Invitation to Apply for the Position of

DEAN

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

Las Vegas, Nevada

Search Summary

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law. This year, Boyd secured its position as one of the country's top 30 public law schools for the 15th consecutive year. The school’s Lawyering Process Program ranked first among legal writing programs in the nation, its part-time program is rated among the top 20 in the country, and its Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution ranked fifth among the top dispute resolution programs, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2022 rankings. Dedicated to serving both the city of Las Vegas and the state of Nevada as its only law school, Boyd is an integral component of one of the fastest growing and most diverse universities in the nation. Boyd is committed to nurturing a learning community of excellence and diversity, and strongly encourages applicants from a wide range of backgrounds to explore this exceptional opportunity.

Founded in 1957, UNLV is a thriving urban research institution of more than 31,000 students that is supported by over 4,500 faculty and staff dedicated to exceptional teaching, research, and service. The University offers professional degrees in business, law, engineering, medicine, architecture, dental medicine, and hotel administration and leading programs in liberal arts, nursing, urban affairs, public health, fine arts, sciences, engineering, and education. From its founding in 1998, Boyd has been a law school committed to scholarship, experiential learning, and skills education in which all tenure-stream faculty—podium, clinic, and legal writing—are evaluated the same way.

The University has become an indispensable resource in one of the country's most diverse, enterprising, and rapidly growing cities. The UNLV campus mirrors the diversity of the community in which it sits, ranked among the most diverse undergraduate campuses in the country by U.S. News & World Report. UNLV prides itself on being an institution of opportunity where students traditionally underrepresented in higher education can receive the support that they need to achieve their educational and professional goals. As a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI), Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), and Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander
Serving Institution (AANAPISI), UNLV enrolls a high percentage of minority students and is committed to reducing barriers to their academic success.

The Dean of Boyd is the chief academic and administrative officer, with the overall responsibility for providing the vision and leadership needed to maintain and enhance the stature of Boyd. As such, the Dean is accountable for the conduct and outcomes of its programs and activities. The Dean, who reports to the Provost of the University, is also Boyd’s principal participant in university governance and functions as Boyd’s lead representative to internal and external constituencies, including the University community, the legal profession in Nevada and beyond, the state legislature, and the larger community.

The University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the provost and search committee in the recruitment of the new Dean. All inquiries, applications, and nominations should be directed in confidence to Isaacson, Miller as noted at the end of this document.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

In its 64-year history, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has undergone an amazing transformation, from a dusty outpost on the southern edge of town to a thriving urban research institution. Along the way, thanks to its innovative frontier spirit, UNLV has kept pace with one of the country's fastest-growing cities. Today, UNLV is home to more than 1,100 full-time faculty who teach more than 31,000 students, including over 5,000 graduate and professional students, a record-high for enrollment reached in 2019. Located just minutes from the international airport and less than 20 minutes from downtown and the site of Nevada’s Court of Appeals, the Federal Bankruptcy Court, and the U.S. District for the State of Nevada, UNLV is truly an urban university, deeply engaged in the vitality of the Las Vegas Valley, which is home to 2.4 million people.

The University began as a branch of the University of Nevada, Reno before gaining independence in 1968, surpassing Reno in student enrollment just nine years later. Over the next three decades, UNLV continued this rapid rate of development, erecting more than 100 buildings, creating partnerships with the community, fielding nationally ranked sports teams, founding an alumni association, promoting scholarship, establishing a fundraising foundation, and recruiting diverse and talented students from across the country. Since 2000, UNLV has greatly expanded its graduate degree programs campus-wide, which include the School of Dental Medicine and Boyd School of Law, both firsts for Nevada, as well as a School of Public Health and, most recently, a School of Medicine.

In 2018, UNLV was elevated to Research I (R1) “very high research activity” status by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, becoming one of just 130 R1 institutions in the country. This was a major step forward in the University’s Top Tier Initiative, a campus-wide strategic plan to join the ranks of the nation’s top public universities in research, education, and community impact by 2025.

