

# BOYD ALUMNI NEWS

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## Message From The Dean

By John Valery White

Boyd Family,

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Fling on March 20th. It will be great to spend time with you in a relaxed atmosphere. That will be a relief after an intense couple of months working with Regents and Legislators to ensure the health of the Law School. Thanks to the compromise worked out by the Legislature and Governor, the Law School should be in reasonably sound condition. Make no mistake, the upcoming period will be difficult and will involve unwelcome sacrifice, especially for a still young school that requires resources to continue its growth and development. However, we will be able to maintain the vibrancy of our excellent faculty and preserve our successful programs.

Notwithstanding the dire news about Nevada's state budget, we are delighted in our success at recruiting outstanding new faculty to the Law School. This Fall Professor Stacey Tovino will join our faculty from Drake Law School, where she ran a health law institute. Professor Tovino holds a law degree and a Ph.D in health policy and will add an important health law capacity to the law school. Marketa Trimble and Elizabeth MacDowell will join the faculty as well. Professor Trimble, a Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) and Stanford J.S.D. recipient, will specialize in intellectual property while Professor MacDowell, a Berkley Law graduate, will work in our Family Justice Clinic and teach related courses. Lori Johnson will also join our faculty, teaching in our Lawyering Process program. She is a Northwestern Law School graduate and recently an attorney at Snell and Wilmer.

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These hires show we are still able to attract very impressive faculty to the Law School. Even with this large class of new faculty, the Law School will still be three faculty members short of the total from when I joined the faculty. Moreover, even this hiring is made possible only because several staff positions vacated through attrition have not been filled. By focusing on our core teaching and research mission, we have managed to endure the restrictions of this economic downturn without significant damage to our development.

Ours is a close community whose commitment to the success of this institution is unquestioned. I am very appreciative of your support during these difficult budget times, and I pledge to do all I can to honor your commitment to this community. We will continue to work together to overcome the challenges before us and to keep the Law School on its path of excellence. Thank you for your continued support.

## Law School News For the full news story, visit <http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/>

### Boyd School of Law To Be Represented in 2010 Primary Election

Three Boyd School of Law alumni and two students plan to enter the June 2010 primary for the Nevada legislature. Most state and local political pundits expect the three incumbents to win reelection: John Ocegüera (2003), Democrat representing District 16 (current Assembly majority leader); William Horne (2001), Democrat representing District 34; and James Ohrenschall December (2009), Democrat representing District 12. Democrat Venicia Considine (2008) and Democrat Lucy Flores (2010), are considered serious challengers.

### 11th Annual PILA Auction

Over 300 people attended the 11th Annual PILA Auction honoring Nevada Supreme Court Justice James Hardesty on February 26th. The event brought in nearly \$30,000 - more than doubling the previous record. As a result, seven or eight students will receive stipends this summer to work in public interest legal positions throughout the country.

### Boyd's Immigration Clinic Approaches 50th U-Visa Grant

Angela Morrison, Legal Director of the Nevada Immigrant Resource Project at the Boyd School of Law, and Boyd law students who work in the clinic, have assisted almost fifty clients in obtaining U-Visas since the first U-Visa was granted in May 2009.

### Boyd Moves Up in Ranking of Faculty Scholarship Productivity

In the 2009 Roger Williams University School of Law study, the Boyd School of Law is ranked 6th in per capita productivity of articles in top journals. The study, controlled for faculty size, measured the number of substantial articles written by law faculty members and published between the period of 1993-2009 in the most influential and frequently-cited law reviews in the United States. In 2008, the Boyd faculty was ranked 9th, which is within the top one-third of the 200 U.S. law schools fully accredited by the American Bar Association.

### Boyd Alumnus Received the Autism Advocate Award

Boyd alumnus and Assemblyman James Ohrenschall '09 received this year's Autism Advocate Award from the Grant a Gift Autism Foundation at its first annual "Fashion for Autism Las Vegas" event on Jan. 22. Ohrenschall was appointed to serve on the Nevada State Autism Task Force in 2007. In 2009, he introduced legislation to mandate medical coverage for autistic children in Nevada, which the Governor signed into law.

