



2014 Burton Award Winner

TJSL Alumnus Robert M. Sagerian '13 is the 2014 Burton Award winner for Legal Achievement for his distinguished legal writing.

"I'm really at a loss for words," said Sagerian. "It's truly an honor and incredibly rewarding just to be considered for such a prestigious award. Advocating for those in need is my passion, my calling in the legal profession."

Sagerian was selected in the law student category for his note titled "A Penalty Flag for Preemption: The NFL Concussion

Litigation, Tortious Fraud, and the Steel Curtain Defense of Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations act," published in the Fall 2013, edition of the Thomas Jefferson Law Review.

This year, the Burton Awards selection committee handed out 15 law student awards from among all of the nation's law schools.

Sagerian will be honored for his article at an awards ceremony and dinner at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on June 9.

"Robert joins a distinguished group of TJSL winners of this award," said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Linda Keller. "It is wonderful to see the accomplishments of our students recognized in this way."

The Burton Awards, now in its 15th year, was established by William C. Burton to promote and reward the refinement and enrichment of good legal writing and the achievement of legal reform. Winners are chosen by a committee consisting of educators from the law schools of Harvard University, Columbia University and Stanford University, as well as leading members of the legal profession and the judiciary.

"It's an absolute honor being selected for the prestigious Burton Award," Sagerian said. "I think my selection as a Burton Award winner is a true testament to the high quality of instruction, faculty, and student body here at TJSL."

Sagerian graduated Magna Cum Laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in December 2013. While in law school, Robert was Captain of the Trial Team that won the TYLA Regional Trial Competition. Robert was recognized in the 2014 Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities and earned the American Jurisprudence Award for Trial Practice. In addition, Robert served as a teaching assistant for the Legal Writing program and was invited as a guest judge for first year Oral Arguments. He formerly served as a law clerk at Gomez Trial Attorneys, advocating for those who suffered catastrophic injuries. While waiting for bar exam results, Robert currently holds a Graduate Law Clerk position in the Central Misdemeanor Unit at the San Diego Office of the Public Defender.



Erin Panichkul (2L) Accepts Prestigious Public Interest Internships in NYC

Erin Panichkul (2L) has accepted two consecutive prestigious internships in New York. She will spend this summer interning for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) before interning for the United Nations (UN) next fall.

Her 10-week paid internship with the ACLU's Affiliate Support and Advocacy component will have Panichkul working with advocacy and policy counsel on legislative advocacy and state-based legislative strategies to end mass incarceration.

In the Fall, Panichkul will be the sole intern at the UN's Disciplinary Unit where she will work with the UN's Administrative Law Section with the Human Resources Policy Service focusing on disciplinary measures in connection with the representation of the organization before the United Nation's Dispute Tribunal.

"I am extremely honored to represent TJSJ in contributing to high caliber work with both organizations in New York," said Panichkul.

"Interning with these organizations will provide incredible opportunities for me to learn, contribute, and build layers in my legal experience so that I am fully equipped when I graduate next year to further my goals and participation in social justice movements."

Panichkul has already distinguished herself in law school by advocating for a variety of social causes. She recently participated in a 48 fast for "We Belong Together" to support immigration reform in Washington, DC. Last summer she interned for the National Office of Law Students for Reproductive Justice in Oakland, Ca. She is a Certified Legal Observer for the National Lawyer's Guild and also represented TJSJ's LSRJ student organization on the board for the Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Panichkul volunteers monthly for the San Diego Re-Entry Clinic assisting community members with eligible felony and misdemeanor expungements. She has also been an active member of TJSJ's student body, having served as the Vice President of Law Students for Reproductive Justice and Events Coordinator for OUTLAW.

"The United Nations has an unparalleled role in international peacekeeping, protecting human rights, and international humanitarianism and the ACLU is recognized as a national leader who has been at the forefront of every major civil liberties and equal justice battle in the United States," she said.

Panichkul is thankful to TJSJ's career services team for guiding her through the application and interview process. "Although I thought I felt pretty confident about the interviewing process, Mr. Randy Reliford helped me immensely. He gave me powerful tips and insight on the interviewing process that I never considered before. Thanks to his assistance, I was offered two consecutive internships in New York. I accepted both," she added.



