

THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | JANUARY 26, 2015

MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS VISIT TJSL



On Monday, January 26, twenty-one Moscow State University (MSU) professors and students met with Dean Thomas Guernsey who welcomed them to the Thomas Jefferson School of law.

While visiting California from January 25th-30th, TJSL's special guests will meet with Professor Aaron Schwabach and Associate Dean for Graduate & Distance Education Programs William Byrnes to learn about TJSL's JD and LL.M. programs and Professor Thom Golden will present an Introduction to US Law class.

Throughout the week, the Russian students will attend a number of TJSL classes, visit the Federal Courthouse where they will observe court proceedings, and have a Q&A with Judge Anthony Battaglia. They will also attend a Federal Jobs Panel where they will hear from a US Marshal, a US Attorney, a Federal Defender, a Courtroom Deputy, a Court Interpreter, a Court Reporter, a U.S.

Probation Office, and a representative with the U.S. Pretrial Services Office.

Alumna Camille Guerra '04, who is an attorney with the CaseyGeary law firm, arranged a visit. Alumni Association Board member Lorena Slomanson '03, who is an attorney with Legal Aid offices at the downtown Superior Court, also arranged a visit for The Moscow State University Professors and students.

This group is here due to the efforts of Professor William Slomanson, who is Russian. "My several visits to MSU set the stage for this program," said Professor Slomanson. "Professors Claire Wright and Dean Byrnes' subsequent visits later helped to solidify our academic association. The MSU group is here as a result of our program, whereby our professors go to Moscow to lecture, and their law students can visit TJSL with a view toward hopefully attending our graduate programs. We are quite

honored that they chose to spend a week with us, where it is a bit warmer than today's -17 degrees in Moscow."

"I'm very grateful to Professor Slomanson for this exceptional opportunity to be in San Diego," said Moscow State University Professor Gaya Davidyan.

"Moscow State University has historically been ranked as the top university in all 15 former Soviet Republics," said Professor Slomanson. "So we are of course pleased to have 6 MSU professors and 15 law graduates—all of whom are now pursuing their Ph.D.'s in law—visiting a number of TJSL classes this week." The group arrived at TJSL on January 25 to celebrate the university's 260th birthday.

"I encourage students and faculty to say hello to our guests, as they attend our classes this week," said Professor Slomanson.

BRENDON W. MARSHALL '13 BUILDS A CAREER AT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Soon after graduating from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Brendon W. Marshall '13 found what he considered to be the perfect job for him. "After passing the bar, I was afforded a position as a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. I became a statewide criminal prosecutor, representing the people of the State of California in state and federal trial courts, appellate courts, and Supreme Courts," Marshall recalls. "None of this would have been possible without the support and motivation of my colleagues and professors during my time at TJSL."

"Interestingly enough, I never intended on going into criminal law," Marshall acknowledges. "In fact, my journey to the California Department of Justice and acquisition of the title Deputy Attorney General was more or less an accident. It started as another internship, a resume builder, and frankly that is all I thought it would be." Enthusiastic about his career and the people he works with, Marshall added, "The attorneys are top

notch, incredibly helpful, and devoted. The opportunities and resources are limitless and the work is intellectually and emotionally stimulating. In sum, I became interested in criminal law when I dove into it head first."

Although Marshall did not anticipate pursuing a career in criminal law he has found great personal satisfaction as Deputy Attorney General. "The most rewarding part of my job is being able to represent the State of California in the pursuit of justice against individuals who have, at times, destroyed the lives of others," said Marshall. "Whether it is capital murder, sexual assault, abduction, robbery, or a gang related crime, the goal at the beginning of every day is the same, to insure that justice is carried out. Simply put, it is an honor being able to stand before a trial court, an appellate court, or the Supreme Court with the understanding that I represent the people of the State of California, and more specifically, the victims of merciless crimes."

Like many students, Marshall found law school challenging, "I entered law school with the understanding that in order to succeed it was going to require extensive perseverance and dedication." Marshall also admits, "Along every step of the way I had extremely supportive colleagues and professors that went out of their way to make sure I had every nuance for a given legal subject well versed."

During law school, Marshall was involved in Phi Alpha Delta, editor of the student run newspaper The Jeffersonian, member of Moot Court and lead notes editor of the Law Review. Marshall credits the Law Review note writing process in particular for sharpening valuable skills. "It taught me to manage my time, focus my energy, and how to produce a high quality piece of legal scholarship on a deadline," Marshall said. "This process which paired me with one of my 1L professors as a

mentor greatly shaped the attorney that I am today."

"After law school came the Bar exam. Again, I knew this would be a challenge and I prepared myself for it in advance. I started studying early, continued until late at night, and kept my eyes on the prize, "Esq.," Marshall said. "Yes, bar study is an extremely long and daunting process but with a good work ethic and reasonable goals along the way, it can easily be viewed as a job with a nifty title as a paycheck. Luckily, I did the job right the first time."