### Boyd Alumna Receives Rookie of the Year Award

Rona-Kaye Tuitele '06 is this year's recipient of the Rookie of the Year Award from the Southern Nevada Office of the Attorney General. This marks the second consecutive year that a Boyd School of Law graduate has earned this distinction. Karen A. Whelan and Alicia Lerud, both Boyd graduates from the class of 2006, received last year's award. Whelan received the award for the southern portion of the state and Lerud for the northern portion of the state. The Rookie of the Year Award is given each year by the Nevada Attorney General's Office to a deputy attorney general who has been nominated by her supervising attorney and has been working for 18 months or less. The Attorney General reviews the nominees and determines the recipients.

## Passage of Alumnus

Kit Matthew Lindsey (2005), born Jan. 31, 1972 passed away Monday, March 1, 2010, after a 7-year fight against Multiple Sclerosis. Kit served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Canary Islands. Kit received a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Utah University, a Master's Degree from BYU, and a Juris Doctorate from UNLV. Among Kit's other accomplishments are organizing the judicial system for the City of Holladay, riding bulls on the weekends during an internship in Dallas, TX, and initiating the successful incorporation of the City of Cottonwood Heights, as well as teaching Communications as a Professor at Utah Valley University.

## Development

Hello!

During my interaction with alum, I often hear similar questions - "How can I help the law school when I'm just starting out in my professional career? What can I do to help the school during these difficult economic times?"

My answers to these questions are the same no matter the economic condition or professional status alumni have achieved. You hold the keys to the school's long-term future. Broad-based fund raising for small gifts has a cumulative effect and often will stimulate additional giving from non alumni. Regular participation sends a clear message that alumni are passionate about Boyd. Leading Nevadans have ensured that a successful law school exists, but it is paramount that alumni participate to see that Boyd becomes a great law school.

Boyd's success is often measured by rankings and bar passage results. More important are the constructive contact and impact alumni, students, and faculty have in the community. Alumni are actively changing the landscape of legal representation; students lead successful community projects to feed hungry citizens; and faculty contribute scholarly research that marks the importance of a community institution.

The law schools margin of excellence is measured by sustained success and periodic improvements. Participate today and make a gift on-line. In the coming days, a UNLV student will contact you and ask for a gift in support of Boyd. Answer the call!!!

Matthew J. Muldoon  
 Director of Development, BSL  
 To contact Matt directly: (702) 895-1398 or  
[matt.muldoon@unlv.edu](mailto:matt.muldoon@unlv.edu).

## Law School Events

[http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/news\\_events\\_text.php](http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/news_events_text.php)

**CLE: immigration Issues on Civil Discovery, Mar. 12, 2010, 12:00 pm, BSL Moot Court/Auditorium.**

**Panel: "What's the Score: Girls, Women, Sexuality and Sports," Mar. 18, 2010, 12:00 pm, BSL Room 105.** Discussion of the state of the "field" for females in athletics. Panelists: Professors Ann Cammett and Ann McGinley, Boyd School of Law; Professor Nancy Lough, Department of Sports Education Leadership, UNLV and Editor, Sports Marketing Quarterly; and Professor Doris Watson, Department of Sports Education Leadership at UNLV.

**Career Services Networking Reception, Mar. 18, 2010, 5:30 pm, BSL.**

**CLE: Representing Homeowners in Foreclosure Mediation, Mar. 19, 2010, 1:30-4:45 pm, BSL Room 102.** Attendees must agree to take pro bono cases.

**BSL Community Spring Fling/BBQ and Softball Tournament, Mar. 20, 2010, UNLV Eller Media Softball Stadium, 10:00 am.**

**CLE: Renewable Energy in the Silver State: Navigating the Opportunities and Challenges, Apr. 16, 2010, 3:00 pm, BSL Moot Court/Auditorium.**

**Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution Speaker Professor Jean Poitras, Apr. 19, 2010, 12:00 pm, BSL Room 112.**

**CLE: Negotiation Ethics, Apr. 23, 2010, 2:00 pm, BSL Moot Court/Auditorium.**

## President's Corner

Michael Lee, President, BSL Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends:

The Alumni Association (“Association”) is an organization established to serve Boyd and its graduates. We endeavor to create programming and events that serve both the professional and social needs of our community. Quite often, alumni ask me why they should become a member of the Association. My simple answer is that membership helps reinforce the unique relationship we share as graduates of Boyd and provides a forum to come together as a community, which strengthens each of us individually.

