

For Immediate Release

Lionel Sawyer & Collins

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Richard Morgan, Founding Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law,  
To Join Lionel Sawyer & Collins, Nevada's Largest Law Firm

Richard Morgan, founding Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, today announced he will join Lionel Sawyer & Collins, Nevada's largest law firm, upon his retirement on June 30.

Terming the firm "a leader by any measure," Dean Morgan said his duties will allow him "a variable work schedule and duties that go beyond the traditional practice of law." He explained those duties will include training of new attorneys, creation of continuing legal education programs, governmental advocacy and consultation at the federal, state and local levels, client and practice area development and alternative dispute resolution.

In addressing the factors that led him to join Lionel Sawyer & Collins, Dean Morgan said "it was the first Nevada firm to win an international reputation for integrity and achievement. Its attorneys know Nevada law and precedent because they have been instrumental in creating that law and precedent over the past four decades. It measures fulfillment of its responsibilities by support of education and other programs that benefit the citizens of Nevada as well as by achieving success for its clients."

Dean Morgan's work in government advocacy and consultation will be done in conjunction with Richard H. Bryan, former Nevada governor and U.S. Senator, who heads those practice areas at the law firm.

"Dean Morgan has achieved legendary status in Nevada," Bryan said. "We are honored that he will now be contributing to the future of Nevada as a member of the Lionel Sawyer & Collins legal team." The law firm recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has offices in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City and Washington, D. C.

In a meeting with members of the news media today, Dean Morgan termed his 10 years with the Boyd School of Law as "the best" of his 27 years in legal education, which has also included service as dean of the colleges of law at the University of Wyoming and Arizona State University. He noted the Boyd School of Law "achieved provisional and full American Bar Association accreditation in record time, qualified for membership in the Association of American Law Schools in only five years and established a national reputation as a model for how to start a new and excellent law school."

Dean Morgan said his variable work schedule with Lionel Sawyer & Collins will allow him to continue his leadership role in the ABA's Section of Legal Education, membership on three gaming industry compliance committees and service as a director of Power Efficiency Corporation and as a member of community and legal service boards. He also will be a consultant with Sunbelt Communications and the Vista Group of companies.

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**Statement of Dean Richard Morgan**

William S. Boyd School of Law

April 11, 2007

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as the founding dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law for the last ten years. During this time, the school has established itself very well and quickly, thanks to tremendous support from the Nevada bench, bar, legislature, regents and community in general. With excellent private support from major donors like Bill Boyd, Jim Rogers, Joyce Mack, the Parry Thomas Family, Mike and Sonja Saltman, and Sam Lionel, the school achieved provisional and full American Bar Association accreditation in record time, qualified for membership in the Association of American Law Schools in only five years, and established a national reputation as a model for how to start a new and excellent law school.

During the course of my deanship, the law school has brought together excellent students, staff and faculty, developed a strong and innovative academic program, and created first class physical facilities for the law school. Through the scholarly excellence of its faculty and the strength of its nationally-ranked specialty programs—the Lawyering Process Program, the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, and the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic—the law school has achieved national recognition. And, with the excellent support of UNLV's central administration, the board of regents and chancellor, the school has built an excellent foundation for the future.

With that foundation built, it seemed to me that it was time for me move on, to let the law school benefit from new leadership and to allow me to spend my time on new pursuits, both personal and professional. I will always cherish my UNLV years as the best of my professional career, during which I have been blessed with some great opportunities and positions, including deanships at two other fine law schools. But UNLV has been the best; I will always treasure this experience and the support and friendship that I have received from so many people in the university, Las Vegas and Nevada communities.

After announcing my plan to retire from this deanship on June 30, I was pleased to receive some expressions of interest from law firms and others in our community. After considering those opportunities, I decided that I would like to continue my involvement in our legal community, on a limited basis, and that I could do so while still devoting more time to my family and recreational interests.

So, after twenty-seven years in legal education, I have accepted an invitation to affiliate with a Nevada Law firm. Nevada's law firms rank among the best, and I have determined the best one for me is Lionel Sawyer & Collins. It is the largest firm in Nevada and one of the oldest, having just celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

My title will be Of Counsel, which will allow me a variable work schedule and duties that go beyond the traditional practice of law. Among my responsibilities will be coordinating training of

the firm's new attorneys; creating continuing legal education programs; governmental advocacy and consultation at the federal, state and local levels; client and legal practice area development; and maybe even some alternative dispute resolution, something that our law school stresses.

Many factors guided me to this decision, including that Lionel Sawyer & Collins is a leader by any measure, that it was the first Nevada firm to win an international reputation for integrity and achievement, that its attorneys know Nevada law and precedent because they have been instrumental in creating that law and precedent over the past four decades, and that it measures fulfillment of its responsibilities by support of education and other programs that benefit the citizens of Nevada as well as by achieving success for its clients.

In addition to my work with Lionel Sawyer & Collins, I intend to continue service as an independent member of compliance committees for the Nevada gaming industry. I serve as a member of the MGM MIRAGE compliance committee, vice chair of the Aruze Corp. compliance committee and chair of the Cantor Gaming compliance committee.

I also expect to enter into consulting arrangements with Jim Rogers' company, Sunbelt Communications, and with Mike Saltman's Vista Group of companies. I will continue my service on some community and legal service boards in Nevada, and my leadership role in the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education. And, I will serve on the board of directors of Power Efficiency Corporation, a local company that is developing energy saving devices for use on electric motors.

I look forward to watching the continued progress of the Boyd School of Law, and to contributing to that progress to the extent that I can. Of special interest is a proposal, to be considered by the new dean and faculty in the future, that would expand and enhance the gaming law program. Thanks to the leadership of Bob Faiss, a Lionel Sawyer & Collins partner, renowned gaming law expert and Boyd adjunct professor, the law school has one of the best gaming law programs in the country. The enhanced and expanded program, if approved by the faculty and dean, could result in a very special program, one that could take its place with our other special programs in quality, reputation and service.