

April 28, 2025

National Association of Counsel for Children  
899 N Logan St., Ste. 208  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Samantha Zabo, Letter of Recommendation for NACC's 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award**

Dear National Association of Counsel for Children Awards Selection Committee:

I am writing in support of Samantha Zabo to be selected for the NACC's Outstanding New Lawyer Award recipient. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Samantha for many years. I first met Samantha in 2017 when she was a law school student and worked as an intern in the Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) and I was a children's attorney. I met Samantha again in 2021 when she was hired to be a children's attorney. LACSN is a nonprofit organization that provides access to justice through free legal counsel, advice, and representation to people who are unable to protect their rights because they are unable to afford an attorney. The Children's Attorney's Project is a legal department within LACSN and provides legal representation to abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

Since 2021, I have served as Samantha's supervisor and have had the honor to see her grow in her advocacy. As a children's attorney, Samantha started out intelligent, inquisitive, empathetic, and self-motivated, and with time she has just gotten better. Over the years, Samantha has gained deeper insight and a stronger understanding of child welfare law and the foster care system, has enhanced her judgment, and has become more confident and strategic in her advocacy. None of this occurred overnight.

Samantha began her career as a children's attorney during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was an extremely challenging time to learn a new job that involves going into the homes of clients while wearing masks and taking additional health precautions while trying to build rapport, give guidance, and prepare clients to testify for trial. She set aside her fears, stepped into the unknown, and put in the work to enhance her skills. Samantha has a caseload that consists of over one hundred clients, participates in child family team meetings, mental health treatment team meetings, mediations, court hearings, and trials. Samantha advocates for her clients using a direct representation and substitute judgment model of representation. Samantha stays up to date on the evolving policies and laws that regulate child welfare by devoting herself to numerous hours of trainings and independent research. She does not hesitate to ask questions or do the research to gain deeper insight and is open to others' thoughts and methods on how to better advocate for her clients.

Samantha is also thoughtful in her advocacy. She takes the time to get to know her clients to better understand them and prioritize their needs & wishes. She does this to ensure that her clients are properly represented and their rights are protected because she cares deeply about them and she herself remembers what it was like to be a child in the foster care system and how

much it meant to have someone listen to her and help her voice to be heard. Samantha is well respected for her strong work ethic, professionalism, and passionate advocacy amongst our colleagues and across the legal profession.

Throughout my experiences working with Samantha, I have come to learn that she not only cares about advocating for children in the courtroom but also uplifting them. She has demonstrated it by her contributions towards their well-being of children. While at Legal Aid, Samantha serves as an active member of the Independent Living Team which focuses on helping youth and young adults aging out of foster care to live independently. While on the team, Samantha has advocated for policies and practices, and developed trainings to help ensure that youth aging out of foster care have support and access to resources to successfully transition into adulthood. Samantha has also helped to organize and lead the inaugural Career Paths Fair for youth and young adults in foster care, connecting them with community partners to explore diverse career opportunities, and featuring a panel of speakers who shared personal stories of overcoming obstacles to inspire and motivate youth toward success. Samantha also helped to establish a youth advisory board to provide youth with lived experiences an opportunity to share their stories and help to change Nevada's foster care system. Along the way, Samantha balanced being a new attorney with a full caseload, with getting married, becoming a first-time mother, and within six months of giving birth she also welcomed into her home her spouse's grandmother whom she became the caretaker and guardian over.

In everything that Samantha does, she is actively engaged and committed to the roles and projects that she takes on and is mindful of the contributions and impact that she can make.

Based upon my experiences with Samantha, her skills, experiences, strong work ethic, and contributions demonstrate that she is a great advocate. If selected, Samantha would be an inspiring representative. I strongly support Samantha's nomination as NACC's Outstanding New Lawyer Award recipient. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [acook@lacsnc.org](mailto:acook@lacsnc.org) or (702) 328-9725.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela M. Cook".

Angela M. Cook, Esq.

