

## SAM KOSSACK 3L TO ATTEND PEGGY BROWNING FUND CONFERENCE



Sam Kossack (3L) will represent Thomas Jefferson School of Law at the [Peggy Browning Fund's 16th Annual Worker's Rights Conference](#), which will be held near Baltimore, Maryland on October 17 – 18.

"In an era where unions are demonized more than ever, I find the prospect of specializing in labor law an exciting opportunity," said Kossack. "The Peggy Brown Fund's Worker's Rights Conference is one of the country's most important gatherings of experts in the field. I'm humbled at the opportunity to represent Thomas Jefferson School of Law at the conference, and excited to network with individuals who have a passion for social justice."

The Peggy Browning Fund is a non-profit that was established in honor of the late Margaret Browning, a prominent labor lawyer who served on the National Labor Relations Board. The Fund exists to "educate and inspire the next generation of law students to become advocates for workplace justice." To that end, it hosts an annual conference aimed at law students, and provides funding for one student from each law school affiliated with the Fund. The funding covers airfare and accommodations.

The Fund relies on each affiliated law school to select a deserving student to attend the conference. Thomas Jefferson School of Law has sent at least one student to the conference for the past several years. TJSJL students have also in the past received prestigious Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship stipends for summer work with labor unions or the National Labor Relations Board.

This year, TJSJL's selection committee was comprised of Career Services Director Jeff Chinn, Professor Rebecca Lee, and Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp. They evaluated an impressive set of student applications.

"I'd like to thank Professor Bisom-Rapp and Professor Lee for instilling in me an excitement for this area of law. Additionally, Jeffery Chinn has been a tremendous asset in preparing me for the conference, said Kossack"

Kossack is the president of the Labor and Employment Law Association (LELA), was vice president of LELA last year, has volunteered at TJSJL's Employee Rights Self Help Clinic, and served as a law clerk for the Employee Rights Center, an NGO located in City Heights.

The 2014 conference features a compelling Friday night panel: "Organizing Low Wage Workers: Innovation in the Face of Desperation." Students attending the conference will also choose from interactive panels and workshops, including: 1) Introduction to Basic Labor Law; 2) Protecting and Organizing Immigrant Workers; 3) The Rewards of Labor Law Practice; 4) Employee Benefits Law; 5) Sports and Labor Law; 6) Public Sector Labor Law; and 7) International Trade and Workers' Rights.

## BOTTEGA AMERICANO IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

On August 30, [Bottega Americano](#) opened its doors within the Thomas Jefferson School of Law building in San Diego's East Village. Because the restaurant is located in the TJSJL building, it will serve as not only a fine dining establishment, but also serve as the dining hall for students, faculty and staff offering lunch and dinner.

Bottega Americano's footprint includes 8,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space featuring a modern design with

retro Italian and European influences. Bottega Americano leans more toward being a full-service restaurant with five interactive food bars as well as made-to-order meals that can be picked up from the gourmet-to-go market. Guests can sit at any of the culinary bars to watch food being prepared and interact with the chefs, or in the communal dining room or outside patio. Valet parking is available every night starting at 5 p.m. for \$7.

The venue is separate and distinct from the law school, specifically reserved as

restaurant space. Bottega Americano will also offer catering for all events taking place at TJSJL.

Bottega Americano is the first concept created by four partners involved in San Diego's flourishing dining scene. Owners include Giuseppe Ciuffa, Founder and CEO of Giuseppe Fine Catering and Restaurants; practicing lawyer, investor and East Village resident Chad Ruyle; general manager Greg Van de Velde, who has consulted on several new restaurants





and comes from the iconic Bertrand at Mister A's restaurant; and noted chef David Warner of San Diego's beachfront hotspot JRDN. The partners hired designer Thomas Schoos to help bring the vision of Bottega Americano to life.

For the latest news and updates, follow Bottega Americano on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).





## JUSTIN HALL 3L OBTAINS INTERNSHIP AT FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF SAN DIEGO INC.



Justin Hall was inducted into TJSL as a Criminal Law Fellow where he developed a laser focus in criminal law, and now he plans to intern at the Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc.

"I'm excited to wear a suit and to contribute my legal skills in the arena of federal law," Hall said. "I am definitely looking forward to expand my knowledge with federal offenses, and, also, I hope to learn various trial advocacy strategies

from the federal defenders in the office."

After building his network and reputation over the past several years Hall came across the internship at the Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc. from his mentors, "I obtained this position through the power of my legal network. By reaching out to my criminal law mentors right here at

TJSL, I was instantly able to set up an interview for the internship position."

Federal Defenders of San Diego Inc. provides legal representation for indigents accused of criminal offenses in criminal court. Congressional grants, under the Criminal Justice Act, provide the necessary funding to support over 60 trial attorneys and 70 support staff members. The Federal Defenders provide

several types of internships including legal internships, undergraduate internships, and interpreter internships.

When asked what advice he would provide students looking for a position Hall said, "Two pieces of advice for all the job seekers: (1) Be obsessed with meeting people and building relationships. (2) Apply! Even if you think you don't meet the qualifications of the position. Chances are that you may actually get the phone call for an interview."

Hall's prior legal experience has been with the California Innocence Project as well as extending into politics where he was a Congressional Intern with Congresswoman Susan Davis. "Currently, I mentor high school student through the Crawford Legal Institute and Mentorship Bond and have volunteered at the San Diego Re-entry Clinic." Hall's mastery of Criminal Procedure coursework enabled him to help others as a learning assistant over the summer and receive "Honors" recognition in Criminal Appeals.

