

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW



VITA Tax Clinic is Open for 17th Season of Free Tax Return Services

From now until April 12, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program operated by Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Tax Law Society, a student organization, will provide free income tax return preparation for students, low-income families, senior citizens and others who can't afford professional tax services or are unable to complete their own tax forms.

Since 1998, TJSL students have annually offered this service to the San Diego community. The clinic's student volunteers

receive training to become IRS-certified, operate the TaxWise software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return.

The TJSL tax clinic is open to walk-in clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-7 p.m.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSL Professor Richard Winchester, a former attorney in the national tax office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, who is a national authority on employment tax policy and the taxation of closely held businesses.

The tax clinic is located in the Law Clinic office at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in the East Village area of downtown San Diego.

Items you need to bring to the TJSL Tax Clinic to have your tax returns prepared are:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

For more about the IRS VITA program, visit <u>http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers</u>.



Judge William McCurine



Federal Judge Roger Benitez

Students Gain Legal Writing Tips From Judge Benitez and Judge McCurine, Jr. (Ret.)

TJSL Board of Trustees members Hon. Roger T. Benitez '78 and Hon. William McCurine, Jr. (Ret.) shared their perspectives on the importance of legal writing skills with students at "A View from the Bench," a panel hosted by Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Legal Writing and the Clinical Externship and Pro Bono Programs on Saturday, March 8th.

"I really appreciate the judges taking the time to speak with us," said Paul Hefley (3L). "In terms of written briefs filed with the court, judges are the end users of an attorney's work product so getting their unique perspective of what works and what doesn't work in legal writing was priceless."

The judges shared their expectations from the bench and cautioned students on specific things to avoid. Some of the judge's pet peeves were incorrect citations, hiding contrary authority, using string citations, cutting and pasting without knowing the case law and creating false facts. "We depend on good lawyers to tell us what the law is," said Judge McCurine.

"I thoroughly enjoyed what Judge Benitez had to say about the importance of writing and submitting to the court, and how brevity is key," said Johnathan Stahler (3L).

In addition to writing tips, students also gained valuable insights from the judges on being young practicing attorneys from the judge's personal stories. "As a young lawyer the most important thing is learning how to manage your time , while still putting out good work product," said Judge Benitez.

"Judges are always held on such a high level that sometimes I feel as if they are not accessible, but these two Judges were really down to earth and had some funny and valuable war stories. I enjoyed the presentation very much," said Lucia Valenzuela (2L).

The judges also shared their unique perspectives on the legal profession. "Judge Benitez explained that lawyers are in the 'sales business' and that as lawyers we sell through our words by having concise and clear language," said Ricardo Elorza (2L).

Stephanie Ferguson (3L) and Stuart Mellman (3L), attended the event and shared their perspectives on clerking for Judge Benitez this semester. "Working as a judicial extern for Judge Benitez has been a tremendously valuable experience because it has provided me with the opportunity to expand the scope of my legal education," said Mellman. "I have conducted legal research and writing on new subject matters and continue to hone my writing abilities."

"This has been one of my most rewarding experiences during law school for two reasons. First, my legal writing has greatly improved as a result of the unparalleled feedback from the law clerks, and second, I have a greater appreciation and respect for the legal profession and the Federal court system," said Ferguson. "From witnessing criminal sentencing hearings to patent claim construction hearings, I am constantly provided with unique opportunities which allow me to fully analyze and appreciate the nuts and bolts of litigation from both sides of the bench," she added.



Valedictorian Kimberly Roth



Commencement Speaker Judge Roger Benitez '78

Kimberly Roth is TJSL Spring Class of 2014 Valedictorian

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 <u>Copley Symphony Hall</u>, 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.



Ruby Faagau, Kawika Kaulukukui, Chief Judge Brandenburg, Samantha Morales and Monique Rodriguez



Honorable Gregory Thomson, Honorable John Madigan and Honorable John Messina

TJSL Students Visit the Intertribal Court of Southern California

Members of TJSL's Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) got a rare opportunity to visit the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC) located on the Rincon Indian Reservation on February 26.

Though ICSC is located in Valley Center, California, tribal judges often travel between member tribes to preside over cases using tribal laws, ordinances, customs, and historical precedence. The ICSC is an independent judiciary within Indian Country to preserve the integrity, autonomy and self-governance of the tribes it serves. The Tribal Judicial Council of Southern California oversees the administration of the Court under the Intertribal Governing Agreement between the following member tribes: The Jamul Indian Village, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nations, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, San Pasqual Band of Indians, and the Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueño Indians.

