



Chad Ruyle, Giuseppe Ciuffa, David Warner and Greg Van de Velde

Bottega Americano Set to Debut at Thomas Jefferson School of Law

The team behind Bottega Americano is excited to open its doors within the Thomas Jefferson School of Law building.

Slated for a summer opening, Bottega Americano's footprint includes 8,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space featuring a sleek modern design with retro Italian and European influences. More details will be coming soon and students can get the full scoop by engaging with Bottega Americano on social media and keeping an eye out for trending news stories on the big reveal!

The venue is separate and distinct from the law school, specifically reserved as restaurant space. Bottega Americano will also be offering catering for all events taking place in the Thomas Jefferson Law School building's many venues and spaces and will be providing a meal plan to TJSL students as well.

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. Together, these four longtime San Diego residents will bring to life a new genre of dining inspired by European style.

The partners hired designer Thomas Schoos to help bring the vision of Bottega Americano to life. Recently, Schoos has garnered acclaim for his recent projects Searsucker, Herringbone and Puesto. The last few years have seen Schoos going more international, with projects in Beijing, Taipei and the south of France. Last May, Ellipsis opened in Mumbai, the first project Schoos has designed in India.

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

The Carnival-Themed PILF Auction was a Huge Hit

On Friday, April 4th, TJSU's 3rd floor was transformed into a fun-filled carnival for the 2014 Public Interest Law Foundation Auction. The hallways were filled with balloons, streamers, games, and auction items. Attendees played carnival games like knock down milk bottles, ring toss, putt putt golf, and shooting hoops.

"The night began with free-flowing wine and food generously provided by local businesses," said PILF President Ashley Salas. The businesses included: Rustic Meatball and Tapas, Crunchtime Gourmet Popcorn, RA Sushi, and the New Yorker. The music was provided by DJs Crush Effect.

Professors Joy Delman and Mike Martindill got the bidding started at the live auction. Some of the most sought after items included a complete Kaplan bar review course, Fit gym membership with training sessions, \$1,000 bottle service in Las Vegas, and auto-graphed Padres and Chargers memorabilia.

At the conclusion of the live auction, attendees were treated to a performance by belly dancer Elena Fireswan. The silent auction and raffle ended shortly thereafter, with students engaged in bidding wars over Bar Secrets certificates, study rooms and parking.

"Overall it was a very successful event!" said Salas. "The funds raised will provide scholarships for students with public interest internships and travel stipends to the annual Equal Justice Works Career Fair and Conference in Washington, D.C. Last year was the first year PILF set aside funds - matched by Career Services - for travel stipends. It was very successful with both travel stipend recipients receiving positions after interviewing at the Equal Justice Works Career fair."

"It was great to see the TJSU community, the legal community, and the community as a whole support us in achieving our goals," said Salas.

Many distinguished guests attended the auction, including Hon. Jill Burkhardt, attorneys who practice public interest law, and three past PILF Presidents.

"Throughout the evening, attendees approached each of the PILF board members and expressed very positive feedback," said Salas. "I attribute it all to our fantastic team: Vice President Jessica McCracken, Secretary Shannon Laoye, Treasurer Christina Hebert, and of course our wonderful volunteers! We also could not do this without our Advisor Professor Marybeth Herald, our alumni advisors, Events Coordinator Kathryn Markey, and Facilities Assistant Ron Tumey. Thank you to everyone who came out to support PILF to make this night so enjoyable and successful."

"The feedback from professors, alumni, students and members of the community was that this was the most enjoyable auction to date!" said Salas.



Brittany Taylor and her daughter Catherine Elizabeth



Danielle Gilbert, Cris Kinsella and PILF President Ashley Salas



Auctioneer Professor Joy Delman

The Center for Solo Practitioners Open House

In honor of its second year, [The Center for Solo Practitioners](#) held its annual open house.

“The Solo Practitioners Open House on Wednesday, April 2 was a great event,” said David Gibbs ‘12. “It gave us an opportunity to show our family, friends, and colleagues our office space in a casual environment. It was a nice way for everyone to learn about the Center for Solo Practitioners and to learn more about our individual practices.”

“It was gratifying to engage with friends and members of the community and to inform them about my practice, its focus and goals at the Solo Practitioners Open House,” said Andrea Carter ‘08. “I received an outpouring of congratulations, support and warm wishes from many, which was very touching, especially from clients.”

“When I announced the opening of my business and nonprofit law practice, I received a tremendous amount of support and words of encouragement from my friends, colleagues, and law school professors,” said Esther Hyun ‘13. “It was great to share a lovely evening with them and thank them for their support.”

