

THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | MARCH 9, 2015

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2015 WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

TJSL's Women and the Law Conference 2015 will be held at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in rooms 323 and 325 on Friday, March 27, 2015. The daylong event will include prestigious panelists and a reception on the 8th floor terrace. **All participants must register.**

The conference will explore *Women and the Criminal Justice System*. Noted criminal defense attorney and author Leslie Abramson, who handled the Menendez Brothers trial and the Phil Spector case, will deliver the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture.

Since 2003, the WLC has featured the annual Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, thanks to the support of Associate Justice Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court, who visited and lectured at the law school that same year.



A dynamic speaker, Abramson promises to give a spirited presentation. "Leslie is a funny and dynamic speaker and I'm confident she will give a great Ginsburg Lecture," said conference organizer Professor Marjorie Cohn.

Other notables speaking at the conference include retired U.S. District

Court Judge Irma Gonzalez and Santa Clara law professor Gerald Uelmen.

Panels will focus on timely and controversial subjects, including: *Are Women Treated Like Men in the Criminal Justice System?*, *Pathways to Power: Trailblazing Women in Criminal Law*, and *Women in Prison*.

The WLC is organized by the Women and the Law Project at TJSL. The popular annual conference is open to the public and regularly draws a large audience of academics, legal practitioners, and other professionals as well as students from local universities.

[Register for WLC 2015](#)

MOOT COURT MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN NAAC COMPETITION IN SEATTLE, WA



By Mahsa Kashkooly, 2L
Moot Court Social Chair

Moot Court members Shahin Shahrostanbeik, Chelsea Grover, Devin Mirchi, Taelor Cole, Marisol Gonzalez, and Ricardo Elorza competed in the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC) from March 6th to March 8th in Seattle, Washington.

The issues for the competition are heavily based on Civil Procedure, allowing the Moot Court team to first handedly apply what they have learned in the classroom. These moot courtiers have given a great deal of time and effort into preparing for the prestigious competition.

During winter break, the competitors had to do a little more than just enjoy the holidays. With their brief being due in early January the team had to work past the desire of wanting to rest after a long semester. In addition, the members had to work past the distance; Grover was in Canada, while Cole was in Las Vegas, the remaining members were in San Diego and Los Angeles. However, distance did not stop this team from producing an impeccable brief. These hurdles only

brought the team closer and allowed them to form a strong bond as each person made sacrifices, knowing that the rest of their team would be counting on them.

In addition to creating strong bonds, members earned valuable knowledge in the area of Civil Procedure and got to perfect their oral argument skills. "Preparing for the ABA competition has been a wonderful experience," Grover said. Preparing includes far more than memorizing both the Petitioner and Respondent arguments—it includes building enough confidence to stand before a panel of judges whose purpose is to challenge your understanding of the facts, law, and policies."

"Preparing for the ABA competition and being a Moot Court member have been an amazing experience" said Mirchi. "The issue we are arguing has to do with the semi recent Twombly and Iqbal decisions about pleading standards and the post-trial reviewability of pre-trial motions."

Gonzalez and Elorza, serve as the team's coaches and are proud of their team's hard work and determination. Elorza echoed Gonzalez's sentiments.

"Moot Court does not only help you become better appellate oral advocates, it also immerses you in legal issues that make you critically think about both sides of the problem."

As a competitor, Shahrostanbeik also found the experience to be a valuable one. "I have had such a wonderful team of people to work with and the application of the law has not only helped in furthering our knowledge of civil procedure but also prepared us in becoming better attorneys tomorrow."

Cole echoed her teammate's viewpoints in finding that the experience has been well worth it. "To sum up my experience so far I would say it's been nerve racking. It's been a bit of a challenge balancing it all; writing the brief and figuring out how to argue each side in the most effective way. That being said, my partner Chelsea and I have had such a wonderful team of people that have stepped up to help us. From professors who really challenged and questioned us, to our coaches who helped us with our technique. I am extremely grateful."

RENEE GALENTE '08 FINDS SUCCESS ON HER OWN TERMS



After several years honing her skills at a premiere plaintiffs' Civil Litigation firm in San Diego, alumna Renee Galente '08 joined her husband Eric Ganci '08, who she met while in law school to form Galente Ganci, APC. Managing a thriving practice, alongside Ganci, has allowed her to develop as an attorney, businessperson, and become a valued member of the legal community.

