

## UPCOMING NATIONAL SPORTS LAW NEGOTIATION COMPETITION & SPORTS LAW CONFERENCE



*By Alfredo Bustamante, 2L, CSLP Fellow*

The Center for Sports Law and Policy (CSLP) will be hosting the 2014 National Sports Law Negotiation Competition and Sports Law Conference on Friday, September 19, through Sunday, September 21, 2014, at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL). This will be the 4th year that TJSL has hosted the highly anticipated NSLNC, which has been a huge success since it began in 2011.

Created by sports and academic professionals, the NSLNC presents incoming teams and guests with a valuable and unique opportunity to meet future lawyers, agents, and current sports professionals from across the nation and the world, while also showcasing their skills and knowledge of issues faced by today's sports professionals. "The NSLNC is a great opportunity to network with fellow law students interested in sports law and also attorneys both in and out of the sports industry," said Shana Avery, a 2L Sports Law Fellow at TJSL. "The NSLNC is something I look forward to every year and love being a part of."

The mission of the NSLNC is to provide the sports profession with a body of able and ready legal minds, through negotiation and training of law students with the use of real-life issues affecting athletes, sports franchises, teams, like businesses and entities.

The fact patterns given during the competition focus on current issues in the sports world, and allow students to negotiate more than one area of sports law topics, including: contract negotiation, trading of players, salary demands, endorsement contracts, athlete and sports professionals family and personal issues, and intellectual property. Even for those watching and not participating, the competition can provide some insight on what working in the sports world can be like. "Being a spectator during one of the competitions was a valuable experience, as I was able to observe what negotiation tactics worked well or not so well," says Charles Barwald, 2L Sports Law Fellow at TJSL. "It felt like being a fly on the wall during a real negotiation."

On Friday, September 19 attendees will get to enjoy two sports law panels and a San Diego Padres game on Friday night, which will be held at Petco Park in the Western Metal Supply Suites. On Saturday, September 20, the competition begins and teams will compete for a spot in the final round on Sunday (only the top four teams will qualify). The Competition will consist of three rounds, with the first two rounds consisting of a morning and afternoon session on Saturday. There will also be a Gaslamp Quarter Mixer at Moonshine Flats on Saturday night.

Sunday will be the final day of the competition, consisting of one final round (sessions A and B) and beginning with four teams. Once the final competition comes to a close and a winner has been announced, teams and guests will be able to enjoy the rest of their Sunday afternoon and explore "America's Finest City," San Diego, California.

Going on its fourth year, the National Sports Law Negotiation Competition looks to continue its tradition of excellence and will most certainly present an educating and exceptional experience for anyone interested in sports. "Looking forward to meeting the teams and have an all-around terrific weekend," says Jeremy Evans '11, CSLP Director and founder of the NSLNC. "This is a special time of year."

Log onto the [NSLNC event page](#) to see a list of teams that are registered to compete in this year's competition as well as the conference schedules and registration information.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI VIDEO SERIES UNVEILED



On June 16th, the first episode of the [Alumni Video Series](#) was launched. “Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alums are very important to us,” said Dean Thomas Guernsey in his introductory video. “They are the reason we exist.”

The purpose of the series is to showcase a wide variety of Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni and focus on their area of expertise, experiences and hear their advice. It is because of Dean Guernsey’s vision and dedication to TJS� alums that the Alumni Video Series has come to fruition.

In episode one, you heard from Defense Attorney Peter Blair '09. Blair opened his criminal solo practice in 2013 where he now handles mostly serious and violent

felonies, narcotics possession and sales, domestic violence, fraud and simple misdemeanors such as DUI and petty theft. “I am thankful for my success in my short career as a Defense Attorney solo practitioner, and I am determined to secure continued success in the future,” said Blair.

In episode two, TJS� Alumni Kim Carter '11 discussed her experience in law school. She has learned for any recent bar passer it is important to know your strengths and avoid second guessing yourself. “You have all the tools you need to succeed, except for maybe confidence. Confidence is not something that can be taught in a book. It comes by experience. Take advantage of every experience you have and learn

from each. Ask lots of questions and learn from the experience of others. Constantly reevaluate your performance and be honest with yourself. And, above all, collect mentors for various aspects of your career and personal development, take their advice, really take their advice, and be appreciative. I have found people are willing to help those who help themselves,” Carter concluded.