I appreciate that much of the alumni confusion about the purpose of the Association arises from our lack of a Mission Statement. As the I Ching advises, “[t]he superior man perseveres long in his course, adapts to the times, but remains firm in his direction and correct in his goals.” Thus, it would appear that, without any goals, it would be impossible to have any direction. As such, the Alumni Board has worked diligently on drafting a Mission Statement to define our purpose and overall goals with flexibility to adapt to the times. It reads as follows:

### Mission Statement

The Boyd School of Law Alumni Association seeks to develop relationships and establish lifelong connections between Boyd, its alumni, and friends. Our goal is to increase support for the Association’s mission and goals. We want to cultivate good will through the strategic and deliberate development of alumni as leaders, volunteers, advocates, and donors. Further, we act as the voice for the alumni by serving as the liaison between the alumni of Boyd, the Boyd administration, UNLV, and the Nevada legal community.

### Goals

1. Serve as the primary alumni resource for Boyd in alumni services and programs, including greater opportunities to participate in an alumni network for both professional and social purposes.
2. Foster the personal connections between the alumni by identifying common interests and bringing alumni and friends together with programming suited towards those interests.
3. Motivate alumni to foster a sense of community in the Nevada legal system for Boyd alumni and Boyd students.
4. Working with Boyd, UNLV, the Nevada Bar, the Nevada Judiciary, and the SBA to promote alumni involvement and cultivation.
5. Providing financial support for Boyd and its programs, along with assisting with the growth of its academic, administrative, cultural, and extracurricular activities.

This Mission Statement provides the direction to create a greater sense of community among the alumni. The Association has been fortunate to have several alumni volunteer to serve on our committees. In particular, four individuals deserve recognition for their outstanding contributions: Heather Procter (‘03), for her continued work in publishing the Alumni Newsletter; Linda Norvell Marquis (‘03), for reviving the “Little Litigator” group who provides social opportunities for parents; Brandi Segura (‘09), for developing “family friendly” programming for students and alumni; and Lauren Calvert (‘07) for helping with the Association’s joint socials with the Clark County Bar Association, Young Lawyer’s Section of the State Bar of Nevada, and the SBA.

I renew my invitation to the alumni to serve on our committees. Your individual contributions will help foster a greater sense of community for the alumni. In turn, this will strengthen the thread that binds us together and reinforce the unique relationship we share as Boyd graduates. In the next Newsletter, I would like to be able to recognize additional alumni for their service to the Association.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your voice. Please contact me if you would like to serve on a committee, or have any comments or suggestions.

**Class Actions** Provide us news about engagements, marriages, births, and career changes to [alumninews@unlv.edu](mailto:alumninews@unlv.edu). The editorial staff of Boyd Alumni News reserves the right to determine the information included in the newsletter. Please, no advertisements. Remember to update your information, including address, phone number and e-mail, using the Boyd Law School Extranet at [http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/auth\\_user.php](http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/auth_user.php).

## 2001

**Trish Carney** - Trish is still happily married. Her son is now 15-years-old. She can still see her son just 3-years-old, sitting in some of the law school classes at the elementary school, asking her what case law is and declaring, "Con Law Sucks!" Trish has embraced her cut-to-the-point accomplishment-oriented, lack of social life drive by creating her own company, Virtual Independent Paralegals, LLC. They are a thriving virtual legal and litigation support services company, offering 24/7/365 availability and a Work Done Now! (TM) philosophy. She is certain that fact will garner a few giggles from all of those who knew her, and for those who rarely saw her, as she was working in a virtual world long before it was a standard practice. Trish lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

**Leon R. Symanski** - Leon is an attorney at Craig P. Kenny & Associates, practicing in the areas of personal injury and workers' compensation. He celebrated his 12th anniversary with the firm on November 10, 2009. He is the president of the UNLV Men's Basketball Alumni Association (The Legends).