The University is composed of the following colleges and schools:

- William S. Boyd School of Law
- Lee Business School
UNLV has an operating budget of $795.1 million, of which approximately 31 percent comes from the state of Nevada. In fiscal year 2020, UNLV had approximately $29.3 million in federal government research expenditures, and nearly $105.9 million in research expenditures overall, including significant support from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services including the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Dr. Keith E. Whitfield became UNLV’s 11th president on August 24, 2020. Whitfield previously served as provost, senior vice president of academic affairs, and professor of psychology at Wayne State University in Michigan. In addition to his leadership of the university’s academic programs, which include a school of law, Dr. Whitfield also oversaw student affairs, including student success, curriculum, and housing. Under his leadership, the university achieved remarkable gains in its graduation rate, increased overall enrollment, launched an innovation and entrepreneurship hub, and strengthened multiple business and philanthropic relationships.

An active administrator and researcher, Whitfield has authored or co-authored over 200 publications and has earned nearly $20 million in funding from agencies including the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the National Science Foundation. A psychologist and expert on the social, psychological, and cultural factors of cognition and healthy aging, Whitfield’s current research focuses on the relationship between stress and longevity in African American families. He’s a member of the NIA’s National Advisory Council on Aging, and he has served on committees for the National Academies of Sciences and Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Whitfield is the first African American president in UNLV’s history.

Dr. Chris Heavey was appointed executive vice president and provost at UNLV in 2019. Dr. Heavey has held several leadership and administrative positions throughout his career at UNLV,
including senior vice provost, vice provost for undergraduate education, director of general education, associate dean, dean, and president of the Nevada State Board of Psychology. As executive vice president and provost, Dr. Heavey serves as the university’s chief academic officer and works closely with President Whitfield in overseeing academic and budgetary policies and priorities for the campus.

As a professor of psychology, Heavey conducts research to improve understanding of the inner experience and its relationship to mental health. He is one of the nation’s leading scholars in the thoughts and feelings that make up the consciousness of people as they go about their everyday lives. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. He also holds a master’s degree from UCLA and a bachelor’s degree from UC Santa Cruz.

Las Vegas, Nevada

According to Forbes, Las Vegas is the 11th fastest growing metropolitan area in the country, and it accounts for more than 70 percent of Nevada’s total population, with more than two million people. The population is young, with a median age of 37, and diverse—approximately 40 percent of its residents are people of color.

The Las Vegas Valley serves as the leading financial, commercial, and cultural center for the state of Nevada, and the city of Las Vegas annually ranks as one of the world's most visited tourist destinations. It is a top three destination in the United States for business conventions and a global leader in the hospitality industry, claiming more AAA Five Diamond hotels than any other city in the world. Las Vegas is also often named as one of the most entrepreneur-friendly cities in the country and has recently become a popular landing spot for tech firms large and small. Recently, companies like Amazon, Fanatics, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond have combined to add over 7 million square feet of warehouse space in the region. Since 2011, manufacturing and logistics have grown two and a half times faster in Nevada than in the rest of the country. The low taxes have helped make Nevada a haven for small businesses as well. Besides having neither personal income nor estate tax, Nevada has neither business income nor franchise tax. Nevada has more corporations per capita—about 325,000 in a state with just 3.1 million people—than any other state except Delaware. Four Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Nevada.

The quality of life makes Las Vegas an attractive place to live, and the city was just named one of the 25 best cities in the world. The city is well known for its world class dining and entertainment; however, it also offers a host of outdoor activities, including golfing, hiking, rock climbing, biking, skiing, water sports, and camping. Within a 35-mile radius, one can reach the beautiful Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Mount Charleston (which offers cool temperatures with skiing, hiking, and horseback riding), and Red Rock Canyon, one of the best rock-climbing destinations in the country. In a wider radius, Southern Nevada is positioned to access some of the most beloved national parks in the west. Las Vegas has also recently become home to three major league sports teams including the National Hockey League’s latest expansion team, the Las Vegas Golden Knights (2017), the Women’s National Basketball Association’s Las Vegas Aces (2018), and the National Football League’s Las Vegas Raiders, who kicked off for the first time in Las Vegas in 2020.