"From the business side, the best part is owning my own practice and being the one who sets the tone for the brand, the environment, the types of cases that I take and my schedule," Galente said. "From the practice side, it's getting to help people who've been hurt. Everything I do makes a difference to someone, better their lives or makes them feel heard. That is an incredible gift for both of us, the client and me as their lawyer." This dual role, as a businessperson and counselor, has enabled Galente to maintain a healthy work-life balance and lead a happy life.

"During law school I did a different internship in a different area of law each semester, starting with second semester of my 1L year," Galente explained. "This allowed me to become familiar with a broad range of different areas of law including family law, criminal defense,

and civil defense." Interning at Neil Dymott, a health care defense firm, gave Galente a better idea of the career path she should pursue. After Neil Dymott, Galente tested the waters at a personal injury law firm, Thorsnes Bartolotta & McGuire. "Clerking at Thorsnes Bartolotta & McGuire sealed the deal and I knew that it was plaintiff-side civil work that would make me happiest as a career," Galente said.

Galente's enthusiasm earned her a job offer at Thorsnes Bartolotta & McGuire after passing the bar. "I graduated in May of 2008 and took the July 2008 bar exam," Galente recalled. "I found out in November that I passed the bar and was sworn in December. The day after the swearing in ceremony, I made my first appearance arguing a property dispute case against the City of San Marcos in front of an administrative law judge," Galente recalled. "I worked for Thorsnes from 2008 until 2011 focusing on plaintiff's personal injury, business, and property cases, working with partners Vince Bartolotta and Karen Frostrom on some incredible cases including the De Anza Cove cases and the Hilton Bayfront explosion."

Galente generously divides her time between her practice, various San Diego

organizations and TJSJL. As Vice President of Policy and Outreach for Lawyers Club of San Diego, former President of San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, former chair for Human Rights Campaign, and as President Emeritus of the TJSJL Alumni Association, Galente has demonstrated her commitment to the legal community. In recognition of her dedication and leadership, Galente has received numerous accolades. Galente was included in the June 2014 San Diego Business Journal's Best of Bar, after being nominated by other San Diego attorneys.

A regular speaker at TJSJL events, Galente encourages students and recent graduates to get involved. "Hit the ground running. Get out there, and if you have not joined San Diego legal organizations, do that immediately. Get involved in the community. Show up. Sign up for committees. Get your face recognized for being someone who can be counted on to follow through," Galente said. "That's how you get a job now. Not through your resume. Be the person everyone likes being around. Lawyers work a lot of hours. No one wants to work with a jerk or a know-it-all. Always ask what you can bring to the table instead of what others can do for you and you'll get a lot further a lot faster."

Appreciative of TJSJL's support, Galente recalls those who encouraged and helped her through law school. "From the first moment, I felt like I was an important piece of the school. Dean Beth Kransberger, on meeting me, was able to recognize my name and remember information from my admission essay, which blew my mind," Galente said. "Professor Eric Mitnick was an incredible source of calm from the first night of class when he walked in and had us all take a deep breath before we started. He always asked if I had questions and meant it. He was fantastic about asking questions and if you gave the wrong answer, he would ask more questions until you got to the right answer on your own, so that you would learn the information."

"The school changed my life and was my first experience with an educational organization that encouraged me to succeed and that actively worked and

supported me to help me reach my goals,” Galente said. “TJSL awarded me with a NAWL award which made me feel like I was someone, like I was doing the right thing and that was incredible to know that the professors at the school thought I was doing something right.”

Director of the Clinical Externship & Pro Bono Programs JudyBeth Tropp proved instrumental in assisting Galente find the internships that shaped the beginning of her career. “She talked with me about interests, and the amount of time I had open and goals that I wanted to achieve and was always able to connect me with

someone that could advance those goals,” Galente said. “The Communications Department was supportive from my 1L year on, highlighting accomplishments, and even after graduating the department was always there supporting and cheerleading for me. That really kept me tied into the school. It wasn’t like I graduated and no one cared anymore. Instead, my relationship grew even more involved and stronger as I reached back out to the current students as an alumna.”

When asked what advice she would give recent graduates, in addition to taking

advantage of the TJSL’s many resources, Galente added, “Create a five year plan. And be willing to change it or update it whenever you need to. If you’re not happy, then you need to change something. But give yourself something to work towards. Don’t let negativity run your life. It’s easy when you’re busy or struggling to let the negatives rules. When you find yourself there, acknowledge how you feel and then knock it off. You won’t attract anything good when you’re busy wallowing.” Lastly, Galente suggested, “Be nice to everyone. You never know when an action or a kind word will make all the difference to someone else.”

responsibilities seriously, but don’t take yourself too seriously and lose your ability to interact with other people. Avoid burnout. Evaluate where you’re at in life from time to time. Think about why you wanted to do this in the first place and try to weave that reason into what you’re doing now.”

