

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law

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■ Introduction

The William S. Boyd School of Law, the first and only public law school in Nevada history, commenced classes in fall 1998 and now has graduated over 1,000 students. Located in a unique, dynamic, and continually growing metropolitan area, BSL offers its students an evolving social climate in which to study the law and observe and participate in its application. The law school is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

■ Faculty

The full-time faculty consists of experienced, accomplished, and well-respected legal educators. All faculty members have excellent credentials, experience, and reputations; all are people for whom teaching and mentoring of students is very important; and all are people who are eager to serve their community through scholarship, civic involvement, and various outreach programs. The law school also taps into the wealth of talent in the local bar for adjunct faculty who teach a variety of specialized courses.

■ Curriculum

The Boyd School of Law offers and encourages its students to undertake a generalist curriculum. Specific course offerings are constantly reviewed and revised as societal needs, student interest, and faculty resources change. The curriculum generally emphasizes the responsibilities, skills, and values required of members of the legal profession. This emphasis comes to the fore in *Lawyering Process*, a three-semester required course that offers students the opportunity to examine the relationship between legal analysis and other legal skills such as research, writing, oral advocacy, and client interviewing and counseling, with significant emphasis on professionalism and ethics.

■ Programs of Study

The law school offers a traditional three-year, full-time JD program, as well as a four-year, part-time JD program during evening hours and a four-year, part-time JD program during day hours. Additionally, three dual-degree programs have been established: Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration, Juris Doctor/Master of Social Work, and Juris Doctor/PhD in Education.

■ Community Service

Students are afforded a valuable opportunity to help people in need during their first year through the law school's community service program. Working with representatives of Legal Aid Services of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services, teams of students prepare and conduct weekly workshops for unrepresented people on basic procedures in family or small claims court and on paternity, custody, guardianship, immigration, mediation, and bankruptcy matters. In addition to providing direct assistance to others, the program is intended to acquaint students with the large

unmet need for legal services and to instill a lasting commitment to community service and pro bono work.

■ Hands-on Experience

The Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic houses the school's "law firm" and offers an integrated academic and practice-based educational experience that teaches students to be reflective practitioners and community-oriented professionals. The clinic currently focuses on six specific areas: appellate litigation, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, innocence, and immigration. Additionally, the law school provides an extensive externship program. Working closely with the legal community, the law school has established a year-round program offering opportunities for students to extern with the federal and state judiciary, government and public service agencies, and Nevada and US legislatures.

■ Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution

The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution was established in 2003 to provide a venue for advanced study of the nature of conflict and the methods through which conflicts may be resolved. The work of the center encompasses conflicts arising out of regional, national, and international concerns, in both the public and private sectors. Recognizing that a sophisticated understanding of conflict necessarily requires insights derived from disciplines other than law, the center places particular emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and resolving disputes. The center's faculty teach courses on Mediation, Negotiations, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Arbitration as well as a clinical offering in the area of Mediation.

■ Student Activities

The *Nevada Law Journal* is a publication devoted to scholarly research on the subject of national legal interest as well as on issues of particular interest to the Nevada legal community.

The Society of Advocates is the school's appellate and trial forensic program. The society consists of an executive board and team members who participate in interscholastic competitions. Teams compete in mock trial, client counseling, negotiation, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution competitions, as well as traditional appellate advocacy. Boyd's teams have been very successful in winning regional, national, and international competitions.

Students also participate in over 20 student organizations.

■ Career Services

The Department of Career Services offers personalized career counseling, employment workshops, a job opportunity board, on-campus interviewing programs, and a state-of-the-art online job-search program to assist students.

■ Academic Success Program

The Boyd School of Law Academic Success Program provides students a comprehensive network of presentations, activities, tutorials, and workshops designed to stimulate learning and to

amplify the classroom experience. The program supplements the curriculum with opportunities to enhance learning skills and develop more efficient and effective methods of studying, comprehending, and writing. As part of this program, the student-operated Center for Academic Success and Enrichment (CASE) offers students mentoring, advising, and tutoring.

■ Facility

The Boyd School of Law facility includes the William S. Boyd Hall, the James E. Rogers Center for Administration and Justice, and the Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility. Classrooms include state-of-the-art technology for presentations using PowerPoint, video, and document cameras, and are equipped to facilitate video conferencing and distance learning. Classroom, lounge, and study space offer students indoor and outdoor wireless access seating areas where they can make productive use of their time between classes.

■ Library

The Wiener-Rogers Law Library holds the most substantial collection of legal materials in the state of Nevada. The library is staffed by excellent, service-oriented librarians who have

come from major libraries across the country. Patrons and students have access to a core collection of important material in printed and micro formats. The library houses two computer labs and provides numerous carrels for individual study, as well as group study rooms. The growing library collection now exceeds 300,000 volumes and microform volume equivalents.

■ Admission

The Boyd School of Law seeks to enroll an academically well-qualified, accomplished, and diverse group of individuals who will contribute to the vitality of the school's educational program, the community, and the legal profession after graduation. Applicants for admission may demonstrate qualification and accomplishment through distinguished academic records as undergraduate or graduate students, successful careers, meaningful contributions to their communities, or successful efforts to meet challenges associated with race, ethnicity, gender, economic status, or disability. Students of diverse backgrounds, attitudes, and interests contribute to the breadth and quality of the classroom and nonclassroom dialogues which are critical elements of legal education.

Applicant Profile

The Boyd School of Law has elected not to publish an applicant profile based on LSAT score and undergraduate GPA. Those two factors, while certainly important, are not the only factors

taken into consideration. The Boyd School of Law uses no form of indexing system in reaching its admission decisions. Each completed application file is reviewed in its entirety.