Academic achievements aside, Marshall recognizes that connecting with colleagues is what opens doors in the legal community. "Network, network, and continue to network," Marshall said. "Life is not a fairytale and, consequently, jobs will not fall from the sky into your lap. You need to be a go-getter. I attribute most of my success thus far to networking and seizing opportunities that presented themselves. Go to an event, find common ground with a person of interest, and chat them up. Carpe diem."

In addition to making connections outside of TJSL, Marshall values the relationships he was able to build with professors. "It was incredibly helpful being able to connect with professors who not only enjoyed what they did, but who were also willing to take additional time outside of the classroom to make sure you enjoyed the learning process as well," Marshall said. "Some of my fondest memories while at TJSL pertained to my professorial relationships. To name a few, Professors Rebecca Lee, Maurice Dyson, and Steve Semeraro went above and beyond their duties by insuring that not only my sanity remained intact, but also that I understood their respective fields inside and out. It was a blessing having such dedicated professors."

"My law school experience at Thomas Jefferson School of Law was enjoyable and highly memorable," Marshall stated. "While law school in general is a challenge, I contribute much of my pleasurable experience at TJSL to the collegiality of the students and the support of the staff and faculty."

ELISABETH DONOVAN '12 MAKES A DIFFERENCE PRACTICING FAMILY LAW

Shortly after graduating from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2012, Orange County native Elisabeth Anne Donovan opened her own family law practice in Santa Ana, California. "Practicing Family Law comes with many rewards and challenges. The most rewarding part of my career is making a difference in the lives of my clients," Donovan said. "Many of these individuals come to me during what is the most trying time of their lives. Aside from being their legal advocate, I have the benefit of walking these people through their personal challenges and acting as their counselor and friend. I also have the opportunity to present my cases in court on a regular basis, which is exhilarating."

Like many law students, Donovan did not begin law school knowing what area of law she would pursue, but she had a clear understanding of the path she wished to avoid. "When I began law school, I did so knowing that I did not want to work in a corporate environment," Donovan said. "I wanted to find a niche where I could truly connect with my clients and make an impact. During law school, I worked at the TJSL Veterans Legal Assistance clinic and had the benefit of helping disabled veterans with their family law issues. Many of these people suffer for PTSD and have been stigmatized by society, and those are exactly the types of people I wanted to serve. That is when I knew that this area of practice was for me."

In addition to her clinic experience, Donovan was motivated by the altruism of former TJSL Professor Luz Herrera. "Professor Herrera, was a huge inspiration for me. For those who don't know her story, it is truly remarkable. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she decided to set up her own law practice in Compton, CA. Although she had many opportunities available to her as a Harvard alum, she followed her passion of helping people she could identify with. In doing so, she was able to provide legal services to individuals who otherwise could not afford them and made a tremendous impact on the community," Donovan said. "Professor Herrera inspired me to do what I am doing now and made me realize that opening my own law practice at the age



of twenty-seven was both attainable and rewarding."

After graduating, Donovan took the bar and volunteered at The Legal Aid Society while she awaited the bar results. At that time, The Legal Aid Society launched an incubator program and Donovan was given the opportunity to be one of the first attorneys to participate. "The Legal Aid Society's program, called the Lawyers Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (LEAP), provided new attorneys with the mentorship and guidance they need to start their own practice in exchange for providing legal services to their indigent clients," Donovan explained. "After passing the bar exam, I took a full caseload of pro bono family law cases to hone my skills. I went to court for a default dissolution of marriage case the week after I was sworn into the California Bar. In September 2013, I opened my own family law practice in Santa Ana and the rest is history. When I was not in court, I spent much of my time attending MCLEs and studying the law to build up my knowledge base. Now, I specialize in providing affordable family law services to low and middle-income clients."

Despite the success of her practice, Donovan hopes to specialize even

further. "Currently, my niche is providing affordable legal services to Orange County residents," Donovan said. "In the future, I would like to tailor that niche even further and serve as an advocate for family law litigants who suffer from mental health and addiction issues. This is a commonplace problem in family court, and I don't believe there are enough lawyers who focus on the rehabilitative aspects of these types of cases. One of the most rewarding experiences in my career so far has been working with a client who suffered from bipolar disorder and alcoholism, and watching him recover from his illnesses and become a wonderful father. Now, he has joint custody of his two kids. As a family law attorney, my goal is not only to represent my client's best interest, but do what is best for the entire family."

When asked what advice she would give recent graduates, Donovan said, "Follow your heart, and tune out the negativity that currently surrounds the legal profession. Do what feels right for you and don't lose faith in yourself. If you made it through law school and the bar exam then you will find your way in this profession with hard work and dedication."