For those who have never considered a career in public interest, Knowles encourages new attorneys, “Be flexible about what your future might hold. Volunteer with a pro bono organization. So many people in the world desperately need assistance and you are in a great position to provide some. Learn

something and help someone out while you’re at it. It feels good. It is good. You’re on your way, and if you’ve come this far, you can be certain that you have what it takes to be equally awesome at whatever is coming up next on your path.”

ELIZABETH KNOWLES ‘12 EXECUTIVE DIR. OF THE ABA IMMIGRATION JUSTICE PROJECT

“We help thousands of immigrants by pairing them with pro bono attorneys and providing know-your-rights presentations, and we also expend a significant amount of resources to training new lawyers in the practice of immigration removal defense,” Elizabeth Knowles ‘12 proudly said of her work as Executive Director of the ABA Immigration Justice Project (IJP). Knowles, who assumed the position in 2013, successfully administers the Legal Orientation Program at the Otay Mesa Detention Facility, the IJP’s Pro Bono Lawyer Training and Referral Program, and the National Qualified Representative Program in San Diego, which provides government appointed counsel to mentally incompetent detainees in immigration removal proceedings.



“I love that I’m able to be part of an exciting time in immigration law. For the first time in history, non-citizens are provided with counsel, and I’m part of it,” Knowles stated. “The United States is in the midst of a major revision of its current immigration system, and my organization will undoubtedly play a significant role in bringing those changes to fruition here in San Diego. All of this and being part of San Diego’s exceptional community of service-oriented non-profits is extremely rewarding.”

Knowles’s passion for immigration law and access to justice issues was sparked by her exposure to indigenous communities before law school. Once at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Knowles secured internships that

provided her with valuable experience and the opportunity to become familiar with the San Diego legal community. Knowles dedicated her time to numerous organizations, including the California Innocence Project, Casa Cornelia, Immigration Justice Project, and the San Diego Immigration Court. In addition to her work off campus, Knowles sought and took advantage of the opportunities on campus. “I would definitely say that my experience leading the Public Interest Law Foundation really put service into focus for me and helped widen my lens on the need for local volunteer efforts in the areas of homelessness, domestic violence, and immigration defense,” Knowles said. “I

benefited from the angels in Student Services who helped guide me during my time at TJSL with everything from my student organization budget to encouragement through tough times. I have many fond memories of my time as a student at TJSL. I made many lifelong friendships and received a brilliant foundation for my legal career.”

To graduates who have passed the bar, Knowles said, “Congratulations! You met the first part of your goal. Now you have the ticket, but you must stay committed. Committed to reaching your fullest potential, and committed to the clients you will eventually serve. Once you begin working as a lawyer, take your

ADR SOCIETY COMPETES AT REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN MEDIATION COMPETITION



On the weekend of February 28, TJSL sent two teams to compete in the Regional Representation in Mediation Competition held at the University of LaVerne College of Law.

The ADR Society is a unique competition team that challenges competitors to advocate zealously for clients in the context of a collaborative process. The Representation in Mediation Competition evaluates students’ abilities to engage in value creating, interest-based negotiation in a mediation presided over by a neutral third party.

Students are judged on their team-work, ability to advance their client’s interests, ability to identify and facilitate opposing team interests, the construction and execution of a mediation plan as well as the capacity to insightfully self-evaluate performance.