**Janet E. Traut** - In August 2009, Janet changed assignments within the Nevada Attorney General's Office, where she has worked for the past 8 1/2 years. She is now personnel counsel for the Nevada Department of Corrections. Additionally, in September 2009, Janet became a member of the board of the Nevada Opera Association. She has sung regularly with the Nevada Opera over the past twenty years.

## 2003

**Yvette Chevalier** - Yvette was recently selected as In-House Counsel for Ardyss International, a direct sales company with over 1,000 distributors worldwide and 200+ employees. The company manufactures and

distributes undergarments (body reshapers!!!), beauty products and natural supplements.

**Sean K. Claggett** - After law school, Sean took the leap to start his own practice in January 2005. At the time his law firm was created, he had a single employee, Megan Christensen, who is still with the firm today. Since the inception of his firm, Sean has recovered millions of dollars for his personal injury clients through settlements. Additionally, Sean has obtained over \$30,000,000.00 in judgments for his clients since 2005. Aside from personal injury, Sean's firm also handles various civil litigation cases, including real estate disputes. Just recently, Sean has expanded his firm and is now handling DUI cases. Dale Hayes, Jr., a fellow Boyd graduate, has joined the firm to head the DUI division. This division is also known as DUI Lawyers of Las Vegas.

**Stephen Coston** - Stephen married in 2005 and has two children - 2-year-old Morgan and 1-year-old Leia. He became a partner in Burdman & Coston in January 2010.

**Colin Harlow** - Colin accepted a position as Senior Counsel for NV Energy in 2008 handling energy delivery issues. His wife, Leslie, is still enduring Colin's presence after 8 years. They have 2 handsome boys.

**Sandra Douglass Morgan** - Sandra is a Deputy City Attorney with the City of North Las Vegas. She has been married for 7 years, and has a 3-year-old son.

**Ryan D. Russell** - On January 1, 2010, Ryan became a shareholder in the firm of Allison, MacKenzie, Pavlakis, Wright & Fagan, Ltd. in Carson City.

## 2005

**Christina A. DiEdoardo** - Christina relocated to San Francisco in May 2009 and is loving every minute in the Bay Area. She continues to appear in cases in Las Vegas and now also in Reno (since it is only a four hour drive from San Francisco). Her solo firm continues to focus on criminal defense and debtor representation in Chapter 7/13 matters.

**Puneet K. Garg** - Puneet recently married Udit Gupta, who previously lived in Gurgaon, India. Puneet is an associate in Greenberg Traurig, LLP. He concentrates his practice upon all phases of complex commercial litigation. Puneet represents a vast number of clients in matters involving contractual disputes, health care litigation, real estate litigation, business torts, intellectual property and entertainment law. Prior to joining Greenberg Traurig, LLP in 2008, Puneet clerked for Justice Michael L. Douglas of the Supreme Court of Nevada and Judges Bruce A. Markell and Linda B. Riegle of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.

**Henry Jacobs** - On January 23, 2010, Henry received the Arizona Attorneys of Criminal Justice Jack Williams Appellate Award for "his work on *Arizona v. Gant*, with landmark victories before the Arizona Court of Appeals, Arizona Supreme Court, and United States Supreme Court."

**Don Olsen** - Don attended BSL 2002-2004 and graduated from BYU in 2005. He works as general counsel for Provo Craft. He married the former Rachel Raymer. They live in Springville, Utah with their three daughters.

## 2006

**Sharon Byram** - Sharon is currently the Director, Domestic Tax & Tax Litigation for Newmont Mining Corporation in Colorado. She manages the corporation's the federal income tax audits and litigation, as well as the state and local tax compliance, audits and litigation. Her grandbaby, Opal Amelie, was born in April 2009.

**Michelle Di Silvestro** - Michelle is engaged to Tony Alanis, and is planning a 2011 Chicago wedding. She is still with Flangas McMillan Law Group, practicing in civil litigation and family law.