The William S. Boyd School of Law
The mission of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law is to serve the state of Nevada and the national and international legal and academic communities by developing and maintaining an innovative and excellent educational program that will train ethical and effective lawyers and leaders for Nevada and for the legal profession; to encourage community service, professionalism and the roles, responsibilities, skills, and values of lawyers; to produce excellent scholarship for the benefit of the State, the profession, and the academy; to involve students and faculty in community service projects in ways that will benefit the state; and to provide leadership for Nevada on important issues of public policy, dispute resolution, the law, and legal practice. In seeking to fulfill this mission, Boyd aspires to become a model community, one in which the people of Boyd will engage with one another professionally, respectfully, and with a view to maximizing the potential of each participant in this exciting educational enterprise.

With a renowned, highly productive and engaged faculty, Boyd serves 460 students from 33 states, offering two degree programs and three joint degree programs. A law library of over one million volumes, an alumni base of close to 2800 graduates, an annual budget of $24 million and an endowment of over $26 million put Boyd in a strong position. Boyd attracts an exceptionally talented and diverse cohort of students with a median LSAT score of 160 and a median GPA of 3.70 (Entering Class of 2021). Currently 50.6% of JD students are women and 34% are students of color, with 13% identifying as members of the LGBTQ community. Boyd has a distinguished past, a vibrant present, and a future of exceptional opportunity and promise.

Boyd facility lies at the center of UNLV’s campus and includes the William S. Boyd Hall, the Beverly Rogers Literature and Law Building, the Wiener-Rogers Law Library, and the Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility. Classrooms include state-of-the art technology for presentations 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.

Degree Programs

The Juris Doctor is a rigorous and engaging program whose broad curriculum and nationally ranked legal writing program prepares students for success in any career field, while the concentrations allow for exploration of specific areas in more depth. Boyd also offers premier practical experience: as the only law school in the state, its students can use their knowledge to help real clients through clinics, externships, and the law school's community service program. Boyd offers three JD programs to meet the varying schedules of today’s business professionals: a full-time program as well as two part-time programs, one meeting in the day and the other meeting in the evening. Boyd deeply values excellence, access, and diversity with a strong student body consisting of a large population of first-generation professional students and many working and non-traditional students.

From its founding, Boyd has sought to model programs to address legal needs in the community and has a large externship program, placing its students in the legislature, judiciary, and community service organizations. Boyd’s curriculum has always featured a community service requirement in partnership with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. The faculty emphasize pro bono contributions and service as part of our focus on professional education. Consequently, Boyd’s graduates consistently show up among the community’s pro bono contributors.
Boyd also offers a Master of Law (LL.M.) in Gaming Law and Regulation. The LL.M. degree is a natural complement to Boyd’s existing JD program, which already offers more gaming law courses than any law school in the world. As gaming continues to expand across the country and throughout the world, there is an increased need for talented and knowledgeable gaming lawyers. With the university’s location in the international capital of gaming, students will gain access to globally renowned gaming professionals and regulators, observe, and learn from cutting-edge debates and decision making, and make lasting professional connections that will serve them well throughout their legal career.

Finally, Boyd also collaborates across UNLV’s campus to offer three dual degree programs that allow students admitted to both programs to pursue the two degrees concurrently: with the Lee Business School, UNLV offers a dual Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration (JD/MBA) degree program; with the School of Social Work, UNLV offers a dual Juris Doctor/Master of Social Work (JD/MSW) degree program; and with the College of Education, UNLV offers a dual Juris Doctor/PhD in Education (JD/PhD) degree.

**Faculty**

The 89 members of the faculty - 41 full-time, 43 adjunct, 3 librarians, and 2 visiting professors - at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law are widely respected scholars, opinion leaders, and practitioners. They are also dedicated teachers. They aim to help students grasp new concepts, look at old concepts in new ways, and apply their knowledge to real-world situations.

