

## SPRING 2008 ADJUNCT AND VISITING PROFESSOR BIOS

(1/15/2008)

**Leah A. Ayala** is an associate at the firm of Bailey❖Merrill. Ms. Ayala attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, receiving her J.D. *summa cum laude* 2002; B.A., Political Science *summa cum laude* 1999; and B.A., Environmental Studies *summa cum laude* 1999. Ms. Ayala was the recipient of the William S. Boyd Outstanding Graduate Award at the William S. Boyd School of Law. While attending law school, Ms. Ayala served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Nevada Law Journal*. She also enjoyed the opportunity to serve as judicial extern to the Honorable Phillip M. Pro of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Prior to joining Bailey❖Merrill in 2006, Ms. Ayala was an associate at Lionel Sawyer & Collins from 2002 to 2006. Ms. Ayala practices in the area of civil litigation. She has substantial experience in the areas of products liability, wrongful death, complex commercial litigation, class actions, dissenting shareholders' rights, and appellate advocacy. Ms. Ayala has served as an Associate Editor of the *Nevada Civil Practice Manual* since 2003.

**Billie Jean Brown** has been a member of the California Bar since 1983. She was a career prosecutor for the City of Los Angeles until May 2007 and was primarily a trial attorney. She has also done pretrial, filing and training of officers. Ms. Brown stopped counting the number of trials after it reached 200 in the first five years of practice. She has spent approximately 12 years as the specialized deputy for Los Angeles International Airport. She has been teaching both paralegal and law for over 23 years. Raised in Detroit, Michigan, prior to becoming an attorney, she was in the entertainment industry and initially thought she wanted to practice entertainment law.

**Matthew Christian** graduated magna cum laude from the Boyd School of Law in December 2002 where he was a member of the Nevada Law Journal. Having recently joined the firm of Kolesar and Leatham in Las Vegas, Mr. Christian practices in complex civil litigation, primarily in the areas of commercial construction and surety bond claims. Mr. Christian has published numerous articles in his areas of practice. After obtaining his B.A. from the University of Illinois in 1992, Mr. Christian worked for several years in the Las Vegas and Grand Canyon travel industries.

**Mark Clayton** is one of three members of Nevada's State Gaming Control Board. He was appointed by to the Gaming Control Board in February 2005. Mr. Clayton also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Gaming Law

Section of the State Bar of Nevada. From July 2001 until his appointment to the Gaming Control Board, Mr. Clayton was Vice-President of Corporate Law for Caesar's Entertainment, Inc. From July 1998 to July 2001, Mr. Clayton was Vice-President and General Counsel for the Aladdin Hotel & Casino.

**Douglas M. Edwards** is a partner at Edwards and Chambers. Mr. Edwards practices primarily in the areas of Tax Law, Estate Planning, Corporate Law, Business Transactional Law and Real Estate. He has practiced law in Nevada for over 20 years. He is fluent in several languages and has lectured and written extensively on banking law and taxation.

**Bob Faiss**, Chair of the Gaming Law Practice Group at Lionel Sawyer & Collins, teaches Gaming Law and Gaming Law Policy. Faiss was named by the National Law Journal the "premier gaming attorney" in the U.S. and one of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." In 2006, Faiss was cited for his innovative approaches to teaching gaming law by Lawdragon, a national legal magazine, which placed him among the country's 500 attorneys "who are carrying the profession to new frontiers." Faiss is the subject of an oral history published in 2006 by the Oral History Program of the University of Nevada, Reno, entitled Gaming Regulation and Gaming Law in Nevada.

**Franny Forsman** is the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada. She is a 1968 graduate of the University of Nevada - Reno and a 1977 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, where she received the Justice Lewis Powell medal for Excellence in Advocacy. She is a former President of the State Bar of Nevada and Chair of the Board of Continuing Legal Education. She has extensive litigation experience in both civil and criminal cases.

**Gregory Gemignani** is a shareholder at Lionel Sawyer. Mr. Gemignani's practice emphasis is primarily on intellectual property law, gaming law, technology law, internet law, online gaming law and online promotions law. He has represented many clients ranging from the largest casino companies to start-up Internet ventures. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Gemignani was a software systems engineer.

