

THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | DECEMBER 8, 2014

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



THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW GRADUATION INFO

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

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

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.

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.

TJSL 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 TJSL 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, TJSL alumni 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. The Free Legal Clinic is an outgrowth of the solo practitioner incubator launched by TJSL in November 2012. TJSL 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 TJSL 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.

TJSL MOOT COURT PROVIDES AN ARRAY OF OPPORTUNITIES

By Mahsa Kashkooly

This semester, Moot Court members participated in national appellate advocacy competitions that covered an array of subjects.

Members interested in Criminal Procedure participated in the National Criminal Procedure Tournament held at the Hall of Justice in San Diego. The issues pertained to antitrust law and the Fourteenth Amendment. Two teams were sent to represent TJSL Moot Court at this year's competition.

The first team was comprised of Elizabeth Atkins, Ricardo Elorza, and their coach Shahin Shahrostaibeik. The team advanced to the top 16. Shahrostaibeik, raved about his team and their exceptional arguments, stating, "The team made all the judges fall in love with them." Atkins echoed Shahrostaibeik's sentiments and set her highest record yet. Atkins credits Moot Court for "giving her more confidence in public speaking as well as a major advantage in advocating for a client in court." Elorza added that competing allowed him "to get out of his comfort zone, making it one of the best things he has done in law school."

Also representing TJSL at the National Criminal Procedure Tournament was Adam Schneider, Danielle Tailleart, and their coach Jacqueline Palacios. The team wowed judges at the competition with their strong bond. Schneider reminisced on the endless practices that "included adopting a uniform tone and theme between his partner and himself for



the brief and oral arguments." Tailleart added that competing provided valuable skills and practical advice that she would take with her after graduation.

Members interested in other areas of law were given an opportunity to enhance their appellate advocacy skills. TJSL Moot Court competed in the National Moot Court Competition held at Chapman University. The team in attendance was Brian Del Vecchio, Devin Mirchi, and Chelsea Grover, coached by Tim Petricca. Del Vecchio represented TJSL victoriously and was awarded second best oralist during the preliminary rounds. Del Vecchio stated that, "the short deadlines and complex subject matter have taught me the value of effective research and writing." Mirchi stated that, Moot Court has allowed him to, "learn the ins and outs of the appellate judicial process."

Members interested in Intellectual Property competed in the seventeenth annual, Pepperdine University School of Law, National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition held in Malibu, California. The competition revolved around the Lanham Act and the First Amendment. Marisol Gonzalez and Michelle Ribaudo represented the school alongside their Coach, Clayton Zamudio. Zamudio stated, "In front of the bench they both looked like battle hardened veterans, nothing took them by surprise. During the competition when a judge threw a curve ball they would keep their weight back and smash it to the opposite field!"

Performance aside, Ribaudo found competing invaluable, "By competing, I have advanced my legal research and brief writing capabilities, along with improving my oral advocacy skills." Similarly, Gonzalez stated, "The process of writing the appellate brief and preparing oral arguments has given me confidence in my research and speaking skills."

In addition to garnering an invaluable experience in becoming more seasoned oral advocates, members were able to form unbreakable bonds, truly bringing to life the word team, proving that Moot Court provides its members with incomparable opportunities in the practice of oral advocacy as well as a lifetime of friendships and memories.



DANIEL DOWLING '14 KEEPS BUSY WHILE WAITING FOR RESULTS

By Thomas Fischer

While waiting on his Bar Exam results, May 2014 graduate Daniel Dowling is not resting on his educational laurels. Dowling is currently attending the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, and will complete his LL.M in May of 2015. With his studies focused on the area he decided he wanted to practice, Dowling states that he is thoroughly enjoying his work in the LL.M program. "For the first time I have five classes all succinctly aligned with what I know I want to do in law." He plans to pursue law in the area of startup/entrepreneurial new venture law.

Dowling's career at Thomas Jefferson School of Law is replete with notable accomplishments including: distinguished honor roll in all semesters, graduating in the top 10% of the class, and membership with the TJSL Law Review. As an Intellectual Property Fellow, Dowling took full advantage of the exposure to classroom and practical curriculum available at TJSL. IP related endeavors included participation in the TJSL Small Business Law Center's Trademark Clinic for two semesters under the auspices of Professor Eric Lane, directed study under the guidance and mentoring of Professor Steve Semeraro, and winning 1st place in the 2013 Georgia State University Intellectual Property Writing Competition.