**Justine Harrison** - Justine left the position of SVP & General Counsel at the Nevada Cancer Institute February of this year to take a year or two "mini-retirement" to travel, enjoy, and focus more on her personal life.

**Corrine Murphy** - Corrine has her own firm, Murphy's Law, PC, which practices primarily in the areas are personal injury, family law and criminal defense.

**Douglas J. Shumway** - Douglas started the firm Shumway Van & Hansen in 2008 and now has 11 attorneys between the offices in Nevada and Utah. They are expanding the office in Nevada in April 2010, to accommodate growth. He married in 2008 and lives in Provo, Utah, with his wife and their dog, Wicket.

## 2007

**Giovanni Andrade** - Giovanni and his partner, Maricar Magaña, opened their family law firm in 2008. They recently celebrated the firm's two-year anniversary.

## 2007 (cont'd)

**William Devine, II** - William recently joined fellow 2007 Boyd grad Charles Rainey as a partner in the Rainey Legal Group. William specializes in consumer and small business bankruptcy, especially post-bankruptcy litigation for bankruptcy stay violations and bankruptcy discharge violations by creditors and debt collectors. He still handles intellectual property matters, including trademark/copyright filing and licensing, domain name trademark disputes, and patent licensing.

**Maricar Magaña** - Maricar is a partner at Andrade & Magaña Law Group located in Henderson. The practice focuses on family law involving divorce and custody matters. In January the firm celebrated its two-year anniversary. She is a board member for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Las Vegas Chapter. The Forum aims to stop violence against women and girls in our local API community.

## 2008

**Venicia Considine** - Venicia is a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in the Consumer Rights Project. She works to save homes through loan modification and foreclosure mediation. She is also running for Nevada State Assembly in District 18.

**Jericho L. Remitio** - Jericho is an associate with Robinson & Wood. He practices in the areas of civil litigation, insurance defense, construction defect, and personal injury.

**Brandon Squires** - Brandon currently practices at Powell Litigation Group in plaintiff's-side personal injury. His son, Griffin, was born in May, 2009.

## 2009

**Kathleen Ja Sook Bergquist** - As a tenured faculty member in the School of Social Work at UNLV, Kathleen continues in her academic position. However, she performs community service through the pro bono work through Legal Aid of Southern Nevada. Additionally, she is the co-director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Las Vegas Chapter. The Forum works on developing collaborations between NAPAWF, the Asian Bar of Las Vegas, APALSA, and the Law School to bring legal workshops into the Asian Pacific American community.

**Chelsea Crowton** - Chelsea currently works at the Senior Citizens Law Project. She practices in the areas of estate planning, debt collection, bankruptcy, consumer protection, and civil litigation.

**Barbara McDonald** - Barbara is an associate with Greenberg Traurig. She is also the Treasurer for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Las Vegas Chapter.

**Alina M. Shell** - Alina began in January of this year as a Research and Writing Attorney for the Nevada Federal Public Defender.

**Daniel C. Tetreault** - Daniel is an associate attorney at Palmer & Associates. He practices mainly in the areas of personal injury, workers' compensation and criminal defense.

**Amber L. White-Davidson** - Amber is currently the law clerk to the Honorable Timothy C. Williams at the Eighth Judicial District Court, Department XVI.

## Alumni Spotlight

Major Cindiemarie Blair (2005) has already undertaken a legal career that attorneys who have been part of the legal profession for decades longer have yet to experience.

Major Blair's career post-law school career has taken her from California to Iraq to Virginia. Since graduating from Boyd in May 2005 *magna cum laude*, Major Blair has served as a judge advocate in the United States Marine Corps. A marine since 1993, Major Blair began her legal career at Twentynine Palms in California where she was a senior defense counsel.

During law school, Major Blair had worked as a judge advocate during the summers prosecuting cases, serving as defense counsel provided her with a different perspective. However, Major Blair's service as senior defense counsel wasn't her first foray into criminal defense. During law school, Major Blair was a student attorney in the Capital Defense Clinic at the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, where she was recognized with a CALI (the award for the highest grade in the class) the fall of 2004.