Members of the current law school faculty have authored or contributed to more than 200 books and written more than 600 law review articles. They author casebooks, treatises, articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals, and articles appearing in highly selective law reviews. The faculty is engaged in scholarly societies, such as the American Law Institute and the Uniform Law Commission, and conferences meeting around the world, frequently assuming leadership roles.

The law school hosts visiting scholars (from the United States and foreign countries), conferences, and colloquia to enrich the intellectual life of the community and has established faculty exchange programs with law schools around the world.

Boyd particularly prides itself on the equality of its promotion and tenure processes, in which all tenure-stream faculty—podium, clinic, and legal writing—are evaluated the same way. This approach has created an exceptionally prolific scholarly faculty with a uniquely equitable and collaborative culture.

**Clinics**

In the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, law students gain practical legal experience representing clients. By design, the Clinic functions as a laboratory for justice. Through training, advocacy, scholarship, and community partnerships, the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic strives to serve the community and improve the law and law practice.

In the Clinic, law students take the lead in handling all aspects of client representation. These responsibilities include developing and maintaining the attorney-client relationship, strategic planning, fact investigation, legal research, drafting and filing documents, and appearing in court.
The Thomas & Mack Clinic, Boyd offers eight clinics in regular rotation:

- Appellate Clinic
- Education Advocacy Clinic
- Family Justice Clinic
- Immigration Clinic
- Mediation Clinic
- Misdemeanor Clinic
- Policing and Protest Clinic
- Public Policy Clinic

Community Service Program

Boyd requires first-year students to participate in a community service program. Working with Legal Aid Center 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, foreclosure mediation, and bankruptcy matters. This program offers students the chance to educate groups of people in a general way without giving specific legal advice. Students are required to attend approximately five hours of training and the student teams conduct weekly, two-hour workshops.

In the second half of their law school careers, students have the opportunity, under direct faculty supervision, to represent real clients in a variety of externships and in-house legal clinics, as well as to work one-on-one with an attorney mentor on cases in consumer law, child welfare, family law, and tax law. By so doing, they gain valuable training and experience. Moreover, these sorts of experiences should help to reinforce the students' commitment to community service, while demonstrating to the students that there is a large unmet need for legal services in our society today. UNLV hopes that Boyd School of Law students and graduates will be a positive force throughout their careers - in meeting this need and in making their community a better place.

Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility

The Thomas and Mack Moot Court Facility supports the school's trial advocacy, Kids' Court, and appellate advocacy programs and provides a venue for judicial proceedings by state and federal courts, with courts such as the Nevada Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit sitting in the Moot Court facility from time to time. The 6,700 square-foot facility was designed by one of the nation's leading architectural firms for courtrooms. The facility includes a courtroom and a 100-seat auditorium in which legal education, legal argument simulation activities, and court hearings are conducted. The facility's unique reconfigurable bench makes it suitable for all types of courts. In the facility, students can experience a comprehensive picture of what happens in all courtroom settings.

Wiener-Rogers Law Library

The Wiener-Rogers Law Library holds the most substantial collection of legal materials in the state of Nevada. The library’s faculty are professional, service-oriented librarians who have come from major libraries across the country. Users have access to a rich core collection of important
materials in printed and micro formats. The library houses computer labs, classrooms, conference rooms and study rooms for collaborative learning, as well as carrels for individual study.

The library’s mission is to support the research, instruction, and service activities of an innovative institution and an engaged group of scholars. As the largest law library in the state, and the only law library in Nevada maintaining comprehensive collections of United States legal materials, the Wiener-Rogers Law Library also serves as a resource and archive for the entire state, providing services and making its collections accessible to researchers across disciplines and to members of the general public.