"Visiting the Intertribal Court brought tribal sovereignty to life, said NALSA President Monique Rodriguez (3L). "It was amazing to see Indian law working at its best and the respect & empowerment the Indian community has in the system they created."

During their visit, students had the opportunity to view appel-

late oral arguments and meet privately with the Hon. Anthony Brandenburg '79 and Hon. John Madigan '91. "It was absolutely fascinating to watch oral arguments before an Appellate Court inside Indian Country," said NALSA's Vice-President Samantha Morales (3L). "As a young scholar in the field, I found it extremely valuable and inspiring to speak one on one with Chief Judge Brandenburg and Judge Madigan."

"The most exciting part of the trip was being able to chat with TJSL alumni Judge Madigan and Judge Brandenburg about current issues pertaining to Native American law," said Kawika Kaulukukui (1L). "What stood out was when Judge Brandenburg talked about how the tribal court decisions are based on both traditional Native American customs and modern laws."

"I found the sensitivity of the judges to be refreshing," said Ruby Faagau (1L). The judges emphasized the importance of empathy and respect in dealing with the Native members of the various tribes. The court itself provides a forum for the original inhabitants of this land - who are marginalized today - to be heard and seen."

"NALSA is very excited that we were invited to the court and we hope to maintain a connection," said Rodriguez.

With the re-chartering of NALSA last year, TJSL is now the only law school in San Diego to have an active NALSA chapter that is a member of the National NALSA. TJSL is also the only law school in San Diego to offer a course on American Indian Law taught by Professor Bryan H. Wildenthal, who is widely published in the field.

For more information about future NALSA events email: <u>nalsa@tjsl.edu</u>.



TJSL Student to be Published in Family Law Journal

Second-year TJSL law student Kimberly Coulter recently accepted an offer to be published in next year's issue of the Whittier Journal of Child and Family Advocacy.

Coulter's article, "A Shift from Incidental to Instrumental: A Promise of Stability When Stepparents Have Been a Primary Source of Parenting Support" advocates for giving residential stepparents automatic standing and a voice in custody and visitation hearings following a passage of a rigorous parenting test.

"I am deeply proud and humbled by the honor of being published," said Coulter – the 2013 recipient of the Lawyers Club Women and the Law Project at Thomas Jefferson School of Law Scholarship.

Coulter's interest in family law is rooted in her previous work as a teacher in inner city schools and as a mother raising three young children. "Since the subject of my Note touches my life very personally, it is truly a labor of love as my husband is a devoted stepfather to our children, yet simultaneously he is a legal stranger to them," shared Coulter.

"I am grateful for the offer of publication because it means that many others will have the opportunity to read my arguments and consider their merits," she said.

The Whittier Journal of Child and Family Advocacy publishes one issue each year. Coulter's paper will be cite checked and peer-reviewed during the 2014-2015 school year and published in the 2015 issue.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Citations Added March 9, 2014 - March 17, 2014

Linda M. Keller

Presentations:

The Challenges of International Criminal Justice: Case Study – Kenya & the International Criminal Court, Osher Institute, University of California, San Diego, CA (February 18, 2014)

Marjorie Cohn

Radio:

CIA and Senator Feinstein conflict over torture report, The Sunday Show, KPFA (Pacifica), Berkeley, March 16, 2014

Radio:

[note: This is a TV appearance]

Televising Oscar Pistorius's murder trial in South Africa, CTV News Channel (the flagship program on Canada's #1 TV network), March 3, 2014



Professor Bisom-Rapp Appointed to Scientific Committee of an Italian Foundation

Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp has accepted an invitation to join the Scientific Committee of the Marco Biagi Foundation in Modena, Italy. The offer of this prestigious appointment was extended on behalf of the Governing Board of the Marco Biagi Foundation by Marina Biagi, who serves as the Foundation's President.

Part of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, the Marco Biagi Foundation is home to the International Doctoral Research School in Labour Relations, which offers PhD stud-

ies in labor and employment relations that are comparative and interdisciplinary. The Foundation also hosts conferences and symposia. A highlight of its programming is the annual comparative labor law conference held to commemorate the life and work of Professor Marco Biagi, a noted legal scholar.

The Scientific Committee is the Foundation's academic advisory board. Dr. Iacopo Senatori, the Secretary of the Foundation, describes the work of the Scientific Committee this way:

[I]n broad terms, the Scientific Committee's task is to provide advice on the scientific activities carried out by the Foundation (research projects, conferences, publication of books, educational programmes etc). The Scientific Committee can be activated by the Foundation's President, Marina Biagi (who also chairs the Committee) and operates upon impulse from the Foundation's Administrative Board.

