

THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | MARCH 30, 2015

TJSL'S BARRISTERS BALL 2015



This year's Barristers Ball held at Petco Park on Saturday, March 28 was a huge success.

"The venue was absolutely breath taking," said SBA Social Events Director Michelle Ribaud. "It was fun watching everyone walk onto the field and gaze around at the vast and open stadium in awe. The ambiance of the event was light and fun and the night was filled with great tunes provided by *The Innocent Bystanders*."

The Barristers Ball is SBA's annual awards ceremony honoring students, faculty, staff and alumni. It is an opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate achievements in a fun and formal setting.

Throughout the evening, awards were handed out for:

1L Professor of the Year of the Year:

Professor William Slomanson

2L Professor of the Year:

Professor Marybeth Herald

3L Professor of the Year: Brenda Simon

Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year:

Professor Karen Harkins

Staff Member of the Year: Jody La Salle

Student Organization President of the Year:

Rose Kabir

Student Appreciation Award:

Lauren Audette

SBA Appreciation Award:

Phil Shapiro '85

Lewis and Clark Award for Innovation and Dedication:

Professor Lilys McCoy

Thomas Golden Alumnus of the Year Award:

Eric Ganci '08

Charles T. Bumer Civil Libertarian Award:

Daven Raj Ghandhi

"I would like to give a special thanks to all of our sponsors for their donations," said Social Events Director Michelle Ribaud. "The students who dedicated their time to help ensure the night ran smoothly, and to all of our guests, all of whom made the night a success!"

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSES WOMEN AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



The 15th annual Women and the Law Conference held on Friday, March 27, focused on women and the criminal justice system and created a broad based and relevant dialogue among panelists and attendees.

“Gauging our progress requires looking backwards. Looking at the present and then planning for the future,” said Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp in her opening remarks regarding the need to continually revisit the issues women face in the law and setting the tone for the conference.

The first panel, moderated by KPBS reporter Amita Sharma, explored the ways in which the criminal justice system treats women differently than men. Speakers on the panel included Federal Defenders of San Diego attorney Bridget Kennedy, San Diego criminal defense attorney Rebecca Jones and Editor-in-chief of the Thomas Jefferson Law Review Cassandra Lawrenson. The discussion included women criminal defendants’ ability to successfully incorporate battered person syndrome into their defense and the hurdles women defense attorneys face arguing these types of cases to bodies of decision makers generally made up of men.

Retired criminal defense attorney and author of *The Defense is Ready: Life in the Trenches of Criminal Law*, keynote speaker Leslie Abramson delivered the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture. Best remembered for representing defendants such as the Melendez brothers and Phil Spector, Abramson candidly talked about the lessons she learned throughout

her career as a woman and a defense attorney, “What I think is something necessary to be a great criminal lawyer is something I think women already have, a desire to understand people and human relationships.” As in her book, she admits, “I never thought of myself as much as feminist but as someone with a mindset that they can’t stop me from doing what I want to do, and that’s all there was to it.”

Attendee Maura Kate Benford-Combs said, “Seeing the passion for justice is liberating and invigorating. The quality and caliber of people who are caring and fighting provides a whole different point of view for what is possible with justice. It has reactivated my passion and my belief in people.”

Professor William Slomanson moderated the first afternoon panel, titled “Pathways to Power: Trailblazing Women in Criminal Law”. Panelists gave presentations about the first female attorney on the west coast Clara S. Foltz, the first female Chief Justice Rose Bird, and the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Conner. In addition to the programmed speakers, Professor Slomanson introduced TJSJ’s very own Colonel Jane L. Siegal, USMC (Ret.). Adjunct Professor Colonel Siegal’s career is distinguished by a long list of firsts. Among them, Colonel Siegal was the first female court martial judge in the entire Marine Corp and became the first female Regional Defense Counsel at Camp Pendleton, evaluating and observing all Marine defense counsel west of the Rocky Mountains.

“The conference has been fascinating,”

said criminal law fellow Martha Youssofi 1L. “I learned about many trail blazing figures I had never heard of and I gained a much better understanding of the impact of the criminal justice system on women.”

The third panel moderated by Professor Julie Greenberg, titled “Women in Prison,” focused on the experience of women in prison and the need for reforms to ameliorate the rippling effects on society. Panelist and former federal prison inmate Adriana Buelna said, “I am overwhelmed to be on such an amazing panel, I wanted to give a voice to women who are locked up and talk about the things that happen in prison.” Buelna voiced great concern for the effects on women’s children while they are in prison, the length of sentences given for nonviolent felonies, and the difficulty transitioning back into society as a former federal felon. Panelist Maya Schenwar, author of *Locked Down, Locked Out* and Editor-in-chief of *Truthout*, elaborated on the need to protect children by searching for ways to preserve the mother-child relationship while women are in prison.