_The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution_

The Saltman Center is nationally and internationally renowned for its study of the nature of conflict and alternative dispute resolution. The center hosts a variety of conferences, lectures, workshops, competitions, clinics, and courses. Saltman faculty have coached students to victory in several national competitions. The center’s areas of expertise include Arbitration, Client Counseling, Mediation, and Negotiation.

_Role and Responsibilities of the Dean_

- Serve as the intellectual leader of the faculty through a demonstrated commitment to scholarship, an ability to inspire junior and senior faculty in their scholarly pursuits, and help craft a vision for further development of the intellectual environment at Boyd;
- Promote Boyd’s teaching mission of educating outstanding lawyers through continued excellence in the academic program, including doctrinal and experiential courses;
- Promote successful change in response to evolving external environments and emerging challenges, including providing leadership in developing a common vision for Boyd that reflects the future of legal education and the legal profession, and the established strengths of the institution;
- Provide strategic leadership to advance the quality, reputation, and goals of Boyd;
- Prioritize Boyd’s dedication to attracting, supporting, and maintaining a diverse community within the student body, faculty, and administrative team;
- Oversee the administration of Boyd, managing its capital, human, and fiscal resources and implementing a budget as set by the state legislature;
- Serve as Boyd’s principal participant in University governance and establish strong, cooperative working relationships with the University administration and peers leading other academic units within the University;
- Function as Boyd’s lead representative among internal and external constituencies, including membership on the board of governors of the Nevada State Bar Association and interactions with the bench and the practicing bar;
- Solicit and steward private financial and other support from a broad range of sources, including the alumni, the philanthropic community, law firms, corporations, and other friends and stakeholders of Boyd;
- Develop positive and mutually supportive relationships with Boyd alumni/ae;
• Promote outreach and engagement in issues appropriate for an academic unit within a public university, and contribute to the expertise of Boyd community in issues of concern to the wider community as a support to both Las Vegas and Nevada;
• Foster and maintain a strong and distinctive sense of community and collaboration among faculty, staff, students, alumni, the university’s other schools, the local bar, and the courts;
• Demonstrate good judgment in attracting, retaining, and developing outstanding faculty, administrators, and staff.

Leadership Opportunities and Challenges

Legal education has been under stress for the past decade, with declining demand for JD graduates and a resulting reduction in enrollments and tuition revenue, a trend only recently changing in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the rising cost of a JD degree has largely been borne by increasing student debt. Like other peer institutions, Boyd has responded by cutting expenses where possible and by expanding revenues from new program offerings and fundraising, particularly for scholarships. In the face of this challenging environment, however, Boyd has maintained the exceptional quality of its programs and has even expanded them where appropriate. Boyd has stayed true to its core values: fostering a culture of creativity and innovation; promoting a student-centered approach; learning through experience and practice; encouraging global vision and engagement; uplifting a commitment to human dignity and justice for all; embracing the value of diversity; fostering a broad and inclusive concept of scholarship, pedagogy, research, and service; and maintaining a dedication to serving the legal communities of Las Vegas and Nevada.

The following major opportunities and countervailing challenges will present themselves to the next dean of Boyd. The University is seeking an exceptional leader who has the experience, skills, judgment, and values to meet and take advantage of these challenges and opportunities. Success for the next dean of Boyd will be measured and determined by the extent to which s/he meets these challenges and converts these opportunities into lasting assets for the school.

Responding creatively to the changes in legal education and enhancing the reputation and impact of Boyd, while maintaining its core values and its mission of exceptional teaching, world-class scholarship, and meaningful service

To maintain and heighten the high standing of Boyd on the national stage, the leadership of the next dean cannot rest on the achievements of the past. The competition for the best students and the most productive and engaged faculty will become increasingly intense. The next dean of Boyd will be expected to leverage the assets of the school, its supporters, and the University to engage its comparative advantages and advance its teaching, research, and service mission.