June Fan (1L) Connects Passion with her Summer Internship at the NCLR

June Fan will be one of four interns this summer at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) in San Francisco. NCLR has been advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education since it was founded in 1977. Each year, NCLR shapes the legal landscape for all LGBT people and families across the nation through its precedent-setting litigation, legislation, policy, and public education.

This internship is the perfect stepping stone for June whose ultimate career goal is advancing the civil and human rights of LGBT people and their families through policy. “NCLR’s mission aligns with my ideals and career aspirations. I definitely look forward to learning new skills and connecting with like-minded individuals that would bring me one step closer to reaching my career goal.” As a legal intern, she will be conducting case research, interviewing clients, updating publications, and drafting memos on a wide range of issues affecting LGBT people and their families.

June took a very proactive approach to finding an internship that coincided with her career goals. “I have known about NCLR and was familiar with their work, so I contacted the organization directly to see if they were accepting applications for summer interns. Assistant Dean for Career Services Ms. Beverly Bracker guided me throughout the internship application process. She was extremely patient, compassionate, and supportive.” June is thankful for her professors, mentors, staff, colleagues, and the writing center for inspiration and wisdom. “TJSL has played an instrumental role in assisting me in my career path.”

Specifically, June wants to focus on the issue of youth homelessness within the LGBT community where she has seen a great need. “Youth homelessness in the U.S. is a crisis that affects LGBT youth across the country. Yet, compared to the larger homeless youth community, LGBT youth often suffer from the most extreme discrimination and violence, leaving them feeling helpless, alienated, and sometimes hopeless.”

Her passion comes from her direct experience with the LGBT youth. “I have had numerous encounters with gay and transgender youth who have faced isolation and rejection from their family and friends after they had “come out” to their loved ones. Many of these individuals were left to sustain themselves at a very young age. In addition, I identify myself as part of the LGBT community; therefore, this topic really hits close to home for me.”

She is thrilled to take the concepts she has learned thus far and apply them to help others. “Because there is a need for positive change and improvement concerning the issue of LGBT youth homelessness, enacting policies that would fulfill the needs and interests of these affected members is very important to me.”



Evelyn Medina (1L) to Work at Alliance for Children's Rights

First year law student Evelyn Medina will be working at Alliance for Children's Rights, a non-profit organization in Los Angeles. She will be working with the Benefits Program helping caregivers secure funds to ensure that families are awarded adequate monies. Additionally, she will be working with the Foster Care Adoptions Program that handles court hearing and petitions for families that are transitioning from foster care to permanent adoption. At the end of the summer, she will participate in the Adoption Day event the Alliance holds twice a year.

Medina is excited about her position. She stated, "the Alliance promotes justice, opportunity, and their primary goal is to find suitable homes, healthcare, and stability for foster children. What I find especially exciting about working with Alliance is that the organization focuses on public policy. As a law student, that is an important aspect of my career goals. In addition, the Alliance has staff attorneys with various backgrounds from civil rights litigation to juvenile delinquency. It is an organization that I see myself partnering up with for years to come."

She is also looking forward to returning to her hometown Los Angeles. She hopes to practice there after she completes law school and passes the California Bar Examination. Medina believes that this internship will help her expand her network and develop relationships. So far, she has been impressed with the welcome she received from her employer. Medina noted that "the staff attorneys have been welcoming and some have expressed their desire to mentor, which is an invaluable tool for a law student."

Medina is thankful for the help she received from her law school in finding this position and applying for it. When asked about the assistance she received, she stated, "First, career services held a resume workshop, presented by Assistant Dean for Career Services Ms. Beverly Bracker. Second, Career Services advised of Southern California Public Interest/Public Sector Career Day held on February 8th at UCLA School of Law. Prior to attending the Career Day event, our Career Service department held an interview skills workshop which proved beneficial. An interactive mock interview with Associate Director of Career Services Mr. Randy Reliford was the best take-away from that workshop because it helped me realize what areas to polish in preparation for my interviews. The Career Services Office is constantly notifying students of the opportunities in different areas of law, and it was due to their diligence that I became aware of the various opportunities available for law students seeking to intern over the summer."