Team Chief, Children's Attorneys Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada  
State Coordinator of Nevada for the National Association of Counsel for Children

Dear Awards Committee Members:

It is my great honor and pleasure to support the nomination of Samantha Zabo for the NACC 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award. As the directing attorney of the Children's Attorneys Project ("CAP") at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for the past eighteen years, I have hired and supervised dozens of attorneys both new and experienced. Sam's advocacy is truly exceptional and deserving of national recognition. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say she exceeds all the criteria for the Outstanding New Lawyer award.

Sam first came to CAP as a law clerk in 2017. She wowed us both with her lived experience in the child welfare system and her law school passion for public interest law. Her research and writing skills, coupled with an incredible grasp of the fundamental issues facing clients in the child welfare system earned her an offer to become a full time CAP attorney.

Sam became a full-time CAP attorney in 2021 and continues to wow us every day not just with her fierce advocacy (which we expect from all CAP attorneys) but with the causes she has championed and the leadership she has demonstrated so early in her career.

Specifically, Sam is a member of our special Independent Living Team, which is charged with developing policy and procedures for implementing Extended Foster Care, which takes effect in July. The county rollout has been plagued with dysfunction, and Sam and her team have taken on the challenge of negotiating with the County and the child welfare agency to develop policies that safeguard the rights of our clients and ensure the services they need are in place. I can't underestimate the significance of a new attorney taking on this huge leadership role and doing it flawlessly.

Among Sam's greatest gifts is her willingness to use her own lived experience in the foster care system to advocate for and mentor our young adult clients who are aging out of foster care. Her advocacy includes not just fighting for their legal rights, but also imparting a sense of hope and optimism for the future. She makes her clients understand that foster care is not a barrier, and that all things are possible. She offers practical, often out of the box guidance on how to navigate the world of young adulthood. She is wise beyond her years, a leader who commands respect and admiration from our 35 plus CAP attorneys. She is our voice for our clients facing adulthood often with no family support and few positive role models.

For all of these reasons, I am proud to support Sam for the NACC 2025 Outstanding Lawyer Award.

If you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Warmest Regards,

/s/ Janice Wolf, Esq., CWLS  
Janice Wolf, Esq., CWLS  
Directing Attorney

*Keels Law Group, Inc.*

**Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.**

7473 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

(725) 735-6077-Office / (702) 321-4441-Cell

[Stephanie@Keelslawgroup.com](mailto:Stephanie@Keelslawgroup.com)

April 28, 2025

NACC

899 N. Logan Street, Suite 208

Denver, Colorado 80203

***Re: NACC 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award Nomination - Samantha Zabo***

I am honored to submit this letter in support of Samantha Zabo's nomination for the 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award. I have been licensed to practice law in Nevada since 2000. The majority of my legal practice has been dedicated to representing parents in the child welfare system since 2007. It is in this capacity that I have had the opportunity of working with Ms. Zabo over the past four years.

Ms. Zabo is a zealous and effective advocate for her clients. She consistently appears at hearings thoroughly prepared to address her clients' needs, articulate their positions, and vigorously advocate for the outcomes they seek. I have observed Ms. Zabo represent all clients with unwavering passion and effectiveness, irrespective of their socioeconomic status, race, creed, or color. Equally important, Ms. Zabo is committed to ensuring that her clients' cultural, religious, and ethnic identities are respected and considered by the court, foster families, and biological parents whenever these factors impact her clients' well-being.

Ms. Zabo also demonstrates an exceptional ability to collaborate with opposing counsel, including parents' attorneys and the district attorney, to craft creative solutions that advance her clients' interests. I have witnessed Ms. Zabo work cooperatively with counsel in one matter and then, when necessary, respectfully but vigorously oppose the same counsel in another case. At all times, her advocacy is firmly grounded in her clients' expressed wishes.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse Samantha Zabo for the 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Stephanie Keels*

Stephanie M. Keels, Esq.



