

Governor Miller speaks to inaugural law class

By Tracie Walker
News Editor

Governor Bob Miller spoke to the class of about 100 students recounting his early days of law practice and offering words of wisdom and encouragement.

"You will hear more lawyer jokes than you will ever care to hear," said Miller, "but if it was not for lawyers, this country would be in chaos."

He reminded students that law practice is a privilege.

"You must remember that people are putting their trust in you," he said, "financially as well as emotionally."

"Though there are a small percentage who disregard ethical considerations of the practice, several institutions such as the State Bar

Association ensure that they will be suspended or disbarred," said Miller. "And yes, it does happen in this state."

Among respected leaders of the community who have law degrees, Miller mentioned Bill Boyd, after whom the school is named. Boyd practiced law when Miller was entering the legal field and is now more widely known as a gaming and hotel entrepreneur.

Also mentioned was the late Hank Greenspun who successfully pursued journalism and land development.



Gov. Bob Miller,
Governor

Miller also cited Greenspun's son, Brian Greenspun, who also has a law degree and now heads his family's business.

He emphasized the responsibility of being a lawyer.

"It is up to you, collectively and individually, to protect the rights of individual clients, to advocate on their behalf and to help judges come to a fair decision," Miller said. "Keep in mind that your actions will frame future decisions and ultimately, they frame the course of this country."

Miller offered words of encouragement to the freshmen.

Speaking from his own experience, Miller said, "My first year of law school was the most

difficult year of my education, to date. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Even after the first year, not necessarily the third or fourth year, the load is lighter.

"Enjoy the things around you, and try not to let yourself grow too anxious about your studies."

Miller said, "In my lifetime, I never dreamed that there would be a school like this in the state of Nevada."

"The impact will be felt in several ways. It will certainly help the university system of the state as well as those who wouldn't otherwise consider pursuing this field, especially with the availability of evening classes."

"The law school will also facilitate the involvement of community members, such as myself, with students."

"And it will increase the level of public service. So I think it will benefit the state in many ways, which is why I supported it and put it in the budget."

One student asked if it would stay in the budget, or if students could expect financial cuts.

"To eliminate the law school would be a public relations nightmare," replied Miller. "But since the economy has slowed, we will be tightening belts all around in the next couple of years. The only way you will feel it may be in higher tuition costs, but the law school will probably not be eliminated."

Mayor Jones speaks at Nidetch Center fifth anniversary

By Tracie Walker
News Editor

Mayor Jan Jones was the guest speaker at the Jean Nidetch Women's Center fifth anniversary luncheon on Aug. 18th.

Financial supporters and friends of the institution were among the more than 150 guests who attended.

"God didn't bring me to Las Vegas," said Jones to begin her speech. "Well, if she was a woman, it may have been God."

She congratulated the center for the 7,000 calls that came for help and for tripling the re-entry student numbers.

"Without guidance, many women are without the financial and emotional resources they need," she said.

Jones also recounted her battle with breast cancer and the nine chemotherapy treatments she has endured.

In Las Vegas, 70 percent of breast cancer treatment is lumpectomy and 30 percent is mastectomy.

According to Jones, elsewhere those numbers are just the reverse due to male doctors who do not understand a woman's desire to keep her breast and because breast cancer research was exclusively done on men, she said.

A teary-eyed Jean Nidetch thanked her staff and talked about her early days in Las Vegas.

"A lot of people asked me,



Mayor Jan Jones (right) with Jean Nidetch at the Jean Nidetch Women's Center fifth anniversary celebration.

"What brought you to Las Vegas?" she began. "I say God. I'm not ultra-religious, but it was a miracle."

"When I moved here, I walked around campus and would talk to students. I have never seen a city that supports its university with such love and appreciation."

"I get letters all the time from students who overcame adversity and

went all the way [to graduation]. They invite me to their weddings and keep in touch with me."

"This is one of the proudest things I've ever done in my life," she said.

Nidetch began the center five years ago with a million dollar donation. This year she has donated \$183,700 for 121 scholarships.

Mass., and Alexandria, Va., gave similar reasons for non-accreditation.

Like California Southern, most of these schools only offer part-time programs lasting four or five years. Traditional programs last three.

At UNLV, Durand realizes that full-time enrollment is an important factor when being considered for accreditation, but he does not feel the school has anything to worry about.

Durand said that out of nearly 450 applications, the school accepted approximately 190 students to fill 140 seats.

"Many students may be accepted by more than one school and some that we accept may not chose to attend," he said.

"Accepted students above the 140 limit are put on a waiting list and are called on as seats become available. We have been enrolling students right up to the first day of classes."

Students attending the Boyd School of Law accept a certain chance of receiving a non-accredited law degree but school officials are making efforts to minimize the risk.

They are the same risks that are assumed by students at any new law school. Students must weigh the risks and decide for themselves.

to recognize such a wonderful center.

"When I was a student, there were no programs for women, no opportunity to congregate and discuss issues," said Berkley, former student body president of UNLV.

"The fastest growing group on campus is women in their 30's and 40's with families who return to school," she said. "Only 16 percent of Las Vegas high school students attend UNLV."

"It is difficult to comprehend how difficult it is to return to an academic environment. The Jean Nidetch Women's Center helps women make the transition," said Berkley.

Attendee Sandra Menley was one of those women.

"It was because of this luncheon two years ago that I came back to school. I did things backwards and I got married first," said Menley.

Paula Francis and Gary Waddell from Channel 8 News were also present with cameras.

On Sept. 26, the fifth annual Community Job Fair will host 140 businesses seeking to recruit employees. Sponsored by the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, the fair will be held on campus along the academic mall.

Approximately 2,000 job seekers will look to fill both hourly and professional jobs. Job seekers should come ready to interview with resume in hand.

courtesy photo

ACCREDIT CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE: "We can keep our tuition low..."

ant, we would fix the problem and re-apply because the project is too important for its supporters, the state and the university to give up."

According to Durand, the school received an informal but favorable visit by Jim White, deputy consultant of education for the ABA earlier in the year.

"Although White did not issue any official statement, he did indicate to Dean (Richard J.) Morgan that he felt the school was looking good so far."

During a June press conference, Rick Bennett, UNLV's director for government relations, stated that he feels the school will receive accreditation at the first available opportunity.

"Support and funding for the law school is very high at all levels of government. I don't anticipate any problems whatsoever," said Bennett.

Currently, there are 24 non-ABA accredited law schools in the United States and only five of them lie east of California.

Brian Rich, registrar at California Southern Law School in Riverside, Calif., does not believe that this

suggests that Western schools somehow do not measure up to the same standards as their Eastern rivals.

He gives a more innocent explanation for this statistic.

Rich says that ABA accreditation requires many things including a full-time staff and university-size facilities. "Smaller schools like ours offer an affordable alternative for many students who wish to attend part-time classes."

"We can keep our tuition low because we don't have the expenses of the UCAs and USCs."

Rich also says that the only advantage of attending an ABA school is that a graduate may take the bar exam in any state without delay.

"Students from non-accredited schools in California may practice in California for a while, and then later apply to take the bar in another state."

While some states have similar policies regarding in-state practice, Nevada does not.

School administrators nationwide including those in Birmingham, Ala., Nashville, Tenn., Andover,


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