Medina has some great advice for students who are seeking work at a non-profit. "A great starting point is researching the area a law that is of particular interest and what role you envision yourself fulfilling in the greater scheme of things. I researched organizations in areas of domestic law, criminal law and immigration. In addition, I reviewed the staff attorneys' profiles to view their areas of interest and looked for commonalities to my areas of interest." She also advocates for researching your intended employer to find if there are Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni working there.

James Kiernan (3L) to Work for the US Army JAG Corps



Third-year law student James Kiernan will be working for the US Army JAG Corps. Though he is not sure where exactly he will be stationed, he knows that he will initially spend some time in Fort Benning, GA and Charlottesville, VA as a part of his United States Army JAG Corps training. Excitingly, the type of law he practices will depend on the needs of the post to which he is assigned. He could be working in Legal Assistance by helping soldiers, spouses, or veterans resolve legal issues, or Kiernan could be a trial attorney prosecuting or defending service members. His first commitment with the Army will last until January 2019. Kiernan will sit for the July California State Bar Examination.

Kiernan is excited about this opportunity because “it is something I’ve been working for since I came to law school. During college I was a Cadet with my school’s ROTC battalion. When I graduated college I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, which is the start of an Army Officer’s career, and I was given an education delay to attend law school and apply for application to the Army JAG Corps. I am really excited about the opportunity to serve my country and to do so as a member of the JAG Corps.” He also stated, “I knew this was what I wanted to do when I came to law school.”

Kiernan was able to utilize the law school resources to help him achieve his position. According to Kiernan, “Career Services, Randy Reliford in particular, were vital in helping me present the best application possible. Randy reviewed my resume and my application materials numerous times to make sure that I would submit the most competitive application possible. In addition, I was fortunate enough to have Professor Siegel, a retired Colonel of Marines write me a letter of recommendation.”

Randy Reliford, Associate Director of Career Services, commented, “Kiernan was a great student with the right attitude about his job search and a positive outlook on life. I am thrilled by his success story because he wanted to work as a JAG officer badly. Good things happen when you pursue your passion and are dedicated to your craft like Kiernan.”

Kiernan joins a list of distinguished alumni who serve and have served the United States military. “We thank him and all of our military alumni for their service,” said Reliford.



International Attorneys and Present Patent Law Survey Symposium

Adjunct Professor Randy Berholtz and five IP Fellows, have been conducting research to create a patent filing strategy guide for patent attorneys practicing in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The ambitious honors research project includes a journal publication, a survey of attorneys on their current filing strategies, and a public symposium event with patent attorneys from many of the important and developing international jurisdictions for patents.

On April 11, 2014, the IP Fellows Research Team held a symposium for patent attorneys and students to hear from patent examiners in key jurisdictions, international patent attorneys and representatives

from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The all-day event drew attorneys from jurisdictions including India, South Africa, Europe, Brazil, Australia and China, as well as representatives from the European Patent Office (“EPO”) and the State Intellectual Property Office (“SIPO”) in China. The Team presented the results of their survey, and hosted a series of panel discussions with international patent attorneys, answering questions about filing patents in their respective countries, as well as their own opinions on what to consider when conducting an international patent filing campaign.

The presentations focused on the factors attorneys’ use when deciding where to file, the countries they actually file in and their costs for filing internationally. Attorneys also participated in a panel discussing international harmonization agreements like the Patent Cooperation Treaty (“PCT”) and the concept of a worldwide patent.

Professor Berholtz hopes to continue the discussion on the concept of a worldwide patent and engage a new group of students to work on a plan for further integration between the law school, its IP Fellowship program and the legal needs of entrepreneurs in San Diego and Southern California.

CSLP Hosts Working In Sports Law: An Overview of Available Careers

By Alfredo Bustamante, 1L CSLP Fellow

On April 22, 2014, the Center for Sports Law & Policy (CSLP) at Thomas Jefferson School of Law hosted a Sports Law panel that brought speakers from a variety of different careers in the sports industry. With over 60 fellows, students, and attorneys in attendance, the program aimed to provide guests with unique perspectives from professionals in the sports industry, to give advice as to what kinds of jobs are available, and how to get those jobs.