**Stan Hunterton** practices with Hunterton & Associates, a firm specializing in civil and criminal litigation that has represented MGM-Mirage, Steve Wynn, financial institutions, physicians and health care organizations. He also has substantial experience litigating against Enron

and other entities involved in the western energy crisis. Prior to founding this firm Professor Hunterton served as Deputy Chief Counsel to the President's Commission on Organized Crime, and for ten years prior to that he was a Special Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime and Racketeering Section.

**Tom Kauper** is a visiting professor from the University of Michigan Law School. Professor Kauper is an antitrust expert. In recent years, he has focused on international antitrust and competition policy of the European Union. Professor Kauper has twice served in ranking positions with the United States Department of Justice, first as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel and then as assistant attorney general in charge of the Antitrust Division, the chief enforcement officer in that field. In these positions, he worked on matters ranging from executive power and treaty obligations to the application of American antitrust laws to international transactions and conduct abroad. He also served for 14 years as a member of the American Bar Association Council of the Antitrust Section and for one year served as vice-chairman of the Section. Most recently, Professor Kauper spent the winter 2002 semester as the John M. Olin Visiting Professor of Business, Economics, and Law at Harvard Law School. Professor Kauper has written in the fields of property and antitrust, and is co-author of *Property: An Introduction to the Concept and the Institution*.

**Dennis L. Kennedy** is a partner in the firm of Bailey❖Merrill. Before that, he was a partner in Nevada's largest law firm (1975-2005) where he was chairman of the firm's Health Care Practice Group. He represents a wide range of health care providers, drug manufacturers and tobacco companies. Mr. Kennedy practices primarily in general commercial litigation. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nathan Adelson Hospice.

Mr. Kennedy is a former member (1988-1997) and the past Chairman (1992-1994) of the State Bar of Nevada Disciplinary Board, Southern District of Nevada. He is currently the chairman of the Nevada State Bar Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and was a member of the State Bar Ethics 2000 Committee, which prepared proposed amendments to the Nevada Supreme Court Rules which led to the adoption by the Nevada Supreme Court of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct, effective May 1, 2006. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is a member of the American Bar Association Sections of Administrative Law, Anti-Trust Law, and Health Law. He is also a member of the American Academy of Health Care Attorneys, American Health Lawyers Association and American Society of

Law, Medicine and Ethics. Mr. Kennedy is an author and frequent speaker in the areas of health care law and legal ethics, and is an adjunct professor at the Boyd School of Law, where he teaches Health Care Law and Nevada Civil Practice. He is the Editor (with Professor Jeffrey Stempel) of the Nevada Civil Practice Manual. Mr. Kennedy is a graduate of the University of Washington (B.A., 1972; J.D., 1975) and a member of the Board of Editors of the *Washington Law Review*.

**Michele LaVigne** is a visiting Professor from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Before joining Wisconsin's clinical faculty, Professor LaVigne practiced as a State Public Defender in Madison, Wisconsin. She now teaches criminal law, constitutional litigation (4th, 5th, 6th amendments) and trial advocacy. She is the director of the Remington Center's Public Defender Project, in which law students are placed as interns in public defender offices throughout Wisconsin.

**James Lewis** is a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Las Vegas. His principle duties include advising local government officials and agencies on governance, ethics, and land use issues. Before joining the City of Las Vegas in 2005, James was a Senior Deputy City Attorney in the City of North Las Vegas focusing on governance and land use issues, and an associate at Gordon & Silver, Ltd focusing on corporate bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

**Lara Bierman Nelson** earned her J.D. in 1990 from Hastings College of the Law, where she was Associate Publications Editor for COMM/ENT (Hastings Communications and Entertainment Law Journal). From 1990 to 2003, Professor Nelson worked at the Office of Legislative Counsel in Sacramento, California, where she provided legal advice and services to members of the California State Legislature and devoted much of her practice to legislative procedure and the budget process.