San Diego civil rights attorney, Julie Yoo furthered the discussion by explaining the Prison Litigation Reform Act and the obstacles it presents for female inmates attempting to report sexual abuse. “Even though the prior suggestion that there could be consensual sex between prison staff and prisoners is not the standard, it was eye-opening to hear about the brief time limit to file a prisoner’s sexual assault claim and the requirement that a prisoner prove physical injury to move forward,” said attendee Alma Guereque of Yoo’s presentation.

“We’ve been organizing this for months and we’ve had a terrific team who all pitched in and made the conference possible,” said organizer Professor Marjorie Cohn. “The panelists have been top notch and the themes covered are of interest to students, lawyers and the community alike. I am thrilled with the turn out and the discussion during the question and answer period. I hope what we will take from this is not just discussion but real political action to remedy these problems.”

SPEED NETWORKING



The Family Law Society and the Immigration Law Society co-hosted a Speed Networking event on Friday, February 20, 2015.

Before the event students were presented with successful networking tips including how to give an effective “elevator pitch,” from Director of Career Services, Jeffrey Chinn.

Once the event began, each attorney took a seat and spoke to TJSJ students one-on-one. Every four minutes, an event organizer would call “time” and students would move to the next attorney.

Most of the participating attorneys practiced family and immigration law, including TJSJ alumni David Beavans ’08, Elizabeth Knowles ’12, and Anna Romanskaya ’07. Director of TJSJ’s Veterans Legal Assistance

Clinic, Professor Steve Berenson, also participated. Many of the attorneys gave students their business cards and distributed informational pamphlets about their organizations.

Immigration Law Society member Janate Valenzuela ’16 said that this “was a good event for students to pick the attorney’s brain about what is expected of them once they get an internship or a job. The event aimed at allowing students to meet attorneys in their field of interest, in an approachable setting. Overall, the event was a success and we thank everyone that helped and those who were able to attend.”

PROFESSOR BISOM-RAPP ATTENDS MARCO BIAGI CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MODENA



Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp spent the third week of March in Modena, Italy, where every year since 2003, the Marco Biagi Foundation (MBF) at the University of Modena has hosted an international conference devoted to international and comparative employment and labor relations. Professor Bisom-Rapp has attended the event annually since 2007, making this her ninth consecutive year as a conference participant. While in Modena, Professor Bisom-Rapp chaired a conference panel, participated as a commentator at the Young Scholars’ Workshop, had discussions about furthering cooperation between the MBF and Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and attended two committee meetings.

This year’s conference, “Employment Relations and Transformation of the Enterprise in the Global Economy,” brought together scholars from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, who analyzed the challenges involved in regulating employment at a time when

more and more people work outside of traditional employment relationships. Particular attention was given to the mismatch between employment laws, which were designed for mid-twentieth century conceptions of work, and the way people work in the sharing economy of the twenty-first century.

Professor Bisom-Rapp served as chair for a panel titled “Enterprise and Structure of the Value Chain in the Transnational Dimension,” which covered four papers written by professors from three countries: Russia, Poland, and Italy. The paper topics, included hard and soft law strategies for regulating multinational corporations, how to protect European workers temporarily posted by their employers to different countries, and the implications for employees of cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Professor Bisom-Rapp also helped organize and was a commentator at the MBF’s annual Young Scholars’ Workshop.

This is Professor Bisom-Rapp’s fourth year of involvement with this portion of the annual conference events. “This year we heard and commented on papers from Ph.D. students from the U.K., the U.S., Italy, Hungary, and Nigeria,” she said. There were seven papers presented in all. Additionally, five other PhD. Candidates from Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Italy, and Belgium participated in a poster session, where they had an opportunity to informally present their work to interested conference participants. “Creating ties with the new generation of comparative scholars is one of the most exciting parts of the conference,” said Professor Bisom-Rapp.

Professor Bisom-Rapp also attended three meetings during the conference. One was a meeting of the MBF’s Scientific Committee, to which Professor Bisom-Rapp was appointed last year. The Scientific Committee, which is the Foundation’s academic advisory board, discussed and adopted the theme for the 2016 annual conference. The second was a meeting of the Foundation’s International Council, which handles curricular issues associated with the Ph.D. program. The final meeting was a discussion between Professor Bisom-Rapp and administrators from the MBF and concerned increasing cooperation between the Foundation and Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

TJSL NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM COMPETES IN AAJ ADVOCACY COMPETITION IN SANTA MONICA



By Leanne Wilder, 3L
Mock Trial Team Member

The TJSL National Trial team sent 8 competitors to the American Association for Justice Student Advocacy Competition being held in Santa Monica, California from March 19-21.