The Center for Solo Practitioners is a Lawyer Incubator Program designed specifically and exclusively for Thomas Jefferson School of Law alumni, the TJSL center supports new solo practitioners as they establish their own law offices.

“Starting my law firm has been challenging, but very rewarding,” said Joseph Willmore ‘11. “The center has been integral in my transition from ‘big law’ firm life to the complexities of building my own business.”

“So far my experience in the program has involved receiving mentorship and practical assistance on a weekly basis, taking new cases, networking and learning as much as I can around the clock,” said Andrea Carter. “As a new Solo Practitioner I find myself busy, with many questions and also getting great feedback and support from clients, colleagues and friends.”

The program encourages new solos to become leaders in their community by developing ways to reach traditionally underserved populations with much-needed legal services.

“I couldn't be more proud of Thomas Jefferson School of Law,” said Ronza Rafo ‘12. “The Center for Solo Practitioners is yet another example of how caring and hardworking TJSL is when it comes to its students and alumni. All of the attorneys I work with at the center are professional, smart, and committed. I feel like TJSL prepared us all very well to possess such skills and I am so glad to be in working in such an environment.”



David Gibbs, Esther Hyun, Andrea Carter, Ronza Rafo, Joseph Willmore, Michelle Bos, Kirra O'Toole, David Meyer



Professor Lilys McCoy, Dean Thomas Guernsey and wife Kathe Klare



(center) Esther Hyun '13



(center) Kirra O'toole

The Center for Solo Practitioners Open House continued...

Every year, the program welcomes six to ten lawyers who have a desire to establish their own law practices.

Ben Aguilar '11 participated in the program last year. "This environment was a great support network," said Aguilar. "It was extremely helpful to come to work and have other attorneys to discuss cases with and get second opinions. As a result of joining the program, I have made some wonderful new friends and we have shared important milestones in our personal and professional lives. I am looking forward to continue working with this group of incredibly talented attorneys.

Because of the experience gained by his participation in the Incubator Program, Aguilar is expanding his business. "I just opened a second office location in Imperial County, so the plan is to continue growing my family law and immigration practice."

While building their practices, the lawyers are encouraged to provide pro-bono and low-bono services to increase the access to civil legal services for those in need. While providing those legal services, the incubator lawyers gain valuable legal experience.

"The center is devoted to two principles," said Director of the Center for Solo Practitioners and Solo Practice Concentration Professor Lilys McCoy. "The first is that everyone should have access to justice. People shouldn't be denied legal representation because they have too little, or for that matter, because you have too much. The second principle is that lawyers provide a tremendous service to society, but for lawyers to meet this noble obligation they themselves need support, mentoring, continuing education and they need each other."

"I would like to add a big thank you to Professor Lilys McCoy," said David Gibbs. "She has been a fantastic mentor and role model. I am incredibly grateful for all she has done for me and for Thomas Jefferson School of Law."

"My experience as a Solo Practitioner has been great," said David Meyer. "The Center has provided me with resources to get my practice going and keep it moving forward. I can't thank Professor McCoy enough."

"Lilys McCoy has been an outstanding mentor," said Aguilar. "Her dedication to the program has made this project a success. I also want to thank Professor Luz Herrera for her vision. Her work and her vision really inspire and motivate me to continue working to serve underserved litigants and really make a difference."

The lawyers work together in a collaborative setting in the offices of the San Diego Family Justice Center Alliance in downtown San Diego.



(left) Former Solo Practitioner Ben Aguilar '11 and (right) Ronza Rafo '12



(right) Andrea Carter '08



(center) David Gibbs '12



(center) Joseph Willmore

50th Anniversary of Workplace Anti-Discrimination Law Forum

By Sean Pan & Ian Seruelo

Equal employment opportunities for all—this is the message of Congress when it enacted Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. To commemorate fifty years of this historic legislation, the Labor and Employment Law Association (LELA) in cooperation with other student organizations held a forum on employment discrimination that tackled the lasting impact of the law that prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin in the American workplace. The panel also discussed the challenges, the current and future prospects in this field of labor and employment law.

“Title VII is by far the most litigated area of the Civil Rights Act,” started the event’s keynote speaker, Mr. Bill Lann Lee of Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, as he shared insights about the history of the law and litigations on that field. He underscored the significance of the legislation in relation to Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream of reaching the “Promised Land.”

Lee formerly served as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division in the United States Department of Justice in the Clinton Administration. He also spent eighteen years as an attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City and Los Angeles.

Lee contended that “the situation today is still the same as before” and is disheartened by issues in the effective implementation of the Civil Rights law and acknowledged the tension between the law’s goals and courts’ restrictive interpretation. Despite this however he asserted, “there is a way to successfully litigate under the Civil Rights Act” citing to the suits he successfully brought against big companies such as Wet Seal on discrimination of its African-American employees, and against Netflix on behalf of the National Association of the Deaf.