From January 2008 to February 2009, Major Blair deployed to Al Taqqadum, Iraq as the Military Justice Officer and Assistant Officer in Charge of the Legal Services Support Team-Iraq. Major Blair performed a number of legal functions - processing claims from Iraqi civilians for injuries or property damage; prosecuting marines for crimes they committed while deployed in Iraq; and providing assistance and advice to individual marines regarding legal issues back home. A significant component of Major Blair's service in Iraq was training in redeployment for marines who would be leaving Iraq, as well as military and international law.

She also participated in humanitarian missions via the Marine Corps' Women's Engagement Project, and wrote the Standard Operating Procedures for Special Immigration Visas for Iraqi Translators, which is still in use. As a result, Major Blair received a Navy Commendation Medal.

In February 2009, Major Blair redeployed to Twentynine Palms and served as the senior trial counsel where she prosecuted violations of military law.

Major Blair is now pursuing her LLM in general military law at the Judge Advocate Generals Legal Center and School on the University of Virginia campus, which she expect to receive in May 2010. Major Blair's thesis is a "Primer on Identity Theft on the Military," addressing how judge advocate generals should deal with identity theft, discussing the higher risks for identity theft that deployed military personnel face, and the resources and agencies that are available to assist in preventing and redressing identity theft.

Major Blair had been on the All-Marine Volleyball team and played in the Armed Forces Tournament three times, in 2001, 2006, and 2009.

Major Blair's next assignment will be at the Pacific Command in Hawaii. She has not made up her mind on her future career plans, she will be eligible for retirement at the end of her command duty in Hawaii. However, given the wide range of experience she has already accumulated, her potential opportunities seem to be wide open.

## **Alumni James Griffin '09 and Venicia Considine '08 Join the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada**

At the Legal Aid Center, Venicia Considine spends most of her time in the Consumer Rights Project, a unit within the Legal Aid Center, working on loan modifications and foreclosure mediation. She did her externship with the Legal Aid Center, and was so pleased with her externship experience she only applied to the Legal Aid Center after passing the bar.

“I don’t know if I would have the opportunity to work here as an attorney if I didn’t get the chance to learn how the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada worked, show them my passion for this work and get the chance to ‘practice’ before becoming a licensed attorney,” Considine said.

Considine enjoys working for the Legal Aid Center because she gets to serve the community through her work.

“We don’t charge for services,” she said. “I like the pace, the community interaction and the opportunity to practice law immediately. And knowing that what I do makes a difference to clients and to Southern Nevada makes me proud to work here.”

James Griffin works with short-term, high interest loans and garnishments at the Legal Aid Center.

“I hope to be more involved with the class action litigation against predatory lenders that is being headed by my wise and talented supervisor, Mr. Dan L. Wulz, Esq.,” Griffin said. “I also hope to take a few child advocacy cases pro bono in my spare time.”

Griffin’s externship also played a huge role in developing his future. Griffin believes that his best experience at the Boyd School of Law was his externship.

“The externship program at Boyd allowed me to take what I had learned my first year in law school and put it to practical purposes,” Griffin said. “In fact, by the end of my first year of law school I was convinced that law was not for me. If I had not had such a positive externship experience, I am fairly certain I would have chosen another career path.”

## Little Litigators by Linda Norvell Marquis, Esq.

Little Litigators had a great time at Rainbow Family Park on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The weather was absolutely beautiful. The kids had a great time - only very minor injuries to report.

Linda asked Collin Murphy what his mother did at work. He replied, "Her friend has jelly beans in her drawer." That friend is Kerri Maxey (2003) at the Public Defender Juvenile Division.

Here are some pictures from the Little Litigators event: (1) RJ (son of Susan Pitz, 2003); (2) Collin (son of Jessica and Jim Murphy, 2003); (3) Ella (daughter of Sean Clagget, 2003); (4) another Ella (daughter of Cristina Evans, 2003); and (5) Jessica Murphy (2003) and her daughter, Jenna.