The competitors were divided into 2 teams of four. Team K included: Ravi Mohan, Kierre Coghill, Jessica McCracken, Leanne Wilder.

Team L included: James White, Precious Harrison-Cobb, Katie Denson, and Leo Fuentes. All of the competitors are 3Ls. The fact pattern concerned a very relevant and dangerous topic, one that today's drivers encounter all too often: texting while driving.

Both teams spent 2 months preparing for the three grueling days of back-to-back competition rounds. White and Harrison-Cobb, Defense counsel, represented Team L in the first round on Thursday night. Harrison-Cobb felt, "that we gave it all we had, and that we really showed our advocacy skills and our personalities, Leo and Katie could not have been better witnesses."

Mohan and Wilder, Plaintiff's counsel, represented Team K against Pepperdine. Mohan conducted a succinct and highly praised direct examination of the team's expert witness, played by McCracken.

Wilder delivered a passionate closing argument, helping make the round a close call.

Denson and Fuentes headed into round 2 as plaintiff's counsel for Team L, with a brand new theme suggested by judges the night before. While Mohan and Wilder competed a second time, it was McCracken and Coghill who dominated for team K, collecting all three votes in their favor against Santa Clara in the third round. McCracken raved, "our last round was nothing short of exhilarating--the months of preparation all finally came together and our hard work paid off with a unanimous win!"

For seven of the eight members AAJ was the last competition they will compete in. "This was my fourth and last competition", said Ms. McCracken, "and I am so glad I got to do it with my longtime teammates! We fought the good fight together and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience." Her fellow teammates could not agree more, making this competition a bittersweet ending for the May graduates.

The countless hours spent preparing created strong bonds between the team members, but more importantly, the trial team earned valuable practical knowledge in the area of products liability. Fuentes expressed the bonds between the members when he said,

"we were side by side and had each other's back as we went into courtroom battle." Not only were bonds made between fellow teammates but, Trial Team Captain Kierre Coghill points out the benefits of networking and knowing that "every extra hour of practice has been worth having the experience to rub elbows with so many trial attorneys and to get a taste of how hard they work."

The AAJ committee provided a night of networking with local attorneys and the judges scoring during the first two rounds. It was a great opportunity to interact with a wide range of attorneys in the Los Angeles area.

TJSL competed against Pepperdine, USD, UC Davis, Santa Clara, and Chapman University. With a brutal cut down to only 4 teams after the third round; both TJSL teams were proud to not be far behind the top four teams, but ultimately did not advance to the semi-final round.

Harrison-Cob said it best when looking at the life experience taken away from participating in competitions like AAJ and being a Mock Trial Team Member, "No judges' scoring dictates our ability or who we are, nor does being labeled a winner. We worked our hard and that's something that cannot be taken away from us, win or lose."

VITA TAX CLINIC AT TJSL IS OPEN

From now until April 13, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program operated by Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Tax Law Society will provide free income tax return preparation for students, low-income families, senior citizens and others who can't afford professional tax services or are unable to complete their own tax forms.

Since 1998, TJSL students have annually offered this service to the San Diego community.

The clinic's student volunteers receive training to become IRS-certified, operate

the TaxWise software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return. This year, approximately 15 students, who are IRS-certified will participate.