VITA TAX CLINIC AT TJSJL TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY

From February 21 to 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, TJSJL 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 TJSJL tax clinic is open to walk-in clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Monday, March 2, Saturday, March 7, Monday, March 9 and Saturday, March 14.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSJL 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 TJSJL 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

2015 WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 27



Noted criminal defense attorney Leslie Abramson will deliver the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture at the 2015 Women and the Law Conference, which will be held at Thomas Jefferson School of Law on Friday, March 27. Abramson, now retired, handled the first Menendez Brothers trial, Phil Spector's case, and many other high-profile cases.

Abramson wrote, *The Defense Is Ready: Life in the Trenches of Criminal Law* and has a great story to tell.

"Leslie is a funny and dynamic speaker and I'm confident she will give a great Ginsburg Lecture," said event director Professor Marjorie Cohn.

The theme of the 2015 WLC is Women and the Criminal Justice System. There will be panels with experts who have worked in the criminal justice system, followed by a reception on the eighth floor.

More information coming soon.



HANGZHOU, CHINA: MAY 18, 2015 - JUNE 5, 2015
In Cooperation with the Zhejiang University Guanghua College of Law

Earn 4 Credits in 3 Weeks Studying

- International Business Transactions
- International Business and the Rule of Law
- International Intellectual Property
- International Environmental Law
- Chinese Legal Systems and Its Reforms

Application/Deposit Deadline: **March 27, 2015**
Tuition Deadline: **April 17, 2015**



NICE, FRANCE: JUNE 22, 2015 - JULY 16, 2015
In Cooperation with the La Faculté de Droit de L'Université de Nice

Earn 4 Credits in 4 Weeks Studying

- International Human Rights
- Comparative Refugee & Asylum Law
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Resistance, Revolution and Reform

Application/Deposit Deadline: **April 17, 2015**
Tuition Deadline: **May 15, 2015**



2015 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Have you ever dreamed of studying abroad in an exciting and exotic location? Thomas Jefferson School of Law offers exceptional opportunities to do just that with two major programs. Earn 4 summer credits studying in one of China's most beautiful cities or on the French Riviera.

Visit www.tjsl.edu/study-abroad for more information. Fill out an application today! Limited internships may be available.

TAKE A VISUAL TOUR INTO THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF TJSL ALUMNI

The [TJSL Alumni Video Series](#), filmed and edited by Art Director Sherwin Laranga and produced by Communications Coordinator Denice Menard, showcases a wide variety of Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni and focuses on their areas of expertise and experiences.

In this ongoing series, past graduates give you a glimpse into their lives and discuss their journey from law school to career.



[Take a Visual Tour](#)

PROMINENT ALUMS ARE AMAZING EXAMPLES OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION



[Read Recent Alumni Stories](#)

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

WILLIAM SLOMANSON

Book

Cases and Materials on California Civil Procedure (with David Levine and Rochelle Shapell (Hastings)) (5th ed. West, 2015) and Instructor's Manual, and [Course Web Page](#).

STEVE BERENSON

Articles

Economic Windfalls and Child Support: How Should Gifts, Inheritances, and Prizes Be Treated?, 47 Suffolk U. L. Rev. 701 (2014)

The Veterans Clinic and Legal Education: A Conversation with Professor Steven Berenson, 9 U. Mass. L. Rev. 444 (with Paul Lee) (2014)

MARJORIE COHN

Presentation

Convention Against Torture, Torture Statute, Senate torture report, International Museum of Human Rights, Beneath the Blindfold, Mission Valley Library, San Diego (January 18, 2015).

Radio

Drones and Targeted Killing, Midday Edition, KPBS radio, San Diego, Jan. 19, 2015.

BRENDA M. SIMON

Presentation

Comments on Public Enforcement of Patent Law, Professors' Patent Law Workshop at [5th Annual Patent Law Conference](#), University of San Diego, San Diego, CA (January 17, 2015).

[View All Faculty Citations](#)

[View Legal Writing Competitions](#)

[View the TJSL Event Calendar](#)

6.6 Inches

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

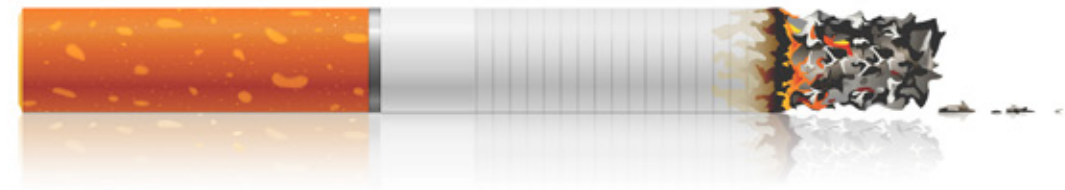
- **Submit Your Flyer**
TouchscreenFlyer@tjsl.edu

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.

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 TJSJL 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. TJSJL'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.