

The Advisor

December, 16 2013

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW



Congratulations TJSL December Graduates

"It is so cool. It's surreal. I can't believe that it is finally here." Those were the words spoken by Sara Kate Denton '13 only moments before walking across the stage to receive her law school diploma.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Fall Commencement was held on Saturday, December 14, at Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego.

"We gather together today to confer the degree of *Juris Doctor* on the members of the December 2013 graduating class," said Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Randy K. Jones during his welcoming remarks. "This degree proves that our graduates have successfully completed a rigorous course of study, that they have demonstrated their mastery of fundamental principles of law and that they stand ready to join a noble and learned profession."

"It's a good feeling," said new graduate Lance Growth '13. "Especially when I look over and see my mom tearing up. She is very proud of me. This is such an amazing accomplishment."



Valedictorian Tristin Sullivan-Leppa '13

Class valedictorian, Tristin Sullivan-Leppa addressed her fellow graduates. "In the beginning of this journey we all had the same goals as anxious but eager 1L's, and today as this journey ends we leave as eager and confident law school graduates. Congratulations class of 2013. We made it!"

Continued on next page...





Board of Trustees Member and San Diego Superior Court Judge Browder Willis '83

December Graduation Continued...

Board of Trustees Member and San Diego Superior Court Judge Browder Willis '83 challenged TJSL graduates during his commencement speech. "I want to challenge you to have the courage to speak on behalf of the law. Have the courage to speak up when others won't. Have the courage to speak as lawyers trained to analyze and to understand the issues that keep changing form and keep changing substance. Have the courage to be the voice of society. The question that you have to ask yourself is really very simple. What kind of lawyer do you want to be?"

"This is one of the coolest days ever," said TJSL Alumni Association President Eric Ganci '08. "On behalf of the Alumni Association, we congratulate you and encourage you to always be proud of the law school that you graduated from. Be sure to hang up your diploma on your office wall and tell everyone that you graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law."

In the closing remarks, TJSL President and Dean Thomas Guernsey honored those who supported the graduates. "You are here because of your wonderful efforts but you are also here because of the support of family. The moms, dads, sisters, brothers and friends."

After the ceremony, graduates were invited to join the faculty and staff at a reception held at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law campus. Many used this opportunity to show family and friends the law school from where they just graduated.



Dean Thomas Guernsey



Lance Growth '13 and Mom

Immigration Attorney Dobrina Dobрева '11

Dobrina Dobрева '11, has had great success finding a fun and challenging career after law school. She is an in-house immigration attorney for ZeOmega Inc, an IT company developing healthcare management software. In her free time, she also takes pro bono and "low bono" immigration work assisting teachers and professionals with extraordinary ability in the arts, science, business and athletics.

According to Dobрева, the most exciting part of her job is, "the everyday interactions with employees, HR representatives, managers and company leaders." She became interested in immigration when she first moved to the United States. "It took me over 11 years to become a permanent US resident. After going through the process, I decided to become an immigration attorney, and help others who want to come to the US." She believes that immigration law can have one of the biggest impacts on peoples' lives.

Dobрева stated, "Being a part of this change is what makes me wake up every day."

To find her career, Dobрева utilized the resources available to her at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. According to her, "the school's career service center was extremely helpful in providing me with the tools necessary during my job search. We all know that the legal job market is not what it used to be before 2008. More often than not, traditional job application process where the applicant submits their resume online does not result in securing an interview."

Dobрева also advocates utilizing creative approaches to networking with potential employers. In 2012, she applied for an in-house immigration attorney position with one of the biggest IT companies in the US. After she submitted her application, she used social media to research, find and connect with the manager. She added him as a contact and sent him a personal message, expressing her interest in the opportunity and asking if the company was still hiring. That worked. Dobрева stated, "in a few hours he replied and told me to e-mail him my resume. In a few weeks, I was hired. He told me that he liked the initiative I displayed by contacting him personally."

Dobрева stated she wants to encourage students to utilize the Career Services Office as much as they can. "The advice and support the Career Services Office provides are invaluable." She also states, "the purpose of the Career Services Office is to provide the students with the tools they need to be successful in their job search. But at the end of the day, it is the student's responsibility to take the initiative and the extra step necessary to land their dream job."

She has some great advice for law students. "During law school, make sure you network as much as possible and meet as many people as possible. Even if you do not get a job though networking, you will be exposed to invaluable information others will share with you. Set up a goal to personally meet at least 2-3 new people and to learn at least 1-2 new facts or useful information at every networking event. Also, depending on the area of practice you are interested in, it is always helpful to attend non-lawyers networking events, If you are interested in immigration, find out where the local immigrant or international organizations and communities get together, and get involved."

