

THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | MAY 18, 2015

CONGRATULATIONS SPRING CLASS OF 2015



On Saturday, May 16, 2015, the cheers and applause of proud family, friends, and faculty filled Copley Symphony Hall as May graduates assembled. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Randy K. Jones' introductory remarks were quickly followed by Dean Thomas Guernsey's presentation of the Summa plaques to the most distinguished graduates, including Valedictorian Yana Loboda.

"I am here today because I followed my dreams, and the advice of Superman: You are much stronger than you think you are," Loboda began as she addressed her peers. "Eight years ago when I arrived in the U.S., I felt frightened, vulnerable, and scared. I did not have a job, I did not have

a place to live, nor did I speak English. However, I had a powerful internal drive pushing me forward; it was the desire to make my mom feel proud of me."

Loboda acknowledged the strength and determination that characterizes the class of 2015 and reminded them, "This is our moment to be brilliant. We will pass the bar in two more months, and we will shine. The sky is not the limit, because we have no limits. Remember, you are much stronger than you think you are."

A veteran of the legal profession, former San Diego Superior Court Judge, California State Assemblyman, professor

of law, and current San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith delivered the commencement address. Goldsmith offered graduates some perspective by describing the adverse conditions under which he entered the legal field in 1976, with higher inflation and unemployment rates than there are today. "We students were anxious of our unknown future," Goldsmith said. "Today, many of those students sitting in the audience with me in 1976, are familiar names in the legal community. The anxiety will wear off and many of you will become judges, senior partners, and public servants."

Goldsmith also gave graduates a few words of advice about maintaining a



career as long and successful as his own. "My advice is pretty simple. Be nice, keep learning, maintain your integrity, honesty, and work hard. But there is one more thing, have fun. The practice of law is fun, have fun, enjoy it," Goldsmith concluded.

Together, Chairman Jones, Dean Guernsey and Professor A. Thomas Golden conferred 169 Juris Doctorate degrees and 5 LL.M. degrees. As is tradition, the Alumni Association President, Jeremy Evans '11, welcomed the newest graduates with a few words.

"Congratulations to all of you! The number one thing I would say as you graduate is that you give back. I promise you that giving back will be good for business, it will be good for you, for the community, and for your fellow alumni."



PROFESSOR SLOMANSON'S BLENDED LEARNING RECOGNITION



The [Uncommon Individual Foundation](#) congratulated Professor William Slomanson on May 11, 2015, for his pioneering work in blended learning education. As its notice provides:

Your video [Why Flip? & Macro Design](#) has been selected to be the LegalED video of the week and will be featured on our home page. We think this would be a great opportunity to share your engagement in legal education reform. This was a terrific presentation and we once again thank you for your time and effort on this.

Professor Slomanson initiated his blended learning approach during his last sabbatical. He kicked off this novel teaching approach in his fall 2013 Civil Procedure classes. As he explains, "Traditional lecture-only classes—in K-12, undergraduate, and graduate education are going by the wayside. There, the teacher's notes become the students' notes, without passing through the minds of either. Online-only classes—exemplified by the huge institutional MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)—are, too often, a mere replication of the lecture method. They increase the student-teacher ratio, and decrease student-teacher contact. Blended learning, on the other hand, integrates the best of both. The Department of Education's numerous

studies demonstrate that student comprehension is significantly improved in blended learning classes."

The substantive material is introduced via short subject-specific videos. The students can stop and rewind the professor the night before class. They can then commence outlining each subject area, as well as looking up challenging words or concepts. Professor Slomanson comments, "Upon arrival in class, it's déjà vu all over again. The students already have a general sense of the subject matter, based on the pre-class videos. They do less note-taking and ask more practical questions. That has yielded the additional class time to inject skills elements into my three-unit night classes."

Professor Slomanson's Year 1 results are chronicled in [Blended Learning: A Flipped Classroom Experiment, 64 Journal of Legal Education 93 \(2014\)](#).

Slomanson's first of two blended learning conference presentations was the April 2014 inaugural Igniting Legal Education Conference, at American University in Washington, DC. That TEDx talk is the subject of the Uncommon Individual Foundation's above congratulatory notice. Slomanson therein shared his views about why one should create a blended learning class. His article

covered how one might do that.

Slomanson's most recent blended learning presentation was at the AALS 38th Annual Clinical Education Conference in Rancho Mirage, California. On May 5 and 6, Professor Slomanson co-presented two Creating Video Workshops, with co-presenters Angela Upchurch (SIU) and Michele Pistone (Villanova). Slomanson prepared a pre-conference video, which was shown to the Thomas Jefferson faculty at its most recent Professional Development Committee event. It features a handful of platforms for creating blended learning videos, so that professors can unearth additional class time for augmenting their course objectives. Slomanson's [AALS video is available here](#).

Upon learning of the above recognition for his blended learning work, Professor Slomanson said, "I must thank I.T. specialist John Snay for his now two-year voluntary servitude. He made it possible for me to do all my Year 1 videos. As no good deed goes unpunished, John cheerfully facilitated the redo of all my videos for the just completed Year 2—when I moved my blended learning program to the night division. After the 48 videos that he has helped me produce, I've promised to give him some R&R—before flipping my Year 3 Cal Civ Pro class."

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Citations Added May 10, 2015 - May 18, 2015

MARJORIE COHN

Articles

Drones and the Human Right to Peace, Peace Rev. (with Jeanne Mirer) (forthcoming 2015)

Congress Should End Metadata Collection, Huffington Post (2015)

Challenging American Exceptionalism, Huffington Post (2015)

The Chickens Come Home to Roost in Baltimore, Huffington Post (2015)

Agent Orange: Terrible Legacy of the Vietnam War, Huffington Post (2015)

Chapter in a Book

Drones and Double Standards, WAR AND ENVIRONMENT (ed. Gar Smith), Foundation for Deep Ecology (forthcoming 2015).

Agent Orange: Terrible Legacy of the Vietnam War, WAR AND ENVIRONMENT (ed. Gar Smith), Foundation for Deep Ecology (forthcoming 2015).

Presentation

A nation under surveillance, Introduction to Robert Scheer's book talk, 'They Know Everything About You: How Data-Collecting Corporations and Snooping Government Agencies are Destroying Democracy', Benefit for KNSJ Radio, San Diego (May 16, 2015)

Radio

Polls on Americans' support for drone strikes, RT America (TV), May 5, 2015

MARYBETH HERALD

Article

Getting Students Psyched: Using Psychology to Encourage Classroom Participation, 15 Nev. L.J. (forthcoming 2015)

WILLIAM SLOMANSON

Presentations

Creating Videos Workshop, 38th Annual AALS Clinical Education Conference, with co-presenters Angela Upchurch (SIU) and Michele Pistone (Villanova), Rancho Mirage, CA (May 5 & 6, 2015)

Pre-Conference Video, 38th Annual AALS Clinical Education Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA (March 22, 2015)

[View All Faculty Citations](#)

[View Legal Writing Competitions](#)

[View the TJSJ Event Calendar](#)

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THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW

ALUMNI & FRIENDS TAILGATE



PADRES VS CARDINALS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015 3:30 P.M.

RSVP <http://alumni.tjssl.edu/events/rsvp.asp?eventid=411>

\$28 TJSJ STUDENTS **\$35** ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF AND GUESTS

Includes all-you-can-eat tailgate party access and a ticket to the game!



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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.