Moderated by TJSJ Professor Jack Green, the panel included the following: Sierra S. Brandis, Associate General Counsel at Taylor-Made Golf, Marty P. Hochman, Associate General Counsel at Callaway Golf, Professor Randy M. Grossman, '94, Attorney at Law Offices of Randy M. Grossman, APLC (MLBPA Certified Agent), Kim Nakamaru, Associate at McGuireWoods, and Abrina Wheatfall, '12, Assistant Athletics Director-Student Athlete Development and Compliance, University of California, San Diego.

Professor Green asked the panel about a variety of topics, including women working in sports, what it is like to work in sports in general, challenges women face, and what the panelists thought of the future of professional and collegiate athletics. Panelists provided guests with their own personal experiences in the sports industry, and also gave advice on how to get a start in the world of sports.

When the panelists were asked, "What is it like working in the sports industry?" it was evident by the panel's responses that they



Panelists: Sierra Brandis, Marty Hochman, Randy Grossman '94, Abrina Wheatfall '12, Kim Nakamaru, and moderator Professor Jack Green



TJSJ Professor Jack Green with CSLP Director Jeremy Evans '11

each enjoyed what they do. "It's extremely exciting because you actually get to see your product being used or see your athlete playing on television," said Sierra Brandis. Marty Hochman responded by saying "I feel very fortunate, not only to be working in sports law, but to also be living in southern California and working in sports law." It was easy to see that each panelist had a passion for what they do, which is important when trying to become successful.

Recently, a case brought by Northwestern university has captured the attention of the sports world because of the potential effect it will have on college athletics. In particular, a decision in favor of unionizing will make student-athletes "employees" of their universities. Abrina Wheatfall weighed in on the topic by saying "I find (the Northwestern case) very interesting. When you have student athletes that are making that much money for a university, you really have to question whether they should still be considered 'amateurs'."

As the panel continued, guests were able to learn what a day in the life of various sports professionals was like. Based upon the answers from the panelists, it is clear that working in sports law is far from a "typical" or "routine" type of job. "It really changes every day because you do not know what is going to happen" said Professor Grossman. "The great thing about it is I am not sitting in an office staring at four walls every day."

When the panelists were asked what a young professional should do in order to get a job in the sports industry, the panel unanimously agreed on this response: "You have to know somebody." Sometimes, you also have to be ready to "put your best foot forward" on a moment's notice as well. One panelist stated: "I verbally gave my resume on the spot while in the parking lot at a baseball game after meeting someone through somebody else." The panelist later received an interview for that company and then a job. The panelist also added that you must be qualified as well; it is not just about who you know.

After responding to questions asked by various members of the audience, the panel concluded with some final advice for the many sports law enthusiasts. Of that advice, things such as passion and seizing opportunities seemed to be at the top of the list. It is important that the applicant has a passion for sports. Even if they do not know much about a particular sport, it is important to show that they are willing to learn and are passionate about working for the company they are applying. Also, the importance of internships (in particular sports-based internships) is significant when trying to secure a job in a popular job market. The more experience in sports that a person has, the better. Overall, a terrific event that provided insight to the sports industry.

Unrecognized Genocides Speaker Mark Geragos

By Najda Aslanyan, 3L President of the Armenian Law Students Association

On April 24th, the Armenian Law Students Association (ALSA) was honored to have Mark Geragos as a keynote speaker who discussed the definition of genocide in international law and the politics behind it to Thomas Jefferson School of Law students and local San Diego attendees.

Mr. Geragos started his speech by giving a little bit of background on what area of law he practices in and who he has represented. Geragos' down-to-earth attitude and numerous amusing stories such as his questioning of "Who is Chris Brown and what is a Rihanna?" to his daughter when first retained, filled the room with laughter many times.

Geragos' informative talk about the Armenian Genocide and his role as one of the lead attorneys in a pair of groundbreaking federal class action lawsuits against New York Life Insurance and AXA for insurance policies issued in the early 20th century during the time of the Armenian Genocide of more than 1.5 million Armenians captured all of the attendees' attention.

Geragos went on to discussing how a class action lawsuit was filed against these insurance companies for not paying compensations to the descendants of those who perished during the Armenian Genocide. Geragos stated that these insurance companies' archives are a living proof of Turkey's destruction of its Armenian subjects as they demonstrate a great increase in the number of Armenians living in Turkey dying from 1915 to 1923. Geragos indicated that both cases were settled for more than \$37.5 million and that the Turkish government's attempt to recover for the people it had killed with the argument that there are no identifiable heirs to the policy holders did not succeed.