So “why should you be interested in employment discrimination?” asked Mr. Lee. He said that it is an opportunity to tackle unique challenges of the 21st century and help ensure equal opportunity for all.

Prof. Susan Bisom-Rapp, who was part of the panel, presented her recent scholarship on the problem of poverty for older women and highlighted that women suffer more in age discrimination. According to her, this, as well as other lingering discrimination in the workplace, can be attributed to the nation’s scattershot approach. “There are many holes in the Civil Rights Act and the nation’s labor and employment laws. Piecemeal solutions are not effectively addressing the problem. Our work isn’t finished and the Civil Rights Act needs to adapt to the 21st century.”



Keynote Speaker Bill Lann Lee



Moderator TJSJ General Counsel Karin Sherr



Panelist Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp



Panelist Professor Rebecca Lee

“We are still in the beginning stages of addressing employment discrimination in its various forms in society,” said Professor Rebecca Lee, who presented another perspective from the academe. Prof. Lee shared her recent scholarship in the area of affirmative action and asserted, “there is compelling interest in workforce diversity.” She highlighted that even Fortune 500 companies “recognized that the global economy required widely diverse people with different background in the workplace.”

“The Civil Rights Act has made significant contribution in eradicating discrimination in the workplace, but I do agree much still need to be done,” concluded TJSJ’s General Counsel Karin Sherr who moderated the forum. She echoed the panel’s assertion that additional progress in this area of labor and employment law is needed to eliminate discrimination in the workplace.

In his welcome remarks, Dean Thomas Guernsey acknowledged the important role of student organizations in nurturing the intellectual traditions of TJSJ. Aside from LELA, he thanked the other sponsors of the event: La Raza, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA), National Lawyers Guild (NLG), Black Law Students Association (BLSA), Immigration Law Society (ILS), and Delta Theta Phi. Aside from the student organizations, LELA President Ian Seruelo also acknowledged the event’s other sponsors: TJSJ Center for Law and Social Justice, Kaplan Bar Review, and Champagne Bakery.



Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Scholarship Opportunity

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association recently announced that it will be awarding a scholarship to cover the full costs/tuition of a bar prep course. The deadline to submit all required documentation is Wednesday, April 30th.

This scholarship opportunity is available to any African American student who is graduating this spring and plans to taking on the July bar exam or to an African American student who has already graduated and plans to take the July bar exam. This is a need based scholarship.

Qualified students interested in applying must submit an application, personal statement, resume, transcript, and letter confirming current enrollment in law school, or proof of completion of law school.

The finalists will be selected for an interview and, as a condition of receiving a bar scholarship through EBGBA, you must agree to report your bar results to EBGBA within 24 hours of receiving your results. Please contact careerservices@tjss.edu to obtain a copy of the application and instructions.





Talking the Talk for a Cause

On Saturday, April 19th, Phi Alpha Delta will present a production of the award-winning play *The Vagina Monologues* at hART Lounge. An all-female cast of TJSJL students will lend their acting talents to soliloquies that bring empowerment to women worldwide.

The performance is part of an international movement called V-DAY, founded by the play's author Eve Ensler, who wrote the play with the mission to "bring a deeper consciousness to the conversation around ending violence against women and girls."

Ensler wrote *The Vagina Monologues* as a collection of vignettes, based on interviews she conducted with more than 200 women. At times humorous, but always heartfelt, Ensler gracefully tells their stories, with each piece celebrating women's sexuality and strength by giving voice to experiences and feelings not previously exposed in public. Through the liberation of this one word from the taboo, Ensler has empowered countless women worldwide and started a grassroots campaign dedicated to generating awareness and funds to stop violence against women and girls in all its forms.

As an integral part of the V-Day campaign, each performance goes to benefit a program in the local community who shares the collective V-Day mission to end the cycle of violence against women. Phi Alpha Delta will donate a portion of the proceeds from this performance to Becky's House, a YWCA-affiliated domestic violence program located in downtown San Diego that provides a much-needed oasis of hope for women and children who may think they have no alternative than to remain in an abusive situation. Donations of women's products and non-perishables are also being collected on behalf of Becky's House, both at the door and in the PAD cube on the 5th floor.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 19th at the hART Lounge located at 734 Park Blvd. The \$10 admission includes a sandwich/soda. [Purchase tickets online.](#)



NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW

2014-2015 TJSJL National Trial Team Try-Outs

Try-Outs April 25 - 26

The Mock Trial Team provides students with an opportunity to develop their trial advocacy skill. Students chosen for the Team will practice several times per week, honing trial skills such as direct examination, cross examination, opening statement and closing argument. Those chosen for competitions will compete against other schools nationwide. For more information, or to receive a application email Professor Lily McCoy at Lmccoy@tjssl.edu