**CLARK COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

*Juvenile Division*

**STEVEN B. WOLFSON**  
District Attorney

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601 N. Pecos Road • Las Vegas, NV 89101-2408 • 702-455-5320 • Fax: 702-455-5878 • TDD: 702-385-7486

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BRIGID J. DUFFY

*Assistant District Attorney*

KAREN S. CLIFFE

*Assistant District Attorney*

LISA LOGSDON

*County Counsel*

ALEXANDER CHEN

*Assistant District Attorney*

PAMELA WECKERLY

*Assistant District Attorney*

May 19, 2025

National Association of Counsel for Children  
899 N Logan St., Ste. 208  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Samantha Zabo  
NACC Outstanding New Lawyer Award

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Samantha Zabo for the Outstanding New Lawyer Award.

I am a Chief Deputy District Attorney with the Clark County District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have twenty years of experience as an attorney. For the last eight years, I have represented the people of Clark County, and the Clark County Family Services Agency, in child welfare cases. I have had the opportunity to work with Samantha Zabo since October 2021.

Samantha Zabo represents the children in the child welfare cases to which I am assigned. During the time I have worked with Ms. Zabo, I have observed her to consistently demonstrate excellence in legal representation. Ms. Zabo is an earnest advocate for her clients. She always meets with her clients prior to hearings, she understands their needs and wants, and she effectively conveys this information to the court. Ms. Zabo researches and understands the law and current social sciences in order to make cogent and persuasive arguments.

Beyond the skills she has demonstrated related to litigation in the courtroom, outside of the courtroom, I have observed Ms. Zabo to effectively work with the parents, the child welfare agency, and community partners to resolve issues quickly for her clients.

Ms. Zabo definitely elevates the standard of practice in our community. She is dedicated to the children she represents, and is knowledgeable regarding the issues that are impacting them. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie A. Iscan".

Laurie A. Iscan

Chief Deputy District Attorney



Honorable Dee Smart Butler

District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court – Family Division  
601 N. Pecos Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89108

May 19, 2025

Letter of Support – NACC Outstanding New Lawyer Award Nomination

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with respect and admiration that I write this letter in support of Samantha Zabo for the National Association of Counsel for Children's Outstanding New Lawyer Award.

Ms. Zabo has been an attorney with the Children's Attorneys Project with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada since March of 2021. As a judge who has presided over multiple proceedings in which Ms. Zabo has served as counsel for children, I have had the opportunity to observe her practice firsthand. She consistently demonstrates an extraordinary level of commitment, compassion, and competence in her advocacy. In some cases, she stood out as the sole unwavering voice for the child—sometimes the primary person in the courtroom wholly focused on the child's needs, wishes, and best interests.

Ms. Zabo's preparation and knowledge of her cases is exceptional; she arrives timely and knows the facts of her cases thoroughly, having insight about the child's life, history, and current challenges. She is not only present—she is present with purpose. She regularly exceeds what is expected of her, pursuing avenues and solutions that go beyond standard advocacy.

In short, Ms. Zabo demonstrates what it means to be a zealous, ethical, and effective advocate for children clients. I have no doubt she will continue to be a leading voice for children's rights and welfare in the years to come. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend Samantha Zabo for the NACC's Outstanding New Lawyer Award. She is precisely the kind of lawyer this award was meant to recognize.

Sincerely,



Hon. Dee Smart Butler  
Eighth Judicial District Court Judge – Family Division, Dept. J



## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

FAMILY DIVISION  
FAMILY COURTS & SERVICES CENTER  
601 NORTH PECOS ROAD  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101-2408

**RHONDA K. FORSBERG**  
DISTRICT JUDGE

DEPARTMENT G  
(702) 455-6940  
FAX: (702) 384-5074

May 19, 2025

Dear NACC Awards Selection Committee,

I am writing in Support of Samantha Zabo's nomination for the National Association of Counsel for Children's (NACC) 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award.