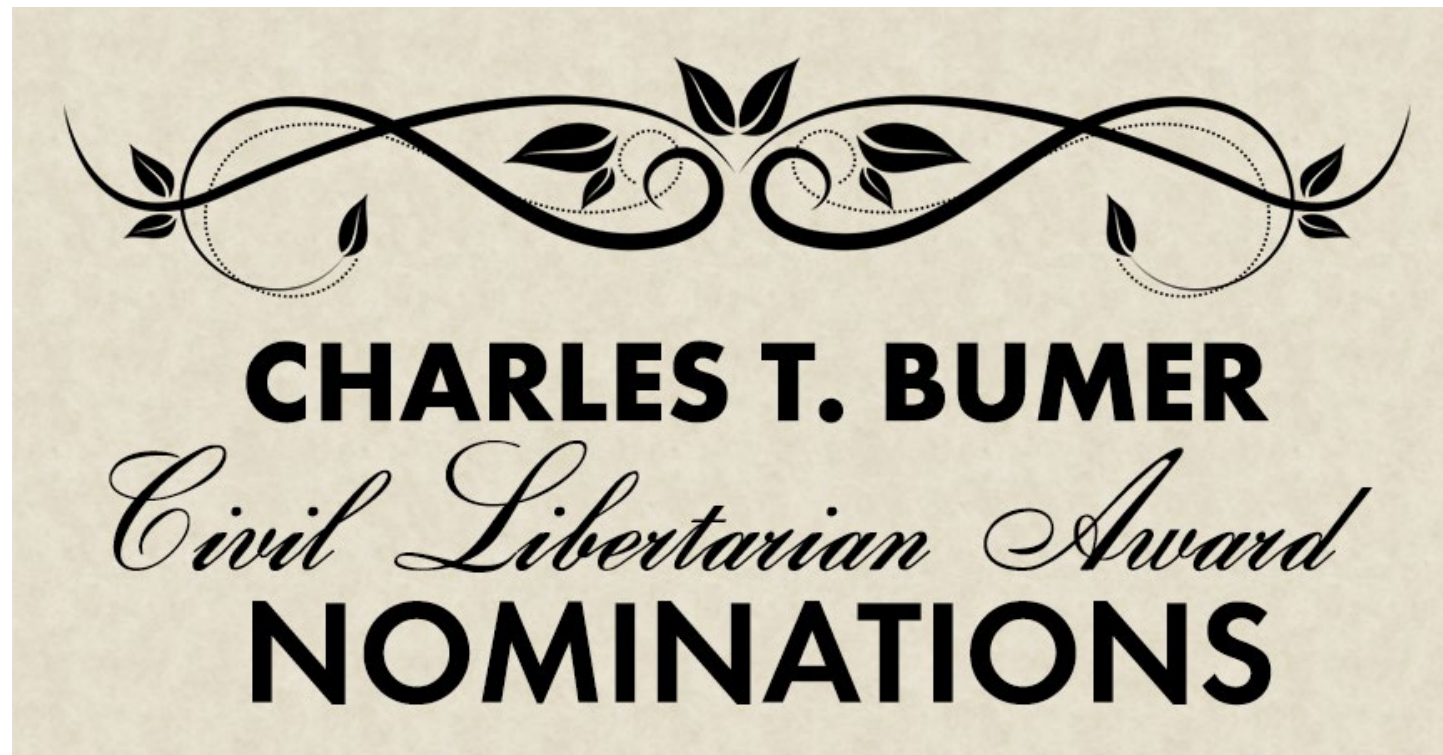
Taking on the roles of client and attorney in this particular tournament requires verbal acuity, creativity, problem-solving aptitude and top-notch communication skills.

Team one, made up of Philip Mauriello 1L and Nick Spigner 2L, performed admirably, finishing in 6th place out of 12 teams. Spigner commented, “I feel that the competition was a great experience. We learned that no matter how well you are prepared going into a negotiation, you must be ready to adjust your strategy on the fly in order to be successful.” While Spigner hoped that his team would have placed higher in the rankings, ADR Society President Chelsea Grover could not have been more proud of both teams, “I am so excited for the future of the ADR Society. I am proud of everyone’s dedication and commitment in preparing for the competition, and to the ADR Society as a whole.”

Team two, made up of Kally Mullett 1L and Mark Marion 3L blazed their way to a 4th place finish. Marion stated, “I am so grateful to everyone who helped both teams prepare for this competition. It truly is a team effort. While we would have liked to qualify for Nationals, the ADR Society is in a better place today than it was even a month ago. We have laid a great foundation for members who are returning next year, and I am excited to see all the success I am confident they will earn in the coming competitions.”

The ADR Society now turns their attention to the State Bar of California’s 16th Annual Student Environmental Negotiations Competition which will be held on March 13th at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. The ADR Society is sending two teams: Will Burkett and Frances Maldonado, and Dane Watson and Puneet Loyal.

CHARLES T. BUMER CIVIL LIBERTARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN



At the 2015 Barristers Ball being held on Saturday, March 28, former president of the National Lawyers Guild Professor Marjorie Cohn will present the Charles T. Bumer Civil Libertarian Book Award to a TJSJL student who best personifies the ideals of Mr. Bumer.

Mr. Bumer considered himself a “First Amendment Freak” and was a San Diego criminal defense attorney who performed pro bono work in support of civil rights and the anti-war movement. He was a long-time Guild member and the highly prestigious award was initiated following his death in 1996 and is given on behalf of the National Lawyers Guild.