"I am deeply honored to be invited to join the Scientific Committee," said Professor Bisom-Rapp. "For many years, I have considered the Foundation to be my home-away-from-home," she noted. "I look forward to increasing my engagement with the Foundation, and to making a positive contribution to its scholarly work."

Professor Bisom-Rapp has served on the Foundation's International Council since 2009. She will continue to serve on the Council, which meets once a year and provides advice on various curricular issues. Professor Bisom-Rapp will also continue to help organize and serve as a commentator for the Foundation's annual Young Scholars' Workshop, which features outstanding papers written by PhD candidates from around the world.

Indeed, she is headed to Modena, Italy for spring break, and has a busy schedule at the Foundation, which includes giving a lecture to the Foundation's PhD students, chairing a panel at the annual conference, commenting at the Young Scholars' Workshop, and attending several meetings. This will be Professor Bisom-Rapp's eighth consecutive year attending the annual March events at the Foundation.

Professor Bisom-Rapp is an internationally known scholar in the field of comparative workplace law, who writes about globalization, equal employment opportunity, occupational safety and health, and the rights of migrants.

Professor Bisom-Rapp regularly teaches a seminar on international and comparative employment law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

The seminar uses her co-authored casebook, *The Global Workplace (2d. ed. 2012)*, the only course of its kind offered in Southern California.



TJSL Director of Admissions Completes MBA Program

Congratulations to Timothy Spearman, Thomas Jefferson School of Law's Director of Admissions, on recently completing his MBA program at California State University Dominguez Hills.

"A business education provides me with a broader range of skills to approach the ongoing challenges facing legal education," said Spearman, who holds a B.A. in Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Spearman is devoted to recruiting top law school candidates to TJSL.

TJSL has consistently been ranked among the most diverse law schools in the nation and has been distinguished as a "Pipeline Architect" for the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Summer Institute Program.

"I considered business school prior to my decision to attend law school. I'm happy with my decision to obtain a business degree at this stage of my career. The business world and the world of academia speak two different languages," he added.

Before joining TJSL in 2005, Spearman worked as a Law Clerk for the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, where he focused on disability and education law. He was also the Associate Coordinator of Student Services for the University of Wisconsin Law School and Admissions Counselor and Housing Coordinator for California Western School of Law in San Diego.



Professor Luz Herrera Named One of San Diego's 2014 Young Influentials

Congratulations to TJSL Professor Luz Herrera for being named as one of San Diego's 2014 Young Influentials by The San Diego Source Daily Transcript. She was one of the few selected for the award from a pool of over 90 nominees and will be featured in a special publication by the Daily Transcript on March 28, 2014.

The Young Influentials awards program highlights young entrepreneurs and successful business leaders who are the next generation of Top Influentials, San Diego County's young movers and shakers.

"I am honored by the recognition of my work in San Diego but more honored by the opportunity to work with such a great group of people: the students, faculty and staff at Thomas Jefferson School of Law," said Professor Herrera.

Professor Herrera has received numerous distinctions and recognitions for her community innovative ideas and projects in the San Diego legal community. Among them is her recent Lewis and Clark Award for Innovation and Dedication, her nomination to the San Diego U-T Latino Champions Awards in 2013, being recognized as an "Emerging Scholar" by Diverse Issues in Higher Education in 2013, being honored by the San Diego Business Journal's 19th Women Who Mean Business Awards in 2012, and being inducted into the College of Law Practice Management in Washington, D.C. in 2012.



Poths to Success How to get from where you are today to where you want to be

MARCH 26, 2014, 4:30 - 5:45 PM, ROOM 325

Come hear some of TJSL's most prominent recent alumni as they discuss their strategies for success both during law school and following graduation. Ask the practical questions you've wanted answers to from newer lawyers who are grinding it out in the trenches daily.

PANELISTS

Eric Bernsen '12 (Knobbe Martens) Tiffany Gilmartin '10 (Gilmartin Law) Seth Schwartz '11 (Schwartz and Storey)

SPONSORS

Student Bar Association Phi Alpha Delta La Raza Professional Identity Working Group International Law Society Native American Law Students Association Law Students for Reproductive Justice

TJSL ALUMS WORKING IN ENTERTAINMENT LAW: FILM, TELEVISION, & RADIO

JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 1:00-3:00 PM, Room 225

The cross-section between Sports and Entertainment Law is prevalent now more than ever. Please join the Center for Sports Law & Policy at Thomas Jefferson School of Law for an Entertainment Law panel with TJSL alums all traveling from Los Angeles to offer their experiences and advice.