I have the honor of having Ms. Zabo represent children that are before me on my dependency docket. She is a vigorous advocate who is always prepared and informed on the law. She does not back down when it comes to advocating for her clients.

Prior to Ms. Zabo representing children through the Children's Attorney Project, Ms. Zabo was before me on her very first trial. She appeared at trial just shortly after being admitted to practice law. I was shocked to see that her firm sent her on her own with no co-counsel, for a very complex financial matter. Though any new attorney who had been licensed to practice law for under one (1) month would be terrified, Ms. Zabo handled the case with proper decorum and vigorously advocated for her client.

I have been impressed to see how her tenacity has transferred to being a children's attorney. The children who Ms. Zabo represents are extremely lucky to have her advocating on their behalf. She does not let anything stop her from putting forth her client's wishes. This court appreciates her dedication to the children she serves.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda K. Forsberg", is written over the typed name.

Judge Rhonda K. Forsberg



## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

FAMILY DIVISION  
601 NORTH PECOS ROAD  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101-2408

May 28, 2025

National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)

**RE: SAMANTHA ZABO – NOMINATION LETTER  
OUTSTANDING NEW LAWYER AWARD**

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is my sincere pleasure to submit this Letter on behalf of Samantha Zabo nominating her for NACC's Outstanding New Lawyer Award. I've had the privilege to have attorney Zabo appear before me on many occasions representing children and youth in the child welfare system. Based upon the high quality of attorney Zabo's legal representation of children, I hereby nominate her for the New Lawyer Award.

I served as a District Court Judge and Hearing Master presiding over Juvenile Dependency proceedings for over fifteen (15) years and currently serve as a Senior Judge. As such, attorney Zabo regularly appeared in my court as a children's attorney. Attorney Zabo consistently demonstrated dedication to her clients by ensuring that each client had a voice that was heard loud and clear by the court! She refused to allow her clients to fall prey to the "system" by becoming subject to generic welfare practices. Attorney Zabo relentlessly advocated for services to address the individualized and special needs of each and every child. She was not hesitant to hold individuals, system partners, and community providers accountable, including the court, by respectfully challenging the appropriateness of each action taken on behalf of a child to help ensure that every child received a safe, nurturing and permanent home in a timely manner.

Not only does attorney Zabo provide superb legal representation, she demonstrates excellent leadership. Attorney Zabo created a Youth Advisory Board to provide a platform for youth to share their child welfare experiences to influence meaningful change within Nevada's foster care system. She organized the Career Paths Fair for youth in foster care connecting them with community partners to explore diverse career opportunities, featuring a panel of speakers sharing their personal stories in overcoming obstacles to inspire and motivate youth toward success. Suffice to say, attorney Zabo is a proven leader in helping to achieve successful outcomes for our children and youth in the child welfare system.



**RE: SAMANTHA ZABO**

May 28, 2025

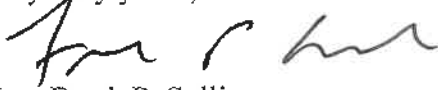
Page 2

Attorney Zabo exhibits initiative by serving as an active member of the Independent Living Team advocating for policies and practices to guarantee that youth aging out of foster care have vital resources for their successful transition to adulthood. She also edited the Teen Rights Booklet assisting teens in foster care to understand the child welfare system and their rights. Moreover, she is a mentor to foster youth wherein she empowers them to use their voices and insights to help create meaningful change through policy advocacy. Attorney Zabo is clearly driven to improve the lives of youth in the foster care system.

On a more personal note, it comes as no surprise that attorney Zabo is so committed to providing high-quality legal representation for youth in foster care, and devoted to advocating for meaningful change in the child welfare system, after all, she personally experienced foster care as a youth. Consideration of the obstacles that Samantha has already overcome in her relatively young life, speaks volumes about the depth and quality of her character. Accordingly, I can't think of a person more worthy than Samantha to receive NACC's 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award!