Geragos ended his speech with advising Armenian law students to set their educational goals high to be more credible individuals, get politically involved, and form Armenian clubs and hold such events to raise awareness to non-Armenians about our history and culture.

Unrecognized Genocides was one of ALSA's biggest events. Many faculty members like Professor Wenger posted pictures on their social media captioning the event as "standing room only at the Armenian Genocide talk at Thomas Jefferson School of Law."



Jack Pogosian (2L), Najda Aslanyan (3L), Armine Kevorkian (1L), and keynote speaker Mark Geragos



Father Datev Tatoulian, Mark Geragos, Professor Chris Guzelian



TJSL Professor Makes the “50 Under 50 Outstanding Law Professors” List

Congratulations to Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor Maurice Dyson on being recently named as one of the 2014 “50 Under 50 Outstanding Law Professors” from the Lawyers of Color (LOC) Foundation, who recognizes the most influential minority law professors making bold contributions to the legal community.

Professor Dyson is well known in the San Diego community for his involvement with the Crawford Legal Institute Mentorship Bond (CLIMB) program which he co-founded at with Professor

William Slomanson. Earlier this month, he was invited to speak at the prestigious [60th anniversary conference for Brown v. Board of Education](#).

Professor Dyson's scholarship centers on issues in educational policy, civil rights, game theory, government, constitutional law, sociology and critical race theory among others. His teaching has been previously recognized by the Taft Samuel Carpenter Award for Teaching Excellence. Other prestigious awards he has received include the King's Crown Award, the Kluge Award, the Albert Roothbert Endowment, the Lester A. and Stella Porter Russell Endowment, and the Society of the Order of the Barristers award.

Professor Dyson earned his B.A. and J.D. From Columbia University. He is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar and has served as the national chairperson of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section of Education Law, the national executive board member of the AALS Section of Minority Groups and as program coordinator of the Merrill Lynch Philanthropic Foundation recognized by the White House.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Citations Added April 20, 2014 - April 28, 2014

Brenda M. Simon

Presentations:

Rules, Standards and the Reality of Obviousness, PatCon 4: The Annual Patent Conference, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA (April 5, 2014)

Marjorie Cohn

Presentations:

Skype comments after screening of Robert Greenwald's film 'Unmanned', Drone strikes, American University, Washington DC (April 23, 2014)

Presentations:

The Struggle for International Criminal Court's Competency Over Crime of Aggression, Impunity and International Justice, Congress of International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Brussels, Belgium (April 17, 2014)

Presentations:

The 'Responsibility to Protect' vs. the UN Charter, Impunity and International Justice, Congress of International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Brussels, Belgium (April 17, 2014)

Susan Bisom-Rapp

Presentations:

Ruminations on a Half Century of Title VII: It's Complicated, Fifty Years of Title VII: A Forum on Employment Discrimination, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, CA, April 19, 2014

Professor Bisom-Rapp Speaks at Emory University School of Law

Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp spoke at Emory Law School at “A Workshop on Labor and Employment Law,” which took place April 25-26 in Atlanta. The Workshop is part of a year-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of The Feminism and Legal Theory Project, which is directed by Emory Professor Martha Albertson Fineman. Professor Fineman began the project at Wisconsin Law School in 1984, then moved it to Columbia Law School when she joined that faculty, took it to Cornell Law School when she served on Cornell’s faculty, and moved it finally to Emory Law School, where she is a Robert W. Woodruff Professor.



Professors Haesook Kim, Donna Young, Martha Albertson Fineman, Susan Bisom-Rapp, and Martha McCluskey

The April workshop considered how issues affecting women should be analyzed and discussed at a time when laws against gender discrimination have been on the books for half a century, the problems of women workers are diverse, and the way people work has changed significantly. Professor Bisom-Rapp presented her paper “Navigating Gender Equality Deficits in a Post-Egalitarian, Intersectional World of Changing Work: The Case of Women’s Poverty in Retirement.” The paper sets out a model, which was initially developed with her frequent co-author Malcolm Sargeant, for understanding why the poverty rate of women 65-years old and up is nearly double that of men of the same age. She argues that to understand the forces that produce this unbalanced result, policy makers must pay careful attention to the lives of girls and women both in terms of the decisions they make and the obstacles they confront. However, in solving the problem, Professor Bisom-Rapp recommends an approach that recognizes gender problems but moves beyond them to craft solutions that address the vulnerability of male and female workers, and improve the lives of retirees overall.