She enjoys practicing law as an associate at the distinguished labor, employment, and immigration firm Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP. “I love that every day is different,” she states as she reflects on the personal and professional experiences that brought her to where she is today.

The third episode in the series will air in early September.



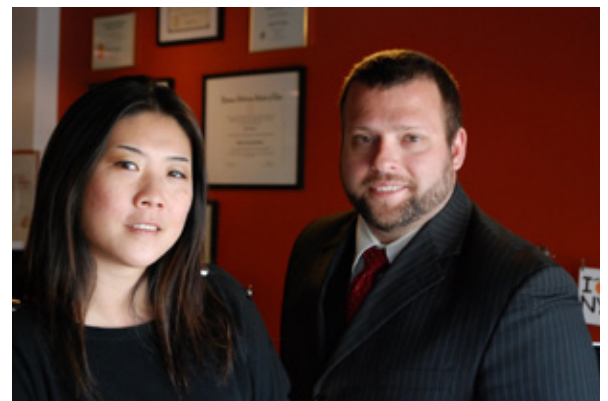
## LAW SCHOOL FRIENDS NOW RUN SUCCESSFUL LAW FIRM

Alumni Michael J. Runkle '09 and Fanny Cherng '09 did not set out to work together originally, but a short period after graduating and sharpening their skills in criminal defense and bankruptcy law respectively, Runkle and Cherng became successful partners and now form part of a thriving practice which also includes personal injury.

Runkle graduated amidst the recession but armed with the experience from numerous law school internships, contacts from TJS� and mentors to guide him, he opened the Seneca Law Group in early 2011. “When I first started out I had \$138.00 in business cards and was working from my home. I also had part time jobs waiting tables and bartending

on the weekends so that I could make the rent and eat.” Runkle recalled.

Driven to do more than keep afloat, Runkle persistently kept in touch with and broadened his network. In one year his efforts quickly took him from home to an office in downtown San Diego. “I was also able to bring in support staff and my wonderful business partner Fanny Cherng,” said Runkle. “Once Fanny became involved in the business it allowed us to expand our practice areas into Bankruptcy as well. Fanny does



(Left to right) Michael J. Runkle '09 and Fanny Cherng '09

work in personal injury and bankruptcy while I handle the personal injury trials and criminal defense. We upgraded to a much nicer and larger office when we

decided to move the business to our present location in University Heights shortly thereafter.”

“Fanny and I met as 1L’s at TJSL and have been very close since then,” said Runkle. “We studied together in law school and we studied together for the bar exam and we took the bar together.” Unlike Runkle, Cherng took several contract positions before securing full time employment at a bankruptcy firm. “I kind of just fell into the practice of bankruptcy because it was the first full time job I was able to obtain as a licensed lawyer,” she said. “I became interested in personal injury because it’s an area of law where I have the opportunity to always learn something new. Whether it’s complex medical conditions or the mechanics of a car accident, I find myself learning something new in every case.”

“At the same time, Michael Runkle had just hung his own shingle and we strategized that combining my efforts in bankruptcy and his efforts in criminal law would be a good combination to keep the lights on while we both pursued what we really wanted to practice in, personal injury,” said Cherng. “We partnered up and began our efforts in building the firm. The first year was incredibly difficult because we would often find ourselves at the end of the month without enough money to pay our expenses. Fortunately for us, it always seemed to work out and now we are going three years strong and growing every year.”

“The most rewarding part of my job is helping people. It feels wonderful when you can do something that you are good at and literally change people’s lives for the better in the process,” Runkle said.

“The best advice I could give to students who have just become attorneys is to keep pushing forward,” Runkle said. “Be like a sponge and learn as much as you can. Maintain the relationships you have with your class mates because they are going through the same thing and can provide incredible support,” Cherng added.

