

BOYD ALUMNI NEWS

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Message From The Dean

By John Valery White



Dear Boyd Alumni,

Over the last two years I have worked to develop ways to foster closer interaction between the law school's alumni, students, and faculty and staff. **On March 20, 2010, the law school will bring all these groups together in a community BBQ and Softball tournament.** With over 1,200 graduates, 470 students and nearly 100 faculty and staff, we have become a large community indeed. While we have many occasions to meet and work together, this event promises to get most of us and our families together in one place. I am sure we will have fun and meet new friends in late March.

The first annual Spring Fling BBQ and Softball Tournament will be free and open to you and your families. The softball tournament, I hope, will be an occasion for you to organize yourselves along class and other lines for a bit of friendly competition. I expect it will have the added benefit of reconnecting with friends and acquaintances from your Boyd School of Law years. This will be an annual event at which we can reaffirm our bonds and relive the family atmosphere that has always made Boyd a special place. Please

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look forward to additional information on what I am sure will be a fantastic event. Until then, save the date and start organizing your teams.



Law School News

For the full news story, visit http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/news_events_text.php

LVNBA Names Dean White Lawyer of the Year

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association honored Boyd School of Law Dean John Valery White as lawyer of the year at its 20th Annual Scholarship Gala on October 24th. The award's criteria comprise exceptional service to clients, serving well the needs of a diverse client base, and inspiring association members through reputation, career accomplishments, and upright ethics, and a proven track record for serving the local community, especially communities of color.

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Introducing the New Members of the Alumni Board of Directors

Sean K. Claggett: Sean graduated from BSL in 2003 at which time he was employed by Michael Cristalli, Esq. Shortly after graduating law school, Sean assisted Michael Cristalli in the defense of Sandy Murphy in the Binion Murder Trial, which resulted in her acquittal. After working for Michael Cristalli as a law clerk and an attorney for two and a half years, Sean opened Claggett & Associates on January 1, 2005. Since opening his firm, Sean has obtained over \$32,000,000.00 in judgments for his clients, and has recovered millions of dollars in settlements for his personal injury clients. Claggett & Associates is proud to donate a percentage of its fees from each personal injury case to local charities and organizations. In 2009, Claggett & Associates has donated over \$30,000.00 to organizations such as the Challenged Athletes Foundation, Three Square, HELP of Southern Nevada, Child Seekers, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, the Greg Maddux Foundation, March of Dimes, and the Kurt Busch Foundation to name a few. Sean is married to his high school sweetheart, Louella, and they have two wonderful children, Reed and Ella.

As a board member, Sean hopes to increase membership and the financial support of alumni. He also hopes to initiate two annual events for the alumni, with one a two-day conference/party, to be held at different locations. This would be a great way to knock out CLE credits for the year, and to have a great time with Boyd alums.

Michael Hyte: Michael was born and raised in Las Vegas. He earned a B.A. from Brigham Young University in 2001 and then returned to Las Vegas, where he spent two years working at a public relations/public affairs firm. In 2006, Michael earned a J.D. from Boyd School of Law. He was admitted

to the Nevada bar in 2006 and began his current position as a Deputy Special Public Defender. He is also licensed in the District of Columbia.

Michael feels a debt of gratitude toward the Law School and is honored to serve as a member of the Board of its Alumni Association Chapter. Since graduation, Michael has routinely found himself back at Boyd for various events - attending lectures or CLE courses, or to welcome new admittees at Open Houses. Michael hopes that his tenure on the Board will be marked by an ever-increasing role for alumni as an integral component to Boyd's continued success.

Raymond Jereza: Raymond earned a B.A. in Economics and Political Science in 2006 from the University of California, Davis. He served externships at the UNLV Office of General Counsel and at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court (District of Nevada) for Judge Linda B. Riegler, researching and drafting memoranda on various bankruptcy issues. A 2009 graduate from Boyd, Raymond Jereza said he would "like to facilitate more interaction between the student body and the Alumni Board via increased participation and new events."

Raymond states, "it is an honor to get elected to the Alumni Board of Directors. As the most recent graduate on the board (Class of 2009), my goal is to facilitate more interaction between the student body and alumni. With the student body and alumni working together, there are no limits to what the Boyd community can achieve. It is a great privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the school in this capacity and I look forward to a very successful three-year term."