## OMID REJALI '12 OVERCOMES OBSTACLES TO SUCCEED

TJSL Alumni Omid Rejali '12, whom after passing the bar earlier this year opened the [Rejali Law Firm](#). "I moved to the United States in 2003 to pursue higher education from Iran. Since then I have been pursuing my dream of becoming the first person in my family to become an attorney, which I have become."

"I opened my practice right after I passed the bar, without any hesitation or having any second thoughts," Rejali said. At the age of 28, Rejali is eager and passionate about his diverse practice, "The firm practices in the areas of immigration, criminal defense, personal injury, civil litigation, obtaining OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) licensing, bankruptcy, estate planning, tax and business litigation," explains Rejali.

"I love the law and have a very strong passion for it. I enjoy everything about it," Rejali said. The many obstacles Rejali has encountered, evidence the passion and dedication with which he

has pursued his career. "My journey through law school was no easy task. I had to overcome many adversities from the moment I decided to enter law school." Diagnosed with bipolar disorder in February of 2006, Rejali admits, "I had to take the LSAT three times until I was able to enter law school."

During law school, Rejali concurrently underwent treatment for his condition and successfully completed the rigorous curriculum. "I enjoyed every moment at TJSL; I worked for the library as an assistant manager and as a circulation desk librarian throughout the time I was there. I also worked for several professors."

"During bar prep Professor Mike Neal and Professor Blair Matsumoto, the staff



and the career services office helped me tremendously. I am forever grateful to the school for giving me the opportunity to pursue my dream," Rejali said.

After graduation, Rejali's condition brought him up against an unexpected hurdle, "I had to take the bar exam four consecutive times, even though I knew the material very well." Through his perseverance Rejali passed the bar during the February 2014 administration.

One of the reasons I wanted to become an attorney was because my mom always wanted to be an attorney but, because of circumstances, she was never able to. Another reason is that I have a passion for standing up for people's rights...We live in a world where a lot of injustice takes place and if there are not people like myself and my colleagues, I'm not sure what would happen."

When asked what advice he would give recent graduates Rejali said, "If you can't find a job don't sit around. There is plenty of work out there; you just need to be the person willing to do it, and don't be scared to step out of your comfort zone. And if you are a recent graduate who has not been able to pass the bar please come talk to me and don't give up. There is a reason why things happen."

Months after passing the bar, Rejali has accomplished his second dream, that of opening his own practice alongside his mother, who is working on obtaining her paralegal certificate. Rejali hopes to conquer new projects. Among them, launching a non-profit organization focused on raising mental health awareness.

## PROFESSOR HERALD PUBLISHES YOUR BRAIN AND LAW SCHOOL



Professor Marybeth Herald has been studying the science while observing the workings of the law student brain for almost 25 years. Now, Professor Herald has written an entertaining and practical guide titled [Your Brain and Law School: A Context and Practice Book](#) that offers law students a formula for success in school, on the bar exam, and as a practicing attorney.

Professor Herald's theory is that mastering the law, either as a law

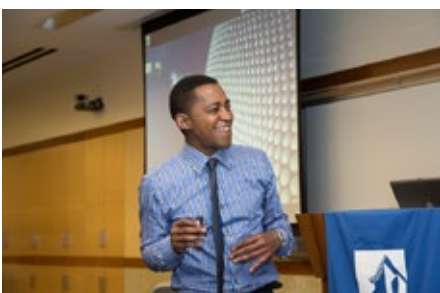
student or in practice, becomes much easier if one has a working knowledge of the brain's basic habits. Before you can learn to think like a lawyer, you have to have some idea about how the brain thinks. The [first part](#) of Professor Herald's book translates the technical research, explaining learning strategies that work for the brain in law school specifically, and calling out other tactics that are useless (though often popular lures for the misinformed). This book is unique in explaining the latest science behind the advice and will save you from pursuing tempting shortcuts that will take you in the wrong direction.

The second part explores the brain's decision-making processes and cognitive biases. These biases affect the ability to persuade, a necessary skill of the successful lawyer. The book talks about the art and science of framing, the seductive lure of the confirmation and

egocentric biases, and the egocentricity of the availability bias. This book uses easily recognizable examples from both law and life to illustrate the potential of these biases to draw humans to mistaken judgments. Understanding these biases is critical to becoming a successful attorney and gaining proficiency in fashioning arguments that appeal to your audience – whether law professors, bar examiners, and employers, or clients, jurors, and judges.

First inspired to write the book at a conference on "Humanizing Legal Education," Professor Herald is grateful to her many colleagues, students, and dedicated research assistants that inspired her to craft the guide and offered useful feedback. You can download the introduction, ["Why You Should Read This Book"](#), for free.

## PROFESSOR GREENE TO SPEAK AT MUSIC SHOWCASE AND CONFERENCE



Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor K.J. Greene will speak at [San Diego Music Thing](#), San Diego Music Foundation's 6th annual Music & Media Conference and Festival on Saturday, September 13th. The festival, held at various venues from

September 11th to September 13th, aims to promote a diverse and creative music community among children and emerging professionals and will cover the many facets of the music industry.

Panels and workshops will cover topics including marketing, business, and the law. Professor Greene, nationally known as the first legal scholar to examine African-American art forms under intellectual property, will participate in the panel titled "Lawyers, Guns and Money." Afterword the "One-On-One Music and Media Law Clinic" will allow panelists to mentor attendees

and discuss in-depth questions about entertainment law.

Live music performances in the afternoons and into the evenings will display over 100 different bands. Featured speakers include rock and soul music artist Swamp Dogg, rock musician Jack Grisham and singer-songwriter Moby. In accord with The San Diego Foundation's 23-year commitment to young people, proceeds from the festival will go to making music accessible to children through the Foundation's experimental music program across San Diego County.

# 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.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# 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.