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Citations Added April 6, 2014 - April 15, 2014

Marjorie Cohn

Radio:
BDS against Israeli policies, The Burt Cohen Show, WSCA, Portsmouth, NH, April 7, 2014

Meera E. Deo

Presentations:
Empirically Derived Compelling State Interests in Affirmative Action Jurisprudence, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT (March 26, 2014)

Presentations:

Racial Isolation & Diversity in Law School, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT (March 26, 2014)



Valedictorian Kimberly Roth

TJSL Spring Class of 2014 Valedictorian is Kimberly Roth and the Commencement Speaker is Judge Roger Benitez

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Spring Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10 a.m., at Copley Symphony Hall located in downtown San Diego. Approximately 215 graduating students will receive Juris Doctor degrees.



Commencement Speaker Judge Roger Benitez '78

Kimberly Roth, graduating Summa Cum Laude will be addressing the audience as Valedictorian. "I'm really excited to be Valedictorian of my graduating class," said Roth. "It means all of my hard work over the past three years paid off! These past three years have flown by, but I am eager to graduate, pass the bar, and enter the real world!"

In addition to tutoring and mentoring other law students, Roth currently interns at the Attorney General's Office. She has previously interned for Disability Rights California and for the San Diego County Office of the District Attorney.

During her time in law school, Roth served as Editor for Thomas Jefferson's Law Review and Vice Chair of TJSL's Moot Court Competition Team – which Roth describes as representing some of her most memorable experiences at TJSL. "Our team is like a family to me and I have thoroughly enjoyed working hard for competitions with my fellow teammates," she said.

"I was fortunate to take classes with some of the best professors around that were enthusiastic about the subjects they taught, happy to be teaching, and willing to go out of their way to see their students succeed," said Roth – who credits Professors Susan Bisom-Rapp, William Slomanson, Aaron Schwabach, Marybeth Herald, Julie Greenberg, Anders Kaye, K.J. Greene, Jane Seigel, Carmela Simoncini and Paul Spiegelman, for helping her develop her research, writing, and oral advocacy skills.

"I owe a huge *thank you* to everyone that helped me to be successful in law school. Most importantly, I would not be where I am today without the continuous love and support from my parents, sister, and friends. Their encouragement helped me work hard and push through the late study nights at the library and all-nighters at Lestat's Coffee House," added Roth.

The doors will open at 9 a.m. at [Copley Symphony Hall](#), 750 B Street, San Diego. The graduation ceremony starts promptly at 10 a.m.

The Spring 2014 commencement speaker is Board of Trustees member Judge Roger Benitez '78. The Honorable Roger T. Benitez was first appointed to the Superior Court of California in 1997, after previously working in general practice with a law firm. He served as Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division before being appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District in 2001. In 2004, he was appointed to the District Judge position he now holds. Judge Benitez has sat by designation numerous times with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and also has sat on assignment in Arizona, Guam and Saipan. He is a charter member of the Wallace Inn of Court, currently chairs the Southern District's IT Committee and is a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure, having been appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts.

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 T Padres vs. DET 1:10 PM	14 SE BLSA Informative Meeting Regarding Elections 225 12:00 PM T Padres vs. COL 7:10 PM	15 SE Immigration Law Society's Election Day 216 11:30 AM T Padres vs. COL 7:10 PM	16 T Padres vs. COL 7:10 PM	17 SE Academic Success - Preparing for Mixed Subject Final Exams 229 11:30 AM SE Labor & Employment Law Association - Meeting 320 11:30 AM SE BLSA Election 12:00 PM T Padres vs. COL 3:40 PM SE CLIMB Presents - Cultural Night 5:00 PM	18 SE Academic Success - Testing Labs 225 11:30 AM SE WLA - Law School Rehab 323 6:00 PM T Padres vs. SF 7:10 PM	19 T Padres vs. SF 5:40 PM
20 T Padres vs. SF 1:10 PM	21	22 SE The Thomas Jefferson Law Review Presents - Write-On Competition Informational Session 12:00 PM SE Center for Sports Law & Policy - "Working in Sports Law: An Overview of Available Careers" 6:00 PM	23 SE Academic Success - Testing Labs 229 11:30 AM	24 SE Armenian Law Students Association - Unrecognized Genocides 225 11:30 AM	25 SE Academic Success - Winning the Finals Fight - Outlining, Scheduling and other Essential Studying 225 11:30 AM	26
27	28	29	30 SE Academic Success - Testing Labs 229 11:30 AM T Employee Rights Center - Annual May Day Celebration 5:30 PM			