“Thomas Jefferson School of law is a fantastic Law School,” said Runkle. “The knowledge I obtained there, the people I met and the skills I learned are all priceless assets. My life and my family’s lives are all better because of this wonderful institution. When I think of TJSL I think of great friends, great mentors and a network of people who all give back to make our community and nation a better place to be. If I had to do it all over again, I would not change a thing.”

## BEN LEWIS '12 ACCEPTS POSITION WITH MARICOPA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE



*Ben Lewis '12*

All through law school, Ben Lewis '12 consistently involved himself in the public interest sector and today has found personal success working for the Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate, formerly The Office of the Juvenile Public Defender. “During law school, I had internships in public interest, so I knew that I wanted to use my legal education to work with individuals who are somehow disadvantaged. This new position with Maricopa County is a perfect fit,” Lewis said.

“Overall, the journey from law school has been exciting and challenging, with several amazing people assisting me along the way. I feel blessed to be where I am now,” Lewis said.

Lewis’s involvement in dependency law arose through his exposure to the TJSL Alumni community in Arizona. “I met with several of them to discuss their legal careers, which led to observing dependency court proceedings. These experiences sparked my interest, which led to the current position with Maricopa County,” Lewis explained.

After graduating, Lewis made himself available to many attorneys. “I assisted Professor Luz Herrera with starting the TJSL Employment Law Self-Help Clinic. In addition, I assisted attorneys with small legal research projects while waiting for bar exam results. I took the Arizona Bar Exam in July 2013 and moved out to Phoenix with my wife in October.”

Interning with the Small Business Law Center largely shaped Lewis’s law school experience. However, like many alumni, Lewis states, “The best memories from TJSL are the relationships developed with fellow students and faculty. The cornerstone of any educational institution is the faculty. Succeeding in law school was due in large measure to the outstanding faculty at TJSL.” Perhaps more significantly, Lewis found success thanks to the support from Alumni and

Career Services beyond graduation, “After moving to Arizona, I would periodically check in with the career services staff, who were always great at suggesting ideas for my job search.”

When asked what advice he would give recent graduates Lewis recommended being pro-active, “The alumni relations office is a great way to meet TJSL graduates in your field of interest. That is one of the keys to success in the job search: taking the initiative and reaching out to people. As long as you are genuine and respectful of their time, most attorneys are happy to answer questions about their careers.”

Lewis says his current role is fulfilling on multiple levels, “The most rewarding part of my job is to assist parents who would otherwise not be able to afford legal representation. The second most rewarding aspect of my job is the ability to work with enthusiastic and talented people at the Office of the Public Advocate,” said Lewis. “For me, my choice to attend law school and become a lawyer was an amazing journey that I do not regret,” he concluded.



## THREE ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WORKING TOGETHER AT THE SIMON LAW GROUP

Less than a year after entering trial practice, TJSJ Alumni, friends and colleagues Sevy Fisher '13, Brandon Simon '13 and Greyson M. Goody '13, have completed seven trials and won nearly 3 million in jury verdicts with The Simon Law Group.

"We get to represent people that really can't stand up for themselves against insurance companies that have countless resources," Simon says of his work as a plaintiff's litigator. "Being able to stand up for these people and showing them they do have a reason to fight makes the stress and the long hours worth it."

It was Simon's twin brothers who founded The Simon Law Group in 2009 and inspired him to attend TJSJ where he met Fisher and Goody. "Sevy, Greyson, and I became very good friends during our studies. Sevy and I would play golf together every week and Greyson and I were on the same recreational basketball team," Simon recalled. While Simon and Fisher joined The Simon Law Group as law clerks it was not until March 2014 that Goody was offered a position.

"After graduation, I got a job offer from a local San Diego firm I interned at my last year in law school," Goody elaborated. "While I was thankful to have the job, I was constantly on the lookout to find something that was a better fit." Grateful, Goody acknowledged that the opportunity for a "better fit" came when Simon and Fisher graciously recommended him to the Simon Law Group. For this group of friends working

together has proved to be a winning combination, Fisher recognized, "I know most attorneys don't find their dream jobs right out of law school, but I believe I am the exception rather than the general rule."

