a partner in a small boutique law firm in Old Town Tacoma, where I practice exclusively in family law and adoptions.

Tell me about your decision to attend Boyd School of Law.

I was really interested in being a part of something from the ground up – and also to be a little closer to my family. Boyd made it extra appealing by offering a generous scholarship. Because the law school was so new when I started (1999), my impression was that it attracted a true "Rebel" student; and, in many ways, "Rebel" professors, interested in building something new and different. It has been awesome to see how successful Boyd has become. Even living outside of Nevada, many in my legal community here in the Puget Sound region, which includes Seattle, know of Boyd and it enjoys a very respected and good reputation.

What do you wish you would have learned at the beginning of your career?

Trust your gut. Always.

What is the best moment of your career so far?

The best moments in my career have been when I can use my skills to help everyday folks. One case involved a father who absconded with his two small children. I worked on the case for over the year, with both local law enforcement and the FBI. It was the most incredible feeling when the FBI agent involved found the two children in Arizona, and they were returned to their mother. Even though I felt like I contributed such a small part in everything, the feeling of reward was tremendous.

It's really all of the little moments. Family law may not have the most complicated legal dilemmas, but the nature of the emotional aspects and the interests you are protecting makes it one of the more difficult areas of law. I love the evolution of my clients over the course of our relationship – they generally meet me when they are broken, and we work to build them back up. Hopefully it's not through litigation, but it may be. I liken it to a Lego set that's been knocked down – we just need to build something new, that may look a little different, but works better for this family. I also feel fortunate that my job affords me a lifestyle that allows me to travel with my son and be there for him at school and other activities.

Boyd Briefs | Read past issues [here](#) .

[Newsroom](#) | [Events](#) | [CLE Events](#)



UNLV | WILLIAM S. BOYD
SCHOOL OF LAW

UNLV is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer Committed to Achieving Excellence Through Diversity.

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.