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss Samantha's worthiness to receive the Award, I may be reached directly on my cell phone at (702) 493-7123. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank P. Sullivan", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Frank P. Sullivan  
Senior District Court Judge



May 16, 2025

Dear Members of the NACC Awards Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of endorsement and hearty recommendation of my former student, Samantha Zabo, for the National Association of Counsel for Children's (NACC) 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award. Samantha is richly deserving of this recognition. I first met Samantha when she was an undergraduate criminal justice, pre-law, and political science student at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and she volunteered at the Reno location of the Kids' Court School (KCS) program, a nationally recognized program that educates child witnesses about the court process and teaches them strategies to reduce anxiety during testimony. Although the KCS program was established at the Boyd School of Law in 2002, it had only recently been established at the National Judicial College in Reno when Samantha signed up to volunteer, yet Samantha sought out the program and became one of the first volunteers. This is characteristic of Samantha, taking the initiative to make a difference in children's lives.

After graduation from UNR, Samantha began her legal studies at the Boyd School of Law, where she was an excellent student and an active member of several student law organizations. She was also a Public Interest Fellow and won the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Public Interest Law Student of Distinction Award. One of the things that impressed me most was Samantha's dedication to children and community service, and, in particular, the long and tireless hours she dedicated to the KCS. Samantha volunteered in KCS every week throughout her law school career, serving as an educator in both the KCS program and the KCS Competency Remediation program for youth in the delinquency system found incompetent to stand trial. Samantha impacted more than 200 children during her involvement in KCS, enabling them to have a voice in court.

While in law school, Samantha was a student attorney in the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic's Family Justice Clinic, where she provided legal representation to children, parents, and guardians in family law cases. Since her graduation from the Boyd School of Law, Samantha has continued to represent children as an attorney in the Children's Attorneys Project at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN), where she provides counsel to children in abuse and neglect proceedings, ensuring that children understand their rights and have a voice in the proceedings which pertain to their lives. Samantha is a member of the Independent Living Team at LACSN, advocating for policies and practices to ensure youth and young adults aging out of foster care have vital resources for their successful transition to adulthood. She is also a member of the Children's Attorneys Project Leadership and Advocacy Program, where she created a

youth advisory board to provide a platform for youth with lived experiences to share their stories to influence meaningful change within Nevada's foster care system and beyond, while ensuring that youth are heard, valued, and supported.

Samantha has made, and continues to make, significant contributions to the rights and well-being of children and families through high-quality legal representation as well as through her dedication to pro bono work. There is no one more deserving of the NACC's 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award than Samantha Zabo. Please contact me at 702-321-5422 or at [rebecca.nathanson@unlv.edu](mailto:rebecca.nathanson@unlv.edu) if you have any questions or if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Nathanson*

Rebecca Nathanson, Ph.D.  
James Rogers Professor of Education & Law

LEGAL AID CENTER <sup>Since 1958</sup>  
■ ■ ■ ■ of Southern Nevada

May, 14, 2025

NACC  
899, N. Logan Street, Suite 208  
Denver, Colorado 80203

***Re: NACC 2025 Outstanding New Lawyer Award Nomination – Samantha Zabo***

I am so pleased to recommend Samantha Zabo as NACC Outstanding Lawyer of 2025. Having been very active in NACC, I am fully aware of the importance of having a dedicated and responsible lawyer for a child. As you may be aware, I have been a lawyer for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada as a children's attorney for the past 17 years and before that I practiced in Minnesota as a Guardian ad Litem in my early years as a teacher, children have always been part of my life.

I first met Samantha as she was a law clerk in our offices. I worked with her on many projects and was amazed at how much insight she had regarding kids in foster care. It was then I learned that she was a foster child her self and recognized the importance of regular contact with clients. She has been a zealous advocate for her clients. She talks to them regularly and sees them as often as possible. She always does a thorough reading of the file and always checks to make sure she has all the correct information regarding them and especially how they are feeling.