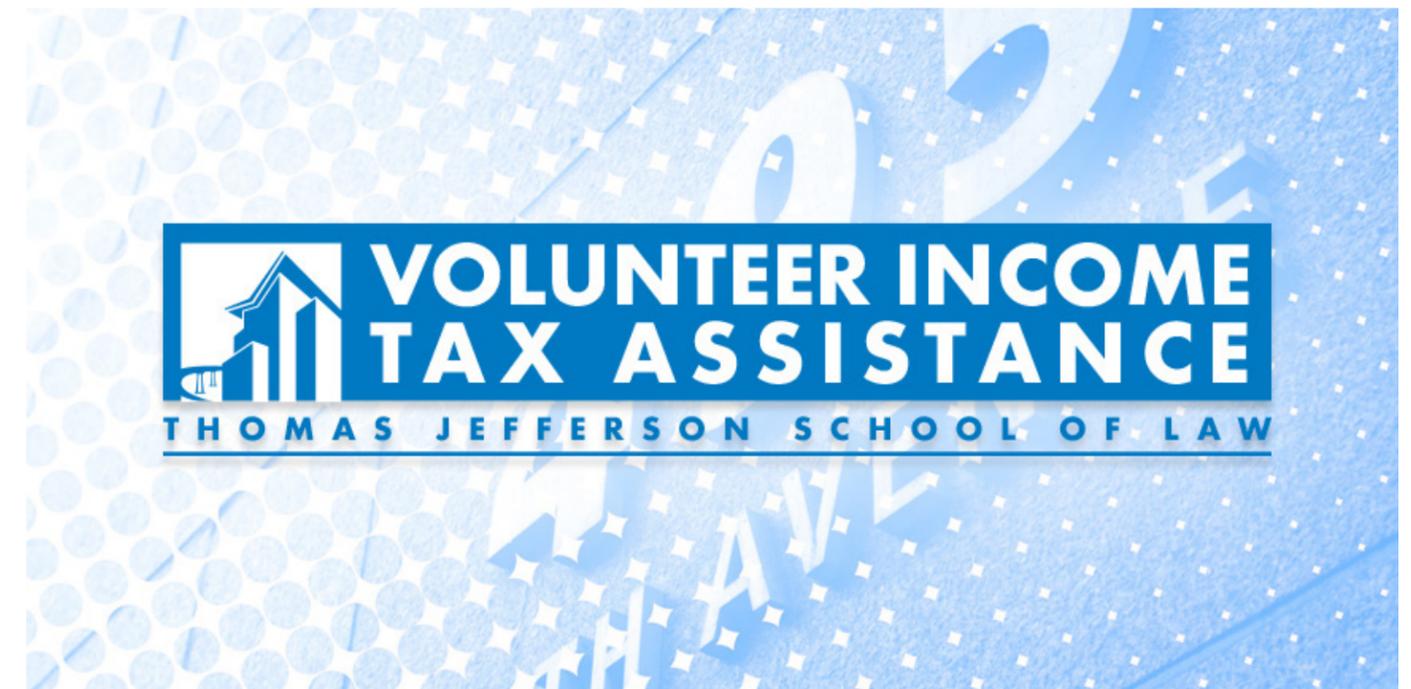
The TJSL tax clinic is open to appointment only clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m.

Appointments can be made by emailing tax@tjsl.edu.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSL Professor Richard Winchester, a former attorney in the national tax office of

PricewaterhouseCoopers, who is a national authority on employment tax policy and the taxation of the closely held business.

The tax clinic is located in the Law Clinic office at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in the East Village area of downtown San Diego. The entrance to the clinic is at 495 Eleventh Avenue. The Park & Market Trolley station is adjacent to the law school and there are commercial parking lots available nearby as well as limited on-street parking.



Items you need to bring to the TJSL Tax Clinic to have your tax returns prepared are:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns, if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- If you rented your home, the name and address of your landlord or property management company and their phone number



Have you always wanted your own TJS� designed apparel? Well, now is your chance! From now until **March 31st**, any member of the TJS� community can submit a T-Shirt design. We are planning to have the winning design available for sale on the Shop TJS� site.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Design must be original work.
2. Submit design as JPG or Vector file.
(JPG resolution should be 300 pixels per inch or higher)
3. The design should be universal and one-sided so that anyone can wear the design.
4. Please do not include the TJS� logo *(the Shop already has the logo)*. We would like something new and creative.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN

Send your electronic file with your name and contact information to studentservices@tjssl.edu.

6.6 Inches

Want to Submit a TOUCHSCREEN FLYER?

If you are a TJS� organization and would like to have your information promoted on the Touchscreens, please follow these flyer guidelines:

- **Dimensions**
6.6 inches (width) x 10.1 inches (height)

- **File Format**
PDF or JPG

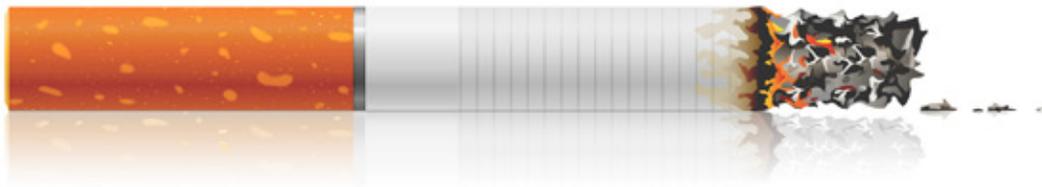
- **Submit Your Flyer**
TouchscreenFlyer@tjssl.edu

Please note that Touchscreen Flyers are not placed in The Advisor.

Microsoft Word Users: Change paper size by going to Page Layout tab > Size > More Paper Sizes.

10.1 Inches

NO SMOKING



California Government Code Section 7596-7598 prohibits smoking in an outdoor area within 20 feet of a main exit, entrance, or operable window of a public building. Smoking is prohibited at all entrances to the TJS� building as well as the 5th floor and 8th floor terraces.

The City of San Diego prohibits the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers in the same locations where smoking of cigarettes and other tobacco products is prohibited. TJS�'s policy is consistent with the City's ordinance and does not condone their use outside the designated smoking areas.

Thank you for your cooperation.