PANELISTS

 Mike Pastrano, Esq. '11 - Business & Legal Affairs, International at Lions Gate Films
Jakgeem Mays, Esq. '10 - Legal Affairs at NBCUniversal, Inc.
Katie Tooma, Esq. '11 - Associate Attorney at Levin Law Corp.
Maliha Haque, Esq. '11 - Warner Bros. Television Legal Affairs
Najmah Goldman-Brown '13 - Business and Legal Affairs Administrator at Al Jazeera Media Network
Lindsey-Shannon Lee, Esq. '13 - Business & Legal Affairs at Playboy Plus Entertainment, Inc.

Moderator: Jeremy Evans, Esq. '11 - CSLP Director, California Sports Lawyer Introductions: Chanel Diblasi '15, Entertainment Law Society, President

RSVP http://alumni.tjsl.edu/events/index.asp?eventid=340

After the panel, starting at 3:30 p.m., the annual Alumni Tailgate at Petco Park will occur. Attendees are encouraged to purchase a ticket through the TJSL Alumni Association to attend. If interested, purchase tailgate/game tickets at <u>http://alumni.tjsl.edu/events/index.asp?eventid=336</u>.



5CHOOLOFLAW **AT PETCO PARK**

ALUMNI & FRIENDS TAILGATE PADRES VS TIGERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014 3:30 PM

\$28 STUDENTS / \$35 ALUMNI



INCLUDES ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT & DRINK TAILGATE PARTY ACCESS AND TICKET TO GAME!



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:

HTTP://ALUMNI.TJSL.EDU/EVENTS/INDEX.ASP?EVENTID=336

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW ASSOCIATION (LELA)

in cooperation with La Raza, APALSA, NLG, BLSA, ILS, & Delta Theta Phi

present



50 YEARS OF TITLE VII: A FORUM ON EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

APRIL 9, 2014, 11:30 AM-12:50 PM, ROOM 325

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibited employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Bill Lann Lee

- Lewis, Fienberg, Lee, Renaker, & Jackson, PC
- The nation's top civil rights prosecutor as Asst. Attorney General in the DOJ in the Clinton Administration
- Former attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund for 18 years
- "Northern California Super Lawyer" in the Employment & Labor, Civil Rights/First Amendment category each year from 2004 to the present

PANELISTS (Perspectives from the Academe)

- TJSL Professor Rebecca Lee
- TJSL Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp

MODERATOR

TJSL General Counsel Karin Sherr





RSVP

http://alumni.tjsl.edu/events/index.asp?eventid=333

This event qualifies for **1 general hour of MCLE credit**. Free for all TJSL Alumni, Students, Staff and Guests. *Non-TJSL Alumni seeking MCLE credit \$25.00*. Food and Refreshments will be served.

MEDIA III WATCH

March 13, 2014

Thomas Jefferson School of Law was the focus of the U~T San Diego story titled <u>Solutions Sought for Downtown</u> <u>Homeless Problem</u>

March 12, 2014 Sam Kossack (2L) appeared on KUSI in the Downtown San Diego Homelessness Panel story

March 6, 2014

TJSL's free tax clinic open for 17th season story appeared in the Daily Transcript

March 3, 2014

Thomas Jefferson School of Law was mentioned in the National Jurist PreLaw section about TJSL's Merit Scholarship program.

February 27, 2014

<u>Professor William Slomanson was quoted in a LA Daily Journal article titled Kozinski blasts Google, orders company to take down anti-Muslim video</u>

February 25, 2014

<u>Professor Kaimipono Wenger was cited by The Economist in an article titled Gay rights and religious freedom God</u> <u>damned it</u>

February 21, 2014

The 2014 Women and the Law Conference was mentioned on KUSI, NBC 7, ABC 10 and Univision 17.

February 21, 2014

<u>Professor David Steinberg spoke with KNX Radio in Los Angeles (1070 AM)</u> about a venture capitalist who feels California is too unwieldy to govern and is proposing to split it into six separate states, and Secretary of State Debra Bowen has given him the green light to start collecting petition signatures.

February 20, 2014

Professors Amy Day and Jane Siegel conducted a radio interview about the WLC.

February 20, 2014

Jane Siegel did a television segment at KPBS about the Woman and the Law Conference. Jane Siegel at the 16:24 mark

February 20, 2014

Professor Alex Kreit did a television segment for KPBS speaking on the topic of medical marijuana . Alex Kreit at 8:10 mark.

February 4, 2014

Professor Marjorie Cohn was quoted in a story that appears in The Nation

January 31, 2014

Professor Marjorie Cohn contributes to the Huffington Post

January 26, 2014

Professor Marjorie Cohn contributes to the Constitutional Law Prof Blog

March 2014