Not only is she a zealous advocate but she always tries to negotiate settlements when possible according to her clients wishes and advocated zealously when an agreement cannot be reached. She is an expert on courtroom procedures and evidence and is passionate in her arguments. She always tries to negotiate a settlement that her client wants and is in their best interest. Our office sends out a questionnaire after closing a case to determine how well the client feels they were represented and she has been named exceptional. She always zealously advocated for her client's position.

She is an exceptional attorney and loved by her clients and her peers even though she can be at odds with opposing attorneys, I highly recommend her.

Sincerely,



Candace Barr, Esq.  
Team Chief

May 19, 2025

National Association of Counsel for Children  
899 N Logan., Ste. 208  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Samantha Zabo, Esq.  
NACC Outstanding New Lawyer Award

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Samantha Zabo for the NACC Outstanding New Lawyer Award.

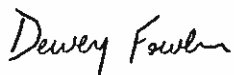
I am a Team Chief Attorney with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have 14 years of experience as an attorney; and for the last 9 years I have served as a Children's Attorney. I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Samantha Zabo since March 2021; and previously before that when she served as a law clerk for our office.

Ms. Zabo currently represents abuse and neglected children in foster care. In addition, she sits on the Independent Living Team; where she counsels older foster youth between the ages of 16-21 who will soon transition out of Nevada's Foster care system. I have observed her to consistently demonstrate excellence in legal representation. Also I have witnessed first-hand her dedication, expertise, and professionalism. She is an outstanding and zealous advocate for her clients. Ms. Zabo is always very well prepared, meeting with her clients ahead of hearings, and effectively advocating for their expressed desires in court. She researches and understands the law and how it applies to her clients unique set of facts. This keen understanding allows Ms. Zabo to achieve the best desired outcome in court for her clients.

Aside from Ms. Zabo's legal competencies, she demonstrates the highest level of ethics and integrity, which are imperative qualities for anyone in the legal profession. Her commitment to fairness and justice motivates her to go above and beyond to ensure all parties receive fair representation. She is able to effectively work and collaborate with the child welfare agency, district attorney, and parents counsel to resolve matters amicably and expeditiously.

I wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Zabo for this award. She is dedicated to the legal profession and her role as a Children's Attorney. She has the rare blend of skills, passion, and talent which will enable her to succeed in future endeavors. I have no doubt that she will make a valuable addition to the NACC. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or clarification.

Respectfully,



Dewey Fowler, Esq.  
Team Chief Attorney  
Chair of the Independent Living Team



GIVING  
BACKPUBLIC INTEREST  
ADVISORY BOARD

**Cynthia Alexander,**  
Dickinson Wright

**The Honorable Nancy Alif,** Eighth Judicial District Court

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**Bill Curran,** Ballard Spahr

**Chief Justice Michael Douglas,** Supreme Court of Nevada

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Nevada Legal Services

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Eighth Judicial District Court

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**Professor Lydia Nussbaum,** William S. Boyd School of Law

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**Samantha Scofield,**  
William S. Boyd School of Law

**Associate Dean Christine Smith,**  
William S. Boyd School of Law

**The Honorable Gloria Sturman,** Eighth Judicial District Court

**Elana Turner**  
**Graham,** Southern Nevada Senior Law Program

**Brittanie Watkins,**  
Pisanelli Bice



# At Your Service

SAMANTHA SCOFIELD  
EPITOMIZES UNLV LAW'S  
ENDURING COMMITMENT  
TO THE COMMUNITY

BY CAMILLE CANNON

At a time when most girls her age were caught up in the frivolities of teenage life and giving little thought to a career, Samantha Scofield was laser focused on her future. She was determined to become a lawyer, and it all stemmed from being raised in foster care from the age of 13.

"I saw how many disadvantages there are [for foster children]," says Scofield, a third-year student and public interest fellow at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. "I wanted to become a voice and advocate for youth."