"Please join us in congratulating Ms. Dobрева on her successful job search," said Randy Reliford, Associate Director of Career Service. "We wish her well in her new career."



Criminal Law Litigator Alex Ozols '12

Recent graduate Alex Ozols '12 is a criminal law litigator and has started his own practice at the Ozols Law Firm and he also works for The Law Office of Bradley Corbett. He has always wanted to be a criminal defense litigator.

Mr. Ozols stated, "I have always wanted to do criminal defense since I was a young child. My goal is to make sure no one is ever wrongfully convicted, to make sure they are all seen equal under the law and to make sure they have the best legal representation possible."

Ozols is proud of his practice and has experienced great successes. "In the past year I have got to close over 100 cases, including misdemeanors, felonies, co-defendant cases, and a highly publicized federal case which was featured on the front page of the Union Tribune. I was recently named Rising Star by Attorney Journal Magazine and nominated for the Top Young Attorney of 2013 by the Daily Transcript."

During his time in law school, Ozols enjoyed the clinical placements he received from the externship department. According to Ozols, the "externship program forced me to go out there and look for a job. I called attorneys at every firm I could, I eventually found an attorney who I bonded with and he hired me right out of law school." Ozols valued all of the work experience that he obtained in law school and believes that is the most critical piece of the job search puzzle.

Ozols advises students to obtain as much work experience as they can while in school. "Every person in my graduating class that worked and did whatever they could all throughout law school have not had problems getting jobs. I worked at the Public Defender and at a private law firm every semester I was in law school. I shadowed other attorneys whenever I could, I was the second chair on trials and I was in court whenever possible. The same day I was sworn in, I was in the courthouse and ready to go. It was all because of the hard work I did during my time at Thomas Jefferson School of Law."

"We congratulate Mr. Ozols with a successful start to his career," said Associate Director of Career Services, Randy Reliford.

For more information about Alex Ozols firm, visit www.thesandiegocriminallawyer.com.





Summer Study Abroad Programs in Hangzhou, China and Nice, France

Hangzhou, China

Registration fee is due by March 28, 2014.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, in cooperation with one of the most prestigious universities in China, Zhejiang University, presents a three week, ABA approved, International and Comparative Law Study Abroad Program in Hangzhou, China, one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The program gives students the opportunity to earn 4 credits in just 3 weeks. Classes are held mornings only and taught in English. Highlights include distinguished speakers and experts in the field of international law, a visit to Beijing Supreme Court, optional weekend and half-day trips to neighboring cities and scenic sites.

MCLE credit is available to attorneys in California. Attorneys in other states need to check with their State Bar office regarding MCLE credit.

Download the [2014 China Program Application](#)

View the [2014 China Program Brochure](#)

Visit the [China Study Abroad Program](#)

Curriculum Highlights: Students may choose to take two of the five courses offered. The courses are International Business Transactions; International Entertainment Law; Comparative Law Study of Small Businesses in China; Comparative Negotiations in International Business; and the Chinese Legal System and Its Reforms. Morning classes, held Monday through Friday, are taught in English. Distinguished faculty will include four professors from the Zhejiang University College of Law.

Overview: Earn 4 summer credits in 3 weeks in one of the most beautiful cities in the China, Hangzhou. The TJSL China Program runs from May 19 to June 6, 2014. It is ABA Approved. A half-day tour of Hangzhou, a four-day tour of Beijing, including the main sites and a visit to the Beijing Supreme Court, and a two-day tour of Shanghai, will be offered.

Setting Description: Centrally situated in one of the most beautiful cities in China and within walking distance of the famous West Lake, Zhejiang University College of Law offers an ideal environment for learning international and comparative law. Classes are held Monday through Friday, in the morning. Students will have afternoons and weekends to travel.

Program Value: The China Program is designed to encourage students to experience international law in an international setting, to exchange ideas with students from a different land, and to explore cultural differences that influence international business and legal transactions. Students are drawn from law schools across the United States and the world. Chinese students fluent in English and currently studying law at the Zhejiang University Guanghua College of Law will actively participate in the program.

Program Cost: Tuition \$3,000.00

Subjects: International Studies, Legal Studies



Summer Study Abroad Programs in Hangzhou, China and Nice, France

Nice, France

Registration fee is due by April 18, 2014.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, in cooperation with the La Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Nice presents Summer Study Abroad Program in Nice, France.

Students may earn 4 summer credits in 4 weeks while studying on the French Riviera. The courses have an international focus and compare American and European approaches to law. Classes are held mornings only and are taught in English. Highlights include distinguished guest speakers in the field of international law, a day in the French court, an optional French class offered at no charge.

