



TJSL GRADUATION IS SET FOR DECEMBER 13, 2014 AT COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL



December 2014 Valedictorian Lynn Marie Morski will be one of approximately 74 Juris Doctor students scheduled to walk across the stage at Copley Symphony Hall in Downtown San Diego on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

One American Legal Studies student will receive their LL.M. (Master of Laws) degree as part of the American Legal Studies program for non-U.S. lawyers.

As a part time law student as well as a licensed medical doctor, Morski works at the Veterans Administration in Mission Valley evaluating patients in the Compensation and Pension department.

The December Valedictorian says she learned a lot from Professor Joy Delman while working with her on projects involving law and medicine.

"I'm particularly grateful for Professor Delman, whose background is in health-related law, and who has always given me great advice on career paths and connected me with some great opportunities."

Morski is a graduate of Webster University with a degree in Media Communication. She did her residency at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. Morski then did a Sports Medicine Fellowship at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

The law school is proud to announce that the commencement speaker will be TJSL Board of Trustees member Morris S. Casuto.

Casuto retired in 2010 after serving for 37 years as a member of the Professional Staff of the Anti-Defamation League

(ADL). He was the founding Director of the San Diego Regional Office after serving in the ADL's offices in Columbus, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana. During his tenure with the ADL, he developed a national reputation as an expert on hate crimes and extremist and terrorist organizations.

The doors at [Copley Symphony Hall](#), located at 750 B Street will open at 9 a.m. The Graduation procession starts promptly at 10 a.m. There are no tickets required. Seating is first come, first served.

Following the graduation ceremony, all TJSL graduates along with their family and friends are invited to a reception that will be held at the law school located at 1155 Island Avenue where light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

ANOTHER REWARDING SEMESTER FOR TJSL'S NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM

By Katie Jenkins

This fall semester has been a busy one for the Thomas Jefferson School of Law National Trial Team. The competitions got off to a strong start with the San Diego Defense Lawyers (SDDL) Competition held in San Diego, California. Plaintiff's counsel Kierre Coghill and Justin Hall competed in the first round while defense counsel Melanie Guillen and Andrew Myers competed in the second round. "The case was a medical malpractice case, and on the first night, Hall and Coghill were strong in their advocacy and cut through their competition with surgical accuracy" says Mr. Myers. Kierre Coghill, team captain, noted the positive feedback that the TJSL team received from the guest judges. "The judges commented on how well prepared the teams were and that regardless of who won, all the competitors were sure to be wonderful trial attorneys," said Coghill. Although the team did not advance to the last round their performance was the springboard for the Fall 2014 competition season.

In November, TJSL sent two teams to the American Bar Association Labor and Employment (ABA L&E) Competition, held at the Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles, California. The case was a wage and hour claim made by entertainers against the Bottoms Up Nightclub, an adult entertainment club at which they worked.

TJSL's first team, Plaintiff's counsel Leanne Wilder and Ravi Mohan, competed in the morning round. Defense counsel Precious



Harrison-Cobb and Thomas Gennaro went against a different school in the afternoon round. Ms. Wilder said, "The witnesses being played by the opposing team were very difficult and Thomas and Precious did a fantastic job when the witnesses wanted to fight them on every single question."

TJSL's second team to compete in the ABA L&E Competition, were Ashley Salas and James White for the plaintiffs, and Katie Smith and Leo Fuentes Vargas for the defense. "This competition really showed us that we can push ourselves to perform at a very high level," said Katie Smith. "We were commended by judges on our team work and our level of professionalism with the other teams," said Smith noting that TJSL left a positive impression on the guest judges. Unfortunately, TJSL did not advance to the semi-finals. Ms. Wilder stated, "The fact pattern was fun and interesting and we are proud with our performance."

The third competition of the Fall 2014 semester was the first annual Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) Competition. This unique competition was between the three San Diego law schools: Thomas Jefferson School of Law, California Western School of Law, and University of San Diego, School of Law. In the first round, Defense counsel Joshua Brisbane and Sarah Brand went head to head against the University of San Diego. Jessica McCracken and Jeremy Garrett represented the plaintiffs in the second round against California Western.

TJSL advanced to the final round after beating out the University of San Diego. "After months of preparation, we pulled together, strategically and creatively, and had the opportunity to put our trial skills to the test. Our efforts were validated and rewarded, when we learned that we would be moving on to the final round," says Ms. McCracken. The final round was held at the Federal Courthouse in San Diego where Ms. McCracken and Mr. Garrett went against California Western for the second time. TJSL took second place in the ABTL competition as well as a \$3,000 cash prize.

Ms. McCracken sums it up best when she said, "I am extremely proud of my teammates and cannot wait for us to do it again next semester!" The team will take a short break before they begin preparation again in January. The TJSL National Trial Team members and coaches dedicated countless hours to prepare for each competition and it has made for another successful and rewarding semester.



THE CENTER FOR SOLO PRACTITIONERS IS ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR 2015

The TJSJL Center for Solo Practitioners is accepting applications for its 2015 Class.

Designed specifically and exclusively for Thomas Jefferson School of Law alumni, the TJSJL Center for Solo Practitioners supports new solo practitioners as they establish their own law offices. The program encourages new solos to become leaders in their community by developing ways to reach traditionally underserved populations with much-needed legal services.

