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New Dean of Faculty Is Kicking Up Her Heels

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The American Board of Certification (ABC) was infused with a burst of energy when its new Dean of Faculty, Prof. **Nancy B. Rapoport**, took the reins in January. If you don't believe me, take a look at her blog, her Facebook page and her resume! A law school professor and former dean, she currently serves as the Gordon Silver Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. She lives in Las Vegas with her husband, Jeff Van Niel, also a lawyer, who is currently working at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.



Bettie Kelley Sousa

Just what does ABC's Faculty Committee do? The most obvious duty is to grade the examinations taken by applicants for board certification. According to Prof. Rapoport, when compared to grading the large volume of law school exams, this is "a breeze." There are other jobs for ABC's Faculty Committee. The exam questions must be created and reviewed. Exams must meet criteria established by various national and state organizations, such as the American Bar Association and state bars. Periodically, ABC's exams are assessed by a psychometri-

About the Author

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cian to determine that the exams in fact distinguish specialists. It is the Faculty Committee that bears the responsibility for the exams. ABC has been honored to have a number of outstanding Deans of Faculty over the years. Former ABC Deans include recent ABI Resident Scholar Prof. **Laura Bartell** of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, and five other ABC Deans who were ABI Scholars.

"This is not legal advice." The students did just that, and they are pictured in their t-shirts on the blog!



Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport

Then there's her ballroom dancing hobby. Per her resume, "in her spare time, she competes, pro-am, in American Rhythm and American Smooth ballroom dancing with her teacher, Sergei Shapoval." It

is not hard to believe someone with Prof. Rapoport's energy can kick up her heels, but it is inconceivable that she has any spare time!

Lastly, there's her starring role in an Academy Award®-nominated movie.

ABC Update

There's something special about Prof. Rapoport. Maybe it is her zest for life that shows through in all she does—and she does a lot. First, there's her blog, <http://nancyrapoport.blogspot.com>. A Top 25 LexisNexis® Business Law Blog Winner, her blog is filled with information, passed-along articles, links to her publications, and her views... about law and everything else. A favorite post recently highlighted some of her clever Professional Responsibility students, who memorialized one of her teachings: "Lawyers should have t-shirts printed that say on the front 'I am not your lawyer' and on the back

Well, not exactly "starring." If you see the movie *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* (Magnolia Pictures, 2005), she's there, briefly, as herself.

ABC welcomes Prof. Rapoport and her energy back to its board as its new Dean of Faculty. ■

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