The book awarded each year is *Lawrence Tribe’s treatise on constitutional law*, which was Mr. Bumer’s favorite book. His

daughter, Elizabeth, is a 1983 graduate of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Students may nominate themselves or may nominate other students. Charles T. Bumer Civil Libertarian Book Award nomination forms may be downloaded or picked up at the Students Services reception desk located on the 6th floor.

Completed forms must be returned to the Students Services reception desk no later than noon on **Tuesday, March 17**.

[Nominee Statement](#) | [Nomination Form](#)

PADRES SPEAKERS SERIES: TOM SEIDLER, OWNERSHIP GROUP AT SAN DIEGO PADRES



Tom Seidler, who is a member of the San Diego Padres ownership group, presented to the Sports Law Fellows in the Center for Sports Law & Policy at TJSJL on Friday, February 20. During his presentation, Seidler discussed the current state of and the future the Padres organization, the flurry of moves that Padres General Manager AJ Preller made during the off season, and the goals of the new ownership group.

Seidler is the nephew of Peter O’Malley and the grandson of Walter O’Malley. The O’Malley’s owned the Dodgers from the Brooklyn days until the 1990’s when Peter O’Malley sold to Fox Corporation.

Seidler has a distinguished background in Minor League and Major League Baseball and said that he learned consistency from his uncle and grandfather, which he says will be a major part of the current ownership group. Seidler added that he enjoyed the presentation. “It was a good group who came with great questions.”

Sports Law Fellow Sarah Wankum 1L said “I really enjoyed the speaker. It was awesome to learn about ownership of a MLB team.” Sports Law Fellow Decker

Cady 1L, added that he “appreciated Mr. Seidler’s honesty and appreciated him being available to students.”

Seidler closed the presentation with a question and answer session where he also gave away Padres gear and invited those in attendance to reach out to him and to give a shout when they visit the ballpark this year.

TJSJL students are welcome to attend the fourth and final installment of the Padres

Speakers Series for 2014-2015 that will be held on Friday, April 10 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in room 229.

Josh Stein, the Padres Assistant General Manager, Baseball Operations, will be the guest speaker.

The Padres Speaker Series is presented by the [Center for Sports Law & Policy](#) at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR TJSJL BAR STUDY SCHOLARSHIP



The Thomas Jefferson School of Law is proud to announce the second installment of the TJSJL Bar Study Scholarship that provides financial support to graduates studying to take the California Bar for the first time.

The scholarship is designed to enable successful applicants who demonstrate financial need and academic achievement to devote more time to pre-bar study.

Tony Nguyen and Alexander Green were the charter recipients of the first awards. “I would be remiss not to express my sincere gratitude for your selection of my receiving the TJSJL Bar Study Scholarship for the February 2015 Bar Exam,” said

Nguyen. “As a recent graduate enduring the studies of the bar exam, this scholarship has not only been a financial alleviation for my Barbri Bar Study Course, but it has also served as TJSJL’s continuing emotional support for my career endeavors as a future education law attorney.”

The awards are funded by contributions from faculty, staff, alumni, and students. “I would like to express my immense gratitude for your having elected to award me with a scholarship towards my bar study for the February 2015 California Bar Exam,” said Alexander. “I am incredibly grateful that you looked favorably upon my application as well

as to each and every one of the faculty, alumni, and students who donated to this cause.”

The next scholarship will be awarded after the close of the spring 2015 semester. **An application form can be downloaded** or picked up on the 6th floor reception area. A combined faculty-staff committee will review all applications. **The deadline to apply for the May 2015 graduation award is Friday, April 10.**

Students and other members of the TJSJL community can donate to this fund online through [TJSJL’s Make a Gift website](#). Select “TJSJL Bar Scholarship Fund” in the “Please direct my gift to” dropdown menu.