Since its inception, The Simon Law Group has focused on personal injury which is characterized by representing the "little guy" and whose returns come in the form of contingency fees. "Personal injury is an addicting area of law because it is contingent and incentive based," Fisher explained. "Personal injury is like gambling. You do work on a contingency fee basis, throw down your own money to go to trial, and you can lose a lot if you don't win. On the other hand, the rewards for winning can be crazy huge. I work best when I have something "riding on the line" and I feel like it brings out the best in me."

For Goody, experience in corporate defense allowed him to appreciate the significance of his job now, "The most rewarding part of my job is representing the people who can't afford big time lawyers. These are the people who deserve the representation the most; they are injured, can't work, and have families that they need to support. Accordingly, it is a true pleasure to represent them."

Networking as a law student, not only with established attorneys but with peers, has been the key to these



(Left to right) Greyson M. Goody '13, Sevy Fisher '13 and Brandon Simon '13

gentlemen's success. "Make as many friends in law school as you can - you never know what types of connections you make and who will be your colleague in the future," Simon emphasized.

"Despite the rigors of law school, it is pale in comparison to actually practicing law," Goody reflected. "As such, every student should prepare themselves by interning and getting as much experience as possible to help them in the real world. Go watch experienced attorneys doing what you want to be able to one day achieve," Fisher added. "It will motivate you to be that much better by watching somebody else do what you are passionate about." To those graduates studying and sitting for the bar, Simon's advice is, "Don't pay attention to any sort of statistics or bar pass rates - YOU and only YOU decide who passes the bar."

In addition to sharing their friendship and good fortune as litigators, Simon and Goody, as groomsmen, joined Fisher in celebrating his wedding.

## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

### BRENDA M. SIMON

#### Presentation

*Generating Trade Secrets from Patents*, Intellectual Property Scholars Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA (August 7, 2014), available at <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/16588.htm>

### STEVE BERENSON

#### Article

*From the Ashes of the Lawyer-Statesman Rises the Lawyer Democrat: Practical Legal Wisdom from the Ground Up*, 2014 J. of the Prof. Lawyer 17 (2014)

## SUSAN BISOM-RAPP

### Editorship

Editorial Board Member, *Special issue* of OpenEdition Books, an online publication of Presses Universitaires de Provence, France, *Women at Work in the Americas* (2014)

## WILLIAM SLOMANSON

### Article

*Blended Learning: A Flipped Classroom Experiment*, 64 J. Legal Educ. 93 (2014)

## FORMER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER HONORED



( Center) Former Board of Trustees member Robert 'Bob' Ames

Former Board of Trustees member Robert 'Bob' Ames was honored with the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Board of Trustees Medal of Honor. Mr. Ames served on the Board from 2001–2013 and was a founding member of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Board of Trustees.

Mr. Ames was a vital player on the leadership team whose vision and planning also have ensured the law school's vibrant growth by dramatically increasing the size and credentials of the

TJSL faculty, improving program offerings and helping secure membership for TJSL in the prestigious Association of American Law Schools in 2008. Among Mr. Ames' crowning achievements is helping bring about the new, vibrant state-of-the-art Thomas Jefferson School of Law campus that the school took occupancy of in January of 2011.

A lifelong resident of San Diego, Mr. Ames has practiced as an attorney at his law firm, DLA Piper (formerly known as Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye) for the past

45 years. He received a BA in Economics from Pomona College and an MBA and an LLB from Stanford University. Mr. Ames served two years as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Infantry, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Ames is no stranger to being honored by the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. In December 2010 he was awarded an honorary degree at the law school's fall graduation.

Congratulations to Mr. Ames for receiving the Board of Trustees Medal of Honor.

# Want to Submit a **TOUCHSCREEN FLYER?**

If you are a TJSJL organization and would like to have your information promoted on the Touchscreens, please follow these flyer guidelines:

- **Dimensions**  
6.6 inches (*width*) x 10.1 inches (*height*)
- **File Format**  
PDF or JPG
- **Submit Your Flyer**  
TouchscreenFlyer@tjsl.edu

Please note that Touchscreen Flyers are not placed in The Advisor.

**Microsoft Word Users:** Change paper size by going to Page Layout tab > Size > More Paper Sizes.