Professor Bisom-Rapp met Professor Fineman in 1993 when the former began her doctoral work at Columbia Law School. Professor Fineman was chair of Professor Bisom-Rapp’s dissertation committee. While she was in residence at Columbia, Professor Bisom-Rapp worked for Professor Fineman as her assistant coordinator of the school’s Women in the Legal Profession History Project. After defending her dissertation in 1996, Professor Bisom-Rapp joined the Thomas Jefferson School of Law faculty. In 2004, at Professor Bisom-Rapp’s invitation, Professor Fineman, who had by that time joined the Emory faculty, agreed to travel to San Diego to give Thomas Jefferson’s annual Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture. In 2005, Thomas Jefferson’s Women and the Law Project joined with Emory’s Feminism and Legal Theory Project to co-host a two day conference in San Diego, “The Global Impact of Feminist Legal Theory.” Joining with Professors Fineman and Bisom-Rapp in organizing that conference was Professor Linda Keller, who now is Associate Dean at Thomas Jefferson.

“Martha has launched the academic careers of so many of her students,” said Professor Bisom-Rapp. According to Professor Bisom-Rapp, the workshop brought together former students, who are now professors, from all phases of Martha Fineman’s career, including a number of Professor Bisom-Rapp’s good friends from her graduate school days at Columbia. “The gala dinner Friday night, in particular, provided an opportunity to toast a woman who taught us so much,” said Professor Bisom-Rapp. “Martha taught me how to be a serious scholar, a great teacher, a wonderful colleague, and most importantly, a committed mentor. That she has done for so many others what she did for me is what makes her truly remarkable.”

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@tjssl.edu to obtain a copy of the application and instructions.



Wednesday, April 30 from Noon - 12:45 pm in Room 217
pizza lunch with the Tax Law Society

Presenter: Dr. Valcir Gassen, Tax Professor of University of Brasilia, research supported by CAPES (Brazil's Fulbright equivalent)

Topic: Brazilian Tax System Explained for Americans / Engaging with Brazil in your educational and work career

Come meet and network with Dr. Valcir Gassen if you are interested in Brazil for your future plans. He is undertaking a study of cross-border trade and investment challenges for companies created by the lack of a tax treaty between the USA and Brazil.



Join the conversation

Follow, join, and like the Center for Sports Law & Policy at Thomas Jefferson School of Law on social media.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)



KIMBERLY ROTH

JUDGE ROGER BENITEZ '78

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.

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	
27	28	29	30 SE Academic Success - Testing Labs 229 11:30 AM T Employee Rights Center - Annual May Day Celebration 5:30 PM				
May				1 T Alumni Association Mixer 6:00 PM	2 T Padres vs. ARI 7:10 PM	3 T Padres vs. ARI 5:40 PM	
4 T Padres vs. ARI 1:10 PM	5 T Padres vs. KC 7:10 PM	6 T Padres vs. KC 7:10 PM	7 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Civil	8 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Patent	9 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Torts I -	10 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Remedies	
11 T Padres vs. MIA 1:10 PM	12 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Contracts	13 SE IL - Bar Testing for 2nd Semester	14 SE Spring 2014 Final Exam - Criminal	15	16	17 T May 2014 Graduation	
18	19	20 T Padres vs. MIN 7:10 PM	21 T Padres vs. MIN 7:10 PM	22 T Padres vs. CHI 7:10 PM	23 T Padres vs. CHI 7:10 PM	24 T Padres vs. CHI 7:10 PM	
25 T Padres vs. CHI 1:10 PM	26	27	28	29	30	31	
June	1	2 T Padres vs. PIT 7:10 PM	3 T Padres vs. PIT 7:10 PM	4 T Padres vs. PIT 3:40 PM	5	6 T Padres vs. WSH 7:10 PM	7 T Padres vs. WSH 7:10 PM
8 T Padres vs. WSH 1:10 PM	9	10	11	12	13	14 T Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic 9:30 AM	