VITA TAX CLINIC AT TJSL IS OPEN

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, 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

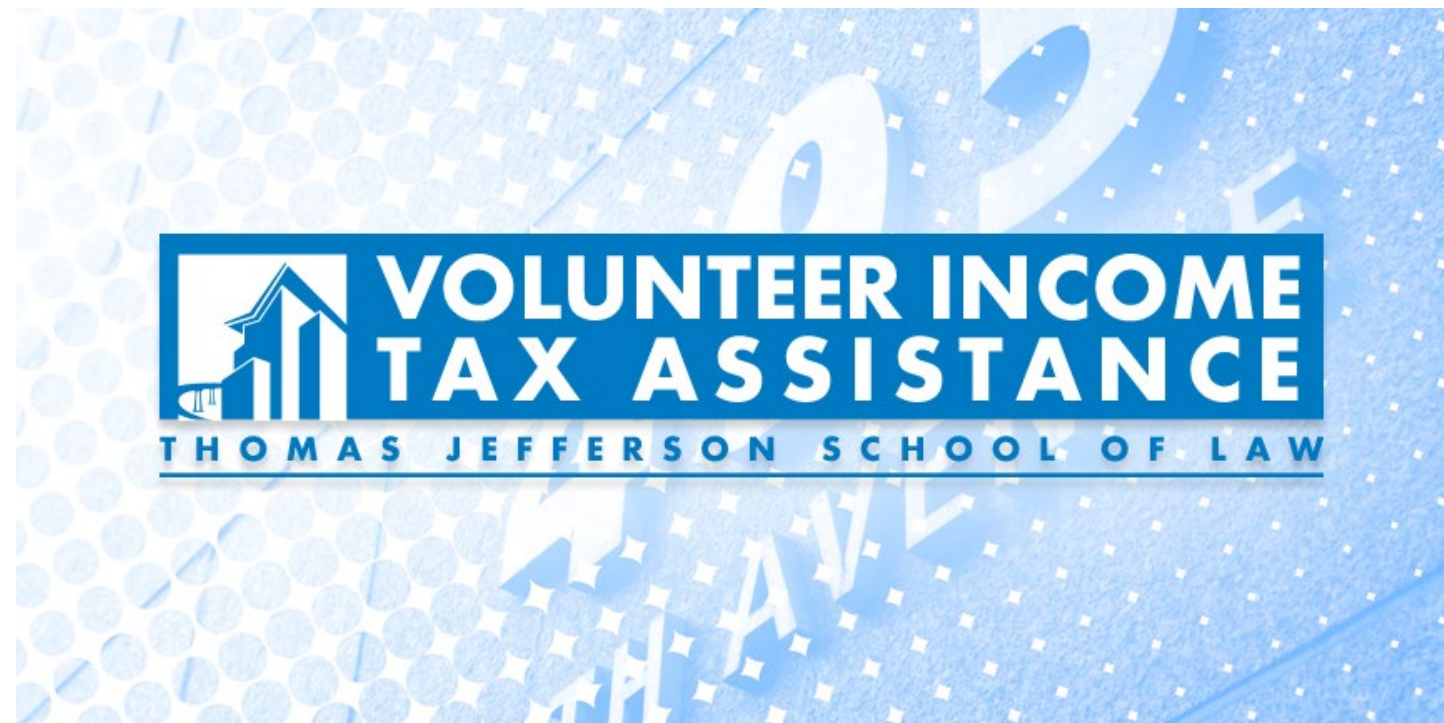
software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return. This year, approximately 15 students, who are IRS-certified will participate.

The TJSL tax clinic is open to appointment only clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Monday, March 2, Saturday, March 7, Monday, March 9 and Saturday, March 14. Appointments can be made by emailing tax@tjssl.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

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

MARJORIE COHN

Presentation

Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral, and Geopolitical Issues, National Lawyers Guild International Committee, Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO (March 7, 2015)

Radio

Netanyahu's speech to Congress; *Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral, and Geopolitical Issues*, Forthright Radio, KXYX, Philo, CA, March 4, 2015

[View All Faculty Citations](#)

Location	Dates	Cooperation	Credits	Duration
HANGZHOU, CHINA	MAY 18, 2015 - JUNE 5, 2015	Zhejiang University Guanghai College of Law	4	3 Weeks
NICE, FRANCE	JUNE 22, 2015 - JULY 16, 2015	La Faculté de Droit de L'Université de Nice	4	4 Weeks

Hangzhou, China Program:

- 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 Program:

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

[View Legal Writing Competitions](#)

[View the TJSL Event Calendar](#)



THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

BARRISTERS BALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015, 6:00-10:30 PM



AT PETCO PARK PLAYING FIELD
100 PARK BOULEVARD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101



RSVP

[SQUAREUP.COM/MARKET/TJSSL-SBA/BARRISTERS-BALL-PETCO-PARK](http://squareup.com/market/tjssl-sba/barristers-ball-petco-park)

AFTER PARTY

TBD

QUESTIONS

SEND INQUIRIES TO SBA@TJSL.EDU

TICKETS
\$85 PER PERSON



FEATURING
THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS



T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

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