MCLE credit is available for California Attorneys. Attorneys in other states need to check with their State Bar office regarding MCLE credit. Download the [2014 Nice Program Application](#)

View the [2014 Nice Program Brochure](#)

Visit the [Nice Study Abroad Program](#)

Curriculum Highlights: Earn 4 summer credits in 4 weeks while studying on the French Riviera, in the breathtaking city of Nice. The courses have an international focus and compare American and European approaches to law. Students may choose to take two of the four courses offered. The courses are International Human Rights Law; Comparative Environmental Law; International Internet Law; and Comparative Tort Law. Classes are in the morning, Monday through Thursday and taught in English.

Overview: The 2014 Nice Program runs from June 23 to July 17, 2014 and is approved by the ABA. The courses have an international focus and compare American and European approaches to law. Students can earn 4 credits in just 4 weeks by completing two of the four programs offered.

Setting Description: The University of Nice School of Law offers an ideal environment for learning international and comparative law in a city that is both beautiful and rich in European culture and history. The program includes an organized trip to spend the day in a French court and sit in on one or more actual cases. Students will have 3-day weekends providing opportunities to visit Cannes, St. Tropez, Paris, Monaco, Venice and other renowned European cities.

Program Value: The Nice Program runs from June 23 to July 17, 2014 and is approved by the ABA. The Nice Program is designed to encourage students to experience international law in an international setting, to exchange ideas with students from a different land, and to explore cultural differences that influence international business and legal transactions. Students are drawn from law schools across the United States and the world. Apply Now, for this unforgettable experience.

Program Cost: Tuition \$3,000.00

Subjects: International Studies, Legal Studies

MEDIA WATCH

December 10, 2013

TJSL awards JSD to Richard Gendler story appeared in The Daily Transcript <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131210tjc#.UquRcfRDt8F>

December 3, 2013

TJSL launches website for military story appeared in the SD Daily Transcript <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131203tje#.UqZDxfRDt8G>

November 26, 2013

JURIST Guest Columnist [Alex Kreit](#) of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law says that 2014 is going to be a truly groundbreaking year for marijuana policy in the US, when Colorado's and Washington's marijuana legalization takes effect <http://www.jurist.org/forum/2013/11/alex-kreit-marijuana-legalization.php>

November 25, 2013

TJSL was mentioned the SD Daily Transcript story titled Bar results feature highest pass rate in 4 years <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131125czf&t=Bar+results+feature+highest+pass+rate+in+4+years#.UqZBxPRDt8F>

November 21, 2013

Professor Deven R. Desai was quoted in the New York Times in a story titled Beyond 3-D Printers' Magic, Possible Legal Wrangling. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/24/business/beyond-3-d-printers-magic-possible-legal-wrangling.html?r=0>

November 21, 2013

TJSL collecting money, supplies for Typhoon Haiyan victims story appeared in the SD Daily Transcript <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131121czc&t=TJSL+collecting+money+supplies+for+Typhoon+Haiyan+victims#.UpOz3cRDt8F>

November 19, 2013

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Shannon Laoye was mentioned in SD Daily Transcript story titled the Earl Gilliam Bar awards scholarships at annual event <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131119tja#.UpPeAcRDt8E>

November 16, 2013

Professor Marjorie Cohn appeared on C-Span discussing Legal Challenges to Drone Strikes <http://c-spanvideo.org/program/DroneStrike>

November 5, 2013

TJSL employee rights clinic set for this Saturday article appeared in the Daily Transcript <http://www.sddt.com/News/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131105tje#.UoFxtfIdt8E>

November 1, 2013

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's fifth Employee Rights Self Help Clinic story appeared in The Daily Transcript <http://www.sddt.com/news/article.cfm?SourceCode=20131101czc&t=TJSL+to+hold+employee+rights+clinic+Nov+9#.UngzSPIdt8E>

October 28, 2013

<http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20131028-3-d-printers-could-blur-lines-of-patent-laws-and-others.ece>

Professor Deven R. Desai was quoted in the Providence Journal about how 3D home printers could change legal guidelines for patent, copyright, and trademark laws and even internet content rules.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16 SE Final Exam Fall 2013 - Torts I - Bisom-Rapp & Kass 9:00 AM SE Final Exam Fall 2013 - Contracts II - Templin 9:00 AM SE Final Exam Fall 2013 - Criminal Procedure 6:00 PM SE Final Exam Fall 2013 - CA Evidence 6:00 PM	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week
T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week	T Holiday Week				
January 2014						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	T Entering Students - Spring 2014 Week One - Mandatory Orientation	T Entering Students - Spring 2014 Week One - Mandatory Orientation	T Entering Students - Spring 2014 Week One - Mandatory Orientation	T Entering Students - Spring 2014 Week One - Mandatory Orientation	T Entering Students - Spring 2014 Week One - Mandatory Orientation	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	T Spring 2014 Classes Begin					