

Dean's Column

BY GUEST AUTHOR BRENDA WEKSLER, ESQ.



THE BOYD ALUMNI BOARD: SERVING OUR COLLEAGUES AND THE COMMUNITY

Greetings from the William S. Boyd School of Law Alumni Board! We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and let you know who we are and what we are doing to serve our state and promote the growth of the Boyd School of Law, its alumni and the legal community. The William S. Boyd School of Law has become one of the top public law schools in the country, and its alumni have made invaluable contributions to our community in many different ways. Boyd alumni occupy key positions on the bench and in the legislature, in law firms, and in the district attorney and public defender offices. It is Boyd Law School's unwavering commitment to our legal community that the board aspires to emulate through its planning of events and programs.

The mission of the board is to encourage its members to participate in Boyd and other legal community events; to encourage its members to volunteer; and to create new ways to stay connected and serve the needs of the law school, its alumni and the community at large. The William S. Boyd School of Law Alumni Board has organized a number of events

this year and already has plans for many more. We invite you to join us.

This past April the board organized its first CLE seminar; it focused on the various pro bono projects and opportunities available for attorneys wanting to serve those who are unable to afford legal representation. Representatives from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, the Nevada State Gaming Control Board, the State Bar of Nevada, the Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, the District Court of Nevada Pro Bono Pilot Program and the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program were presenters at the CLE. The response from our colleagues was rewarding. Several attendees accepted pro bono cases, and the consensus was that the program was a success. The CLE seminar was followed by a happy hour (co-hosted by the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Nevada and the board), at which attendees and speakers mingled and networked on the rooftop of Oak & Ivy at the Container Park.

Each year, the board recognizes one of its alumni for his or her contributions to the law school and the legal community. This year, Joe Cain is the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award. Joe is a 2001 summa cum laude graduate, and serves as general counsel for Fine Properties. He is an outstanding ambassador to the law school and has made incredible contributions to our legal community.

The board continues to develop and participate in mentoring programs such as "Dinner with a Rebel," through

which Boyd students are able to dine with seasoned attorneys, asking them questions about the legal profession, legal careers and different practice areas. Over winter break, 23 alumni hosted 59 students for either lunch or dinner. Over summer break, 47 alumni hosted 85 students. We are looking forward to Boyd's 2016 graduation ceremony and to seeing many of these students receive their law degrees. We welcome Boyd's 2016 graduates to the profession and hope to continue to serve as their role models and mentors.

The board also looks forward to welcoming the incoming 1L class. Every year, members of the board participate in Intro to Law Week, attending lunches, socializing with newly admitted law students and helping prepare them for what lies ahead in the next three years. Intro to Law Week culminates with a barbeque at which students, alumni and faculty gather together to share food, drinks and fun activities; following the barbeque is a board sponsored happy hour. We hope that current and future law students will continue to participate in alumni activities and maintain the Boyd tradition of community service.

The Annual Alumni Golf Tournament will take place in October. This event has been a success year after year, bringing alumni together with other attorneys, faculty and staff members, to enjoy a round of 18 on a Friday afternoon. It is always great to see fellow alums reconnecting and making new connections with their colleagues in a friendly and fun-filled environment. Law firms (large

Workers' Comp is not PI

and small) and alumni solo practitioners have contributed their time and money to make this event a great success. Our next tournament is scheduled for October 21. We hope to see you there!

The William S. Boyd School of Law will host its annual alumni dinner and 5-, 10-, and 15-year class reunions at the Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

All Boyd alumni and friends are invited to attend. For more information, visit alumni.law.unlv.edu/2016alumnidinner.

There are other events coming up as well. We invite you—whether or not you're an alum—to join us, make connections and help us build a stronger legal community. Become a friend of the Williams S. Boyd School of Law Alumni Association on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events. You may contact Carolyn Barnes at carolyn.barnes@unlv.edu with any questions you might have. **NL**

BRENDA WEKSLER, a 2002 Boyd graduate, is the president of the William S. Boyd School of Law Alumni Board. She has been an assistant federal public defender since 2003, and is currently the Trial Training Director. Weksler serves on the boards of the Clark County Bar Association, the UNLV Alumni Legacy, National Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and the Federal Court Pro Bono Pilot Program as well as being involved with several other legal organizations.



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