Contributions from

http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/single_news.php?id=146

Development

By Matthew J. Muldoon, Director of Development, Boyd School of Law

As the Development Director (fund-raiser) for the Boyd School of Law, I encounter a familiar question. Why should I give to the Law School? This is an important question, one that requires further examination. Certainly, individuals give to organizations that share their personal beliefs in the cause and conviction to the mission of the charity. The importance for private support from alumni is centered on their desire for Boyd to become the best possible law school that it can be.

The William S. Boyd School of Law's distinctive approach to legal education is rooted in a commitment to academic excellence, intellectual intimacy, and a sense of community. This formula is not without cost.

Excellence is expensive; intimacy requires that we forego the larger class sizes that are the easy route to increased revenues; egalitarianism requires that we open the doors to those students who have the most to gain from this school, and the most to give to it, regardless of their means.

Alumni are invested in everything we do and will do to help Boyd achieve the high expectations you have for your Law School. Your participation at Boyd community events, support for a public legal education and direct commitments to alumni membership and gift giving are critical to our community.

To contact Matt directly: (702) 895-1398 or matt.muldoon@unlv.edu

President's Corner

By Michael Lee, President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends:

As the incoming president of the Alumni Association, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Boyd and its graduates. Each of us share a unique connection in having been part of such an amazing educational institution like Boyd, and my hope is that we continue to embrace this unique relationship although we have moved into our professional careers. As the only law school in Nevada, we will eventually grow to become the majority of legal professionals in Nevada. This provides us with an opportunity to do something extraordinary for Boyd and each other.

I am fortunate to serve on the Board with several individuals who contribute their time and talents to progressing the Alumni Association and Boyd. Similarly, Boyd is blessed with having several generous graduates/students/supporters who contribute to it financially and otherwise.

One of my primary goals during my tenure as president is to create a greater sense of community within the alumni. In doing so, I hope you will accept my invitation to serve on a committee (Social, Membership/Fundraising, Programming/Events, Communication). Our collective talents will combine to create something extraordinary that benefits all of us. No man is an island entire of itself, and our unique connection is the thread that binds us together. You will always be a Boyd alumnus, and you can help make that to mean something.

Thank you for continuing to support Boyd, the Alumni Board, and our programs. On behalf of David Stoft ('06), Joe Cain ('01), Brian Bradford ('04), Heather Procter ('03), Tim Clausen ('06), Puneet Garg ('05), Sean Claggett ('03), and Raymond Jereza ('09), thank you for providing us with an opportunity to serve as your voice.

Law School Events

For additional information on any event, visit http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/news_events_text.php

Hesburgh Lecture - Dean Emeritus David Link, Nov. 9, 2009, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility. University of Notre Dame Alumni Association Hesburgh Lecture Series 2009 Program.

ILS" New Year's Eve Toast For the Troops Sparkling Apple Cider Drive, Nov. 9-13, 2009, Information Desk. International Law Society is sponsoring A New Year's Eve Toast for the Troops! They will be at the Info Desk collecting bottles of sparkling cider and donations to send a festive toast to a unit of 140 Navy personnel at Camp Taji in Kuwait.

Information Session, Nov. 12, 2009, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility. Information Session for prospective students.

CLE: Hanging A Shingle: A Primer to Starting Your Own Practice, Nov. 13, 2009, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility. If you are considering starting your own legal practice - or "hanging a shingle" - this presentation will answer many of your questions and help you avoid some of the more common pitfalls. Seasoned practitioners will address a myriad of issues related to the creation of a new practice, including formulating a realistic business plan, the nuts and bolts of setting up your office, acquisition and effective use of technology, marketing your practice, managing billing, and avoiding malpractice. For more information, contact Betty Campbell at betty.campbell@unlv.edu or (702) 895-2874. ***This program is pending approval for three CLE credits.***

CLE: State Bar of Nevada and Boyd School of Law Constitutional Law Seminar featured speaker Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Dec. 16, 2009, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility.

Southern Panel of NV Supreme Court, Feb. 10, 2010, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility.

Conflict Resolution and the Economic Crisis, Feb. 12-13, 2010, Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility.

First Annual Boyd School of Law Spring Fling, Mar. 20, 2010. More information to follow.