Scofield began working toward that goal as an undergraduate at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she double-majored in political

science and criminal justice/pre-law, while also pursuing minors in business administration and philosophy. She even carved out time during her final semester to volunteer with a Reno-based version of Boyd Law's Kids' Court School, Reno, participating in mock trials that educate child witnesses about the court process.

Knowing that UNLV Law was responsible for founding a program she greatly admired helped convince Scofield to head south to begin her legal journey. "Boyd's commitment to public interest drew me in," she says.

It's a commitment that's been in place since the law school opened 20 years ago. In fact, every Boyd student who has earned their J.D. has been required to complete the school's community service program. As part of a partnership with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services, Boyd students—with supervision from attorneys—teach free legal education classes to members of the Southern Nevada community.

The year-round classes are offered to the public as often as three times a week at the law school, Legal Aid Center, and the Clark County Library. During the sessions, students cover such legal topics as family law, record-seal-

ing, immigration, bankruptcy, and small-claims issues, among others.

"I'm proud of our students and the work they do in the program," says Christine Smith, Boyd's Associate Dean for Public Service, Compliance, and Administration. "This is one way the law school serves those who need access to justice but can't afford an attorney."

As Boyd's founding associate dean, Smith spearheaded the development of the semester-long program, which students must complete by the end of the fall semester of their second year. Smith estimates that Boyd students have served more than 70,000 people.

"This program has become a vital piece of our legal infrastructure in helping meet unmet legal needs," says Barbara Buckley, Executive Director of Legal Aid Center. "The feedback is so incredibly positive. [Attendees] just don't have access to this quality of information anywhere else."

While the community benefits greatly from the students' efforts, students themselves receive something valuable, too: on-the-job experience and an appreciation for the importance of pro bono work. "It helps [make] better lawyers," says Cliff Marcek, UNLV Law's Coordinator of Community Service.

Like many Boyd students before her, Scofield has expanded her public interest work beyond the community service program. For instance, as a public interest fellow, she works with Smith to research pro bono policies of Nevada law firms, so that the law school can give students information on firms that value pro bono service.

On top of all that—and her studies—Scofield is a Volunteer Education Advocate through Legal Aid Center. In this role, she helps children who don't have a parent obtain the scholastic resources they need to succeed in the classroom. In other words, Scofield is well on her way to living her dream.

"Boyd has really given me the opportunity to do what I want with my law degree," she says. "And no matter what I do, I want to be able to help children."





*What adventure will  
you find at the*

# CAREER PATHS *Fair?*

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 4, 2024**

**11 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**PEARSON COMMUNITY CENTER**

**1625 W. Carey Ave.**

**North Las Vegas, NV 89032**

- ✳ Open to youth and young adults (16-21) in independent living programs
- ✳ Featuring retired NFL player David "Hot Dog" Hollis and Power 88.1 FM's Dr. Lawrence Weekly
- ✳ Free food, fun, and prizes
- ✳ Networking opportunities

*Details &  
Registration*

**WWW.LACSN.ORG/FAIR**



LEGAL AID CENTER Since 1958  
■■■■ of Southern Nevada



*William McCurdy II*  
CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT D







*What adventure will  
you find at the*

# CAREER PATHS

*Fair?*

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 31, 2025**

**11 A.M. – 2 P.M.**

**PEARSON COMMUNITY CENTER**  
1625 W. Carey Ave.  
North Las Vegas, NV 89032

- ★ Free food and prizes for youth and young adults in independent living programs
- ★ Opportunities with vendors from different trades, including the Culinary Academy, Nevada Army National Guard, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada Subcontractors Association, Job Corps, EmployNV, Milan Institute, Northwest Career College, CSN, and many more
- ★ Former County Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Weekly and NFL player David Hollis

Since 1978  
**LEGAL AID  
CENTER**  
♦♦♦♦ of Southern Nevada



togetherforbetter



*Please register  
by May 27*

**WWW.LACSN.ORG/FAIR**