Expanding the financial and human capital of Boyd

Having developed a communal vision and sustainable strategic plan for its implementation, the dean will be principally responsible for recruiting and nurturing the talent to implement the plan and attracting the funding to enable the plan to move forward. Empowering other constituents to assist in expanding financial resources will certainly be part of this challenge, but the principal responsibility for advancing Boyd’s mission always rests with the dean. Though Boyd’s finances
are stable, the next Dean will operate in an environment in which fiscal resources are finite and constrained.

**Collaborating with University leaders and the deans of other academic units at the University to integrate Boyd as a vital resource for the University in achieving its teaching, scholarship, and outreach and service mission.**

The next dean of Boyd will be expected to further connect Boyd with other academic and service units within the University. As the state’s only law school, Boyd is well prepared to add value to other academic units of the University, and in turn be enhanced by collaborations with these other disciplines and units. The dean of Boyd will be successful in seizing this opportunity to the extent that the dean embraces creativity, outreach, dialogue, and mutual support.

**Continue emphasis on access, diversity, and student success**

The Dean will serve as an effective and compelling spokesperson for a diverse and inclusive community focused on access, student success, and the education of practice-ready law professionals as fitting with Boyd’s founding mission to serve its community in Las Vegas and Nevada. The Dean will support faculty in their teaching mission to provide excellent outcomes for students. This effort will include monitoring bar passage rates and other measures of success. The Dean will collaborate with the other offices across the school and with alumni - the vast majority of whom live and practice in Nevada - to identify new opportunities for students to engage in the community and help them to graduate with practical knowledge of the law. The Dean will work closely with faculty, staff, and student leadership to ensure that student needs, and the associated resources required, are fully considered in decision-making and program development.

**Maintain and advance Boyd’s external relationships**

Given that Boyd enjoys a specific appropriation from the Nevada State Legislation that funds 35% of the school’s budget, the next Dean will likely have more of an external focus than the deans of many peer schools. The Dean will be expected to devote time to building relationships with legislators and to engaging relevant constituents in the public and private sectors. Additionally, as the only law school for the state, the Dean will build upon strong existing relationships, including with the State Bar of Nevada and other regional and state-wide networks. The city of Las Vegas is thriving and presents many opportunities for partnership with the government, industry, as well as the judiciary – many of whom are graduates of Boyd as well. By taking advantage of and furthering these many external relationships, the next Dean will have the opportunity to work collaboratively on new programming and employment opportunities for graduates.

**Desired Experience and Qualifications**

The Search Committee strongly welcomes applicants from a diversity of backgrounds and experiences and will consider the following factors in evaluating candidates for this important leadership role. Although no single individual will possess all the desired experiences and qualifications, the successful candidate should possess many of the following characteristics:
• A JD, or other terminal degree in law, at least ten years of experience in the teaching and/or practice of law, and accomplishments meriting tenure at the rank of professor under Boyd’s criteria are required;
• A leadership style characterized by flexibility, inclusiveness, transparency, integrity, and openness that involves and enables the faculty and other key stakeholders to share in governance;
• A commitment to public service and the mission of a land-grant, public university;
• A record of fundraising success;
• A demonstrated commitment to building an organization that values and practices diversity and inclusion, affirmative action, and equal opportunity;
• An appetite for innovation;
• The inclination and capability to contribute to the University’s senior academic leadership, including the ability to collaborate with the Provost and deans to enrich the overall academic structure and the state and national reputation of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas;
• Strong listening and communication skills, intellectual curiosity, and the ability to learn from others;
• Decisiveness, an ability to multi-task, and a willingness to delegate appropriately.

Nominations, Applications & Inquiries

Applications, which should include a resume or curriculum vitae and cover letter, should be sent to the following electronic mailbox: http://www.imsearch.com/8166.

For full and timely consideration, applicant materials should be received by no later than November 15, 2021. Application reviews will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process.

Electronic submission of materials is strongly preferred. Inquiries and nominations may also be sent to the web address cited above or directed to:

Tim McFeeley, Partner
Isaacson, Miller
http://www.imsearch.com/8166

UNLV is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and candidates are encouraged to apply without regard to race, gender, orientation, religion, national origin, or disability.