

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI VIDEO SERIES UNVEILED



On June 16th, the first episode of the Alumni Video Series is being 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 TJSL alums that the Alumni Video Series has come to fruition.

In episode one, you will hear 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.

Episode two in the series will launch in August 2014.

TJSL ALUM ROBERT M. SAGERIAN '13 HONORED WITH BURTON AWARD IN WASHINGTON D.C.

For the fifth time since 2006, a Thomas Jefferson School of Law student has won the highly prestigious Burton Award for Distinguished Writing.

On June 9, 2014 TJSL Alum Robert M. Sagerian '13 joined that prestigious list of TJSL winners as he was honored for his article at an awards ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Sagerian is the 2014 Burton Award winner for Legal Achievement for his distinguished legal writing.





Robert M. Sagerian with his mother Marcy Sagerian



Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

“It is truly an honor to win such a prestigious award,” said Sagerian. “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.” His note was published in the Fall 2013 edition of the Thomas Jefferson Law Review ([Volume 35, Issue 2. 35 T. JEFFERSON L. REV. 229](#)) and advocates on behalf of former and current NFL players and calls for the NFL to be held

accountable. “Judge Brody’s recent denial of the NFL’s settlement figure echoes the idea of accountability. As we have seen, the NFL Concussion Litigation has forced changes to how the NFL game is played, trickling all the way down to the Pop Warner ranks,” said Sagerian.

“It does not surprise me that Robert won this award,” said Professor Lea Fields-Bernard. “After coaching him a year on the trial team I know him to be bright, determined and passionate. I look forward to seeing what other achievements he will make in the coming years.”

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

“Robert Sagerian wrote an excellent, timely, and important note,” said Professor Meera Deo. “As his Scholarly Legal Writing professor, I recall that he was highly motivated from the start. I am so proud of him and the TJSJL team that helped him achieve this incredible goal.”

“Robert joins a distinguished group of TJSJL 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.” Other TJSJL winners include: Jennifer Siverts ‘06 in 2006, Anne Knight ‘08 in 2008, Skye Resendes ‘11 in 2010, and Sean E. Smith ‘11 in 2011.

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 TJSJL.”

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.

Recently Sagerian opened a solo practice in La Jolla, practicing in the areas of Plaintiff personal injury and criminal defense.

TJSJL STUDENT REPORTS FROM THE 2014 BRAZIL WORLD CUP

By Jason Barmasse 3L

Thomas Jefferson School of Law student Jason Barmasse 3L and, his brother, TJSJL alum Justin Barmasse ‘12 attended the opening ceremonies for the 2014 Brazil World Cup in Sao Paulo.

“After coming up short on the search for an internship in the field of sports this summer, my brother insisted I travel with

him to the World Cup in June, a trip he had been planning for almost a year up to that point,” said Barmasse.

While in Brazil, Barmasse will report for [The Fields of Green](#). “My father ran into my old little league coach and told him about my upcoming trip with my brother, and that I would be writing/blogging about my travels for the TJSJL Center for

Sports Law and Policy along the way,” said Barmasse. “Turns out, my former little league coach works for USA Today, and it just so happened that one of their sports digital media affiliates, The Fields of Green, was in need of a writer on the ground at the World Cup. The website is a sports blog that focuses on business, legal and financial issues in sports today. “There are a myriad of legal issues

surrounding the World Cup and FIFA,” said Barmasse. “Ranging anywhere from stadium and hotel preparations for the event, to player/participant compensation for playing, to marketing strategies of sponsors and non-sponsors of the World Cup. For the next 21 days, I will be on the ground at the games and walking around the host cities exploring these issues amongst others,” said Barmasse. “Scheduled interviews include a licensed Sao Paulo attorney, a law professor at the University of Sao

Paulo, and, potentially, an attorney for Adidas, who is one of the largest World Cup sponsors.”

Jason Barmasse will be blogging about his trip to Brazil through TheFieldsOfGreen.com.



Jason Barmasse 3L and, his brother, TJSL alum Justin Barmasse '12

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Citations Added June 1, 2014 - June 16, 2014

ALEX KREIT

Presentations

Lessons Learned: Marijuana Legalization Roundtable Discussion, University of Denver School of Law, Denver, Colorado (February 10, 2014)

Overinclusiveness and Drug Possession, The Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, New York, New York (January 5, 2014)

REBECCA K. LEE

Articles

The Implications of Fisher v. University of Texas on Workplace Affirmative Action, 89 St. John's L. Rev. (2014)

SUSAN BISOM-RAPP

Presentations

It's Complicated: Age, Gender, and Lifetime Discrimination Against Working Women, Law and Society Annual Meeting, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis School of Law, Minneapolis, MN, May 29, 2014 (presentation with Professor Malcolm Sargeant)

It's Complicated: Age, Gender, and Lifetime Discrimination Against Working Women, The Center for Research on Gender in the Professions, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA, May 27, 2014

[VIEW THE TJSL 2014 EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE](#)