**Stanford B. Owen** earned his law degree from Stanford University where he was a member of the Stanford Law Review. He was a litigator with the Salt Lake City, Utah law firm Fabian & Clendenin for nearly 35 years, but now teaches at the Boyd School of Law (Antitrust and Pretrial Litigation), the J.Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (Antitrust, Pretrial Litigation, Trial Advocacy) and the University of Utah Law School (Pretrial Litigation). He has taught Pretrial Litigation for over 30 years. He has substantial experience litigating large civil cases. He has recently returned from church service in Nigeria, West Africa.

**Thomas Pitaro** has practiced law in Las Vegas, Nevada for over 28 years. He has successfully tried every type of case from misdemeanors to capital murder. Although his practice is primarily in the area of criminal law, Mr. Pitaro also practices in the area of personal injury and civil litigation. He is one of only a handful of attorneys in Nevada who has successfully won both a jury verdict of "not guilty" in a capital murder case as well as winning a multi-million dollar jury verdict in a civil trial. Mr. Pitaro is currently affiliated with the American College of Trial Lawyers, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Nevada Society of Italian-American Lawyers and the Clark County Bar Association. He served as President from 1991-1993 for the Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice and he has also served on the Nevada State Bar Association as a member of the Board of Governors from 1996-2000. Mr. Pitaro will be teaching one of the **Trial Advocacy** sections.

**Richard A. Rawson**, a member of Jones Vargas' Business and Real Estate Transactions Practice Group. Mr. Rawson practices primarily in the areas of real estate development and municipal finance. He graduated Cum Laude from the William S. Boyd School of Law, where he was an Articles Editor for the Nevada Law Journal. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Rawson was a financial systems consultant and responsible for the implementation of financial systems for Mission Research Corporation, Bechtel SAIC Company, and TRW Environmental Safety Systems.

**David Schwartz** is a former Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Clark County District Attorney's Office. He has been a prosecuting attorney for over thirty years. While at the DA's office he was assigned to the Major Violator's Unit where he tried numerous high profile cases including dozens of capital murder cases. In 2001 he received a "Meritorious Service Award" from the Inspector General of the United States Department of Defense for his work on the Arthur Bennett case. Currently he is teaching Criminal Evidence at UNLV and is working as an attorney for the law offices of Olson, Cannon, Gormley and Desruisseaux. Mr. Schwartz earned his JD from Brooklyn Law School and his BA from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

**Thomas Standish** is a partner at Ecker & Standish. His practice is devoted exclusively to family law litigation with emphasis on significant contested matters in custody and property division. He is a member of the Citizens for Justice political action committee and the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada.

**Veronica Thronson** is the Directing Attorney of the Domestic Violence Program at Clark County Legal Services. She practices in the area of family law and provides direct representation to victims of domestic violence in the areas of protective orders, divorce petitions and custody issues. Ms. Thronson also represents clients in immigration matters related to domestic violence. She serves on the board of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence and is a member of the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force. Previously, Ms. Thronson was the Director of Training and Legal Services at the New York Immigration Coalition, a non-profit umbrella advocacy organization for over 200 groups in New York that work with immigrants, refugees, and asylees. Ms. Thronson developed community outreach materials and programs, and conducted training for advocates and attorneys on immigration and benefits law and their impact on immigrant communities. She appeared bi-weekly on an internationally broadcast program of Univision, providing information on current immigration law, benefits law and immigrant-related topics. Ms. Thronson also was a regular commentator for other local and national newspapers and radio programs on these topics. She is admitted to the practice of law in the states of New York, New Jersey and Nevada.

**Mark Tratos** is the managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig's Las Vegas office, an international law firm with more than 1350 lawyers in the United States and overseas. He practices in the areas of trademark, copyright, rights of publicity and privacy, entertainment, art law and cyberlaw. He has been an adjunct professor in the Colleges of Fine and Performing Arts since 1984 and Hotel Administration at UNLV since 1995. He is also President of the Nevada Intellectual Property Law Association and is listed in Who's Who in American Law and Best Lawyers in America. Since 1985, he has been the author of the Nevada Chapter of the International Trademark Associations State Trademark and Unfair Competition law handbook.