Law School News (cont'd)

Boyd Alumna Appointed General Counsel To Governor Gibbons

After serving three years as general counsel for the Nevada Commission on Ethics, Adriana Guzmán Fralick (2003) was recently appointed general counsel for the office of Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons. The general counsel is a senior staff position within the Office of the Governor.

Said Governor Gibbons, "I believe Adriana Fralick possesses the character and experience to be a strong and sound contributor to our staff."

At the Boyd School of Law, Fralick served as parliamentarian for the Minority Law Students Association and as vice-president of the Organization of Women Law Students.

"Boyd gave me the tools I need for this position. The faculty there were very supportive. Boyd has a model open door environment that not only allows but encourages students to meet with their professors outside of the classroom," said Fralick.

"Striking a balance between the three branches of government is my greatest challenge to date," she said, "It is imperative that the branches of government work together to achieve the people's work in these difficult economic times. However, this blending of power can sometimes offend fundamental separation of powers principles."

See

http://extranet.law.unlv.edu/NewsAndEvents/single_news.php?id=147

Class Actions

Provide us news about engagements, marriages, births, and career changes to 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.

2001

Meridith Strand - Meridith is currently Associate General Counsel at Southwest Gas Corporation. She took the in-house position at Southwest a little over three years ago after leaving a five-year stint at Snell and Wilmer. She recently married on August 1, 2009.

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

2002

Cory Santos - Cory and his wife recently celebrated the arrival of their baby girl, Olivia.

Nicholas Vaskov - Nicholas was recently appointed North Las Vegas city attorney. Vaskov has worked for the City for nearly five years. As city attorney, he is responsible for providing legal advice and comment on the risks associated with policy directives of city council members.

See <http://www.viewnews.com/2009/VIEW-Sep-08-Tue-2009/North/31004523.html>

Angela M. White - Angela is an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Everest College. She also practices criminal defense, real estate, and employment law in Nye, Esmeralda, and Mineral Counties. She formerly worked as a Deputy Public Defender in rural Nevada as a felony attorney. She is now settling a three year pro bono lawsuit with the Clark County School District which is saving a plethora of school district employees' jobs.

Heather Bailey Zana - Heather is a sole practitioner at the Zana Law Group. Her Nevada office handles primarily family Law cases. She is also proud to announce the opening of her new business the first week of December 2009, Mountain Tax & Bookkeeping LLC, located in northern Arizona. The company will provide tax preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services.

2003

Courtney Dolan - Courtney has her own office, Dolan Law Group, Ltd. In Las Vegas. The Dolan Law Group is a full service law practice, providing representation in the areas of health law, family law, real estate law, business litigation, and estate planning.

2004

Lisa Stassi - Lisa left Las Vegas in 2003 to finish law school in Arkansas at William Bowen School of Law. It was the closest she could get to her dying mother in Louisiana. Since 2004, she has been investing in real estate in Arkansas and Texas and had some luck. She also bought a dog boarding kennel. Real estate has generally kept Lisa too busy to practice law, but she did take the bar exam once. Now fed up with real estate and the tremendous deceit that she has witnessed, she is heading back to the law.

Marissa Geffen Temple - Marissa is currently working as in-house counsel for American Family Insurance. She married her husband, Jeff Temple, in 2006 in Henderson, Nevada. Her husband is an attorney with Half Price Lawyers, a firm he helped start in with Christina Owens Stokes and her husband, Adam Stokes.

Class Actions (cont'd)

2007

William Devine II - As of October 26, 2009, William will be a new partner in Rainey Legal Group PLLC with fellow 2007 Boyd Alum **Charles Rainey**. They will practice in intellectual property, bankruptcy, and civil litigation.

2008

Chris Stein - Chris and his wife Sarah live in Northern Japan. Chris is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps. Currently, he is Chief of Civil and International Law for the Misawa Air Base Legal Office, which serves a base population of nearly 14,000, including eight associate units from all four branches of the U.S. military as well as the Japan Air Self Defense Force. Chris helps provide full spectrum legal services for Armed Forces personnel and operations in Northern Japan, including counseling military members in legal assistance, advising the command on both national and international law issues, and prosecuting courts-martial.

2004 Reunion Photos!