Business incubation is a concept that has proved successful in launching entrepreneurs in fields as diverse as computer software, manufacturing, telecommunications, biosciences, energy and the arts. Incubators accelerate the development of start-up companies by providing entrepreneurs with instruction in financial management, marketing, networking and sound business practices. Pioneered by Fred Rooney at the City University of New York School of Law, law school incubators are beginning to flourish in law schools throughout the United States and internationally.

The TJSJL Center for Solo Practitioners provides a business incubator setting to the New Solos with the goal of producing successful, public-service-oriented

practitioners. Every year, the program will welcome six to ten lawyers who have a desire to establish their own law practices. Each New Solo will develop their practice in a cooperative, shared-space environment that is easily accessible to public transportation, courts and other public services. The program will facilitate access to affordable office space, guidance in managing a legal practice, quality continuing legal education, seasoned mentors and Thomas Jefferson's network of alumni attorneys. While they are building their practices, the lawyers in the incubator are encouraged to provide pro-bono and low-bono services to increase the access to civil legal services for those in need. While providing those legal services, the incubator lawyers gain valuable legal experience and are exposed to professional networking opportunities.

To apply for the program, candidates must: Be admitted to practice in California; Be a graduate of TJSJL; Have a demonstrated commitment to



access-to-justice for those in need; Be willing to engage in ongoing pro-bono and low-bono services; Work well in intimate settings with a diverse group of individuals; Be committed to establishing a solo-firm or small-firm practice; and Be committed to helping underserved populations after completion of the program.

If you are interested in applying, complete the [2015 application](#) and email it to Center for Solo Practitioners Director [Professor Lilys McCoy](#).

Applications are due December 5, 2014.

TJSJL ALUMNI TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ADVICE ON WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER



Every Wednesday from now until December 17, 2014, as a project of the El Cajon City Council, the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Center for Solo Practitioners will offer a unique initiative designed to bring legal services to residents of the City of El Cajon.

On those days, alumni from Thomas Jefferson School of Law will be stationed at the El Cajon Branch of the San Diego Law Library. The lawyers will counsel individuals with diverse legal needs in the following practice areas: family law, small business law, wills and trusts, consumer law, housing, immigration, and employment law.

The legal advice is free to members of the public. The costs of the program are

covered by a grant from the City of El Cajon.

“We feel incredibly fortunate to be working with the City Council of El Cajon and El Cajon’s City Manager,” said director of the TJSJ Center for Solo Practitioners, Lily McCoy. “Their desire to bring helpful and meaningful projects to their constituents is further proof of their steadfast commitment to public service.”

The Center for Solo Practitioners hopes that the new clinic will begin to help meet the legal needs of those residents

of El Cajon who avail themselves of the service, including those who have previously felt excluded from the legal system or intimidated by the cost or inconvenience involved in getting legal advice.

The Free Legal Clinic is an outgrowth of the solo practitioner incubator launched by TJSJ in November 2012. TJSJ is one of a growing percentage of U.S. law schools to have started a post-graduate program for alumni who wish to start their own law practices. Modeled after the first-ever law school “incubator” in the nation at the City University of New York School

of Law, the TJSJ incubator exists to help alumni start law practices that are geared toward the delivery of legal services to populations who have traditionally not been able to afford legal representation.

The Free Legal Clinic runs from 1:00–4:00 p.m. and offers assistance to walk-ins or via appointments booked by calling (619) 550-4879 or e-mailing solocenter707@gmail.com. The clinic will be at the El Cajon Branch of the San Diego Law Library, which is located on the first floor of the El Cajon Courthouse. The address is 250 East Main Street, 1st Floor, El Cajon, California 92020.

ALUMNI VIDEO SERIES EPISODE 4 COMING IN DECEMBER



Those of you waiting to see who will be featured in the next Alumni Video Series won’t have to wait much longer. Eric Bernsen ‘12, and his story, will be unveiled in December.

In the meantime, watch some of the earlier episodes:

[Dean Thomas Guernsey Introduction](#)

[Episode 2: Kim Carter ‘11](#)

[Episode 1: Peter Blair ‘09](#)

[Episode 3: Randy Grossman ‘94](#)

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

AARON SCHWABACH

Presentation

Convergence and Divergence: the Treatment of Certain Aspects of Real Property under the Civil Code and under the Anglo-American Common Law, The Qatari Civil Code in its First Decade, College of Law, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar (November 25, 2014)

MARJORIE COHN

Presentations

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral and Geopolitical Issues, Monterey Peace & Justice Center, Seaside, CA (November 25, 2014)

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral and Geopolitical Issues, Co-sponsored by Santa Cruz Jewish Voice for Peace, Palestine Israel Action Committee, Resource Center for Nonviolence, and Students for Justice in Palestine, Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz, CA (November 21, 2014)

Are the police doing a difficult job in the safest way possible, or going too far in the name of public safety?, Debate sponsored by KNSJ FM 89.1 & The San Diego Debate Society, San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Diego (November 19, 2014)

Radio

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral, and Geopolitical Issues, Tell Somebody, KKFI, Kansas City, Nov. 29, 2014.

Ferguson grand jury, Sounds of Dissent, WZBC, Boston, Nov. 29, 2014.

Illegal wars and commission of war crimes, Speaking Truth to Empire, Free Speech Radio, Central California, November 19, 2014.

[View All Citations](#)

Want to Submit a **TOUCHSCREEN FLYER?**

If you are a TJSJL 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@tjsl.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.

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 TJSL 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. TJSL'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.