Coming to the realization of what area of law he wanted to practice is a more recent conclusion for Dowling, and the source of sage advice to current and future law students. Like many entering or prospective students, "when I started law school I didn't have any idea what area of law I wanted to practice," he admits. Regarding the search for what area of law one wants to make a career of, he proffered, "Seek faculty advice to help define your path early, and focus on the opportunities available towards it. Realize that "lawyer" means many, many things."

Acknowledging that this is advice of degree rather than decree, he recognized that while some students may come in already knowing what they want to do,



others may not really find their space until even after graduation. But he insists students should take advantage of every opportunity to find hints and evidences towards their path. Be it internships, clerkships, participating in student organizations or working in the Trademark Clinic, he was appreciative of the help and advices received throughout his own search. "The TJSL community is amazing in their willingness to assist in furthering student's careers," he shares. "Down the line, the professors are brilliant, know the material, and know how to teach it. Their propensity for an open door policy applies to everything including not just class material, but career path advice, and sometimes even "just" life. But be proactive in making the connections and conversations happen, don't just lie in hope that they will find you."

Case in point, Dowling is greatly appreciative of the mentoring he received from Professor Steve Semeraro. "From Property I, directed study under his tutelage, all the way through applying for the LL.M program at Berkeley, Professor Semeraro was available without question." He remains grateful for the career path advice Professor Semeraro offered along the way, and the opportunities presented therein.

Amongst the opportunities Dowling took advantage of, he maintains great support for the TJSL clinics. "Obviously

the Trademark Clinic was especially influential for me. But observing the students and advisors in all of the clinics opened my eyes to the amazing effect TJSL is having not just on the individual clients, but San Diego as a community as well. The clinics are a real win on so many levels."

His experience in the Trademark Clinic, under the supervision of Professor Eric Lane, is noted as being a chief factor in developing his knowledge and practical skills as well as influencing his career decisions. "Getting hands-on experience for two semesters under the guidance of Professor Lane had a great impact on shaping my understanding of what lawyering meant to me," he shared. "It was a great experience to share practical discussions with someone of Professor Lane's experience and stature, and then have the opportunity to extend the learning in applied fashion by helping clients of the clinic."

After completing his LL.M, Dowling is looking forward to putting his education into effect helping new entrepreneurial ventures with legal assistance. His Bar Exam results eminent, he is excited to start putting the doctrinal education into practical effect. Additionally, he looks forward to marrying his fiancé, also a TJSL graduate, in January.

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

Book

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral and Geopolitical Issues (with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Richard Falk, Medea Benjamin, Tom Hayden, Phyllis Bennis, Jane Mayer, Ishai Menuchin, Alice Ross, Jay Stanley, and Harry van der Linden) (ed., Olive Branch Press 2015)

Presentations

The case of Rasmia Odeh, Palestinian Womens Association of Southern California, Anaheim, CA (December 7, 2014)

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral and Geopolitical Issues, La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club, La Mesa, CA (December 3, 2014)

Radio

The grand jury system, San Diego's Noon News, KOGO radio, San Diego, Dec. 5, 2014.

What's Next in the Eric Garner case? [Video interview](#) by the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 4, 2014

Failure of grand juries to indict in Michael Brown and Eric Garner cases, The Burt Cohen Show, New England and the Web, Dec. 4, 2014.

Sanitizing the Vietnam War history, US wars since Vietnam, drones and targeted killing, The Burt Cohen Show, New England and the web, Dec. 2, 2014.

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.

MEERA E. DEO

Article

The Ugly Truth About Legal Academia, Brook. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2015)

[View All Citations](#)

VIEW THE TJSL 2014 EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE

CONGRATULATIONS

TJSL's 2015 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Priscilla Askar
Rachel Baum
Kierre Coghill
Steven Davies
Chanel DiBlasi
Jeremy Freedman
Christina Hebert
Sam Kossack
Cassandra Lawrenson
Sean Conor Leedom
Yana Loboda

Mark Marion
Lynn Marie Morski
Kristen O'Connor
Pamela Rivera
Maria Saling
Lisa Scarpa
Richard Schurman
Ian Seruelo
Katherine Smith
Michelle Vescio Evenson

