

THE INFORMER

NEWSLETTER

April 29, 2010

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A Farewell from your 2009-2010 Student Bar Association Leaders

By Christopher G. Paulos, 3L
SBA President (2009-2010)

The past year was filled with so many challenges, rewards, surprises, and gifts that it is hard for me to sit back and reflect upon them all. My time as your SBA President provided a glimpse into the inner-workings of our school. I was given an opportunity to see just how many people work so hard to make student life at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) so rich and rewarding. I was continuously humbled by the efforts of the faculty, staff, and students who worked tirelessly to provide the many opportunities that we all enjoy. Providing facilities, funds, support, and manpower to such a diverse and active student body requires multiple minor miracles every day. Yet somehow, the student organizations, Student Services, Academics, Admissions, Career Services, Maintenance, IT, and all the other behind-the-scenes staff seem to pull off the events and activities.

This is not to say that we succeeded in all that we attempted – many projects and ideas fell victim to prioritization, limited time or resources. However, this was not due to a lack of effort or desire. The students who stepped up to make things happen this year demonstrated the initiative, leadership and work ethic that will undoubtedly distinguish them in their careers. These students selflessly assume more responsibility than is necessary to graduate from TJSL. Often they do so with full academic schedules, full or part-time jobs, families, and all of the other demands of life. The difficulties faced by law students are numerous, but many of our peers manage to confront them with a stoic grace, that inspires and carries me through my own dark moments.

Along with the efforts of our peers, the support from our faculty has been unwavering. Even in situations when we students doubt the logic or purpose of certain school policies, the administration has always allowed the SBA or other concerned students into their offices and boardrooms to voice their concerns. The best interests of our school, as an institution, have consistently been the foundation of such discussions despite the intensity of emotions or differences in opinion. This unfettered access to professors and deans is something that all TJSL students should utilize.

The students with whom I served on the SBA are dedicated to seeing our school succeed on all fronts. Many of them will continue to serve the student body next year and I am confident that the opportunities, programs, and events provided by the SBA will only improve. I encourage every student to participate in some way with the SBA. Whether it is through participation in inter-mural sports, filling out school surveys, writing for *The Informer*, or assuming a leadership position, your law school experience is so much more than just your GPA or class rank. By actively participating in school activities and organizations, the quality of life on campus can be directly shaped by YOU.

When seeking your votes for SBA President last year, I invoked the importance of “precedent.” I hope that we, the SBA, have served you well and at the very least, maintained the quality of leadership that you have come to expect from our organization. Those who led the SBA in years past, along with the team who worked so hard this year, inspire my dedication to, and support of the student body at TJSL. Not only did their efforts set the

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An Athletes Image and the Public Misconception

By Chase Buzzell, 1L
Staff Writer

Despite Charles “The Round Mound of Rebound” Barkley’s famous statement in 1993 that sports figures should not be considered role models, for better or worse, our society has held and continues to hold athletes in high-esteem. Whether Sir Charles was correct in his assertion is difficult to determine. For every Dennis Rodman (fill in troubles here), there is a Pat Tillman (giving his life for a cause other than his own). Most recently, and notably, Tiger Woods was exposed for being an adulterer to an unprecedented degree. One would have to go back to the questionable exploits of Wilt Chamberlain to recall the magnitude of womanizing of Tiger Woods. Prior to the car crash that set-off the scandal, Woods’ public image was pristine. Regardless of where one falls on the spectrum of morality in regards to the piety of Woods’ behavior; his wife Elin, fans, sports writers, fans, and PGA officials, many have felt duped. So, how do we sift through the plethora of athletes in the public eye and decide which athletes are fit to stand as an ambassador to their respective sport, a spokesperson for the public, a sponsor for a product, or most importantly an idol for ourselves and children? We do not.

The athletes that are in the public eye are beyond our control. If an athlete has the ability to perform at the highest level in their respective sport, there is no, and should not be, a gatekeeper allowing only the good character athletes through the door. This is an impossible task. However, some credence may rest with the proposition that the companies and leagues pushing athletes to the public forefront have an in-

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"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."

By Thomas Jefferson

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course for my involvement in SBA, but continue to fuel my participation with TJSJ after I graduate. These students not only recognize, but also seek to tap into the endless spirit and infinite potential of their peers.

Our school sits upon the precipice of greatness. The books in our library are no different from those at USD, Cal Western or even Harvard. My experience has shown me that the intellect and work ethic possessed by you, my colleagues, are no different either. The impending move to our new campus, the resulting upgrade in resources, and the continued efforts of our professors, staff

and alumni have set the stage for you, the students, to take the reins, perform, and to

seize what you have been given in order to achieve more, reach higher, and ultimately, set the precedent for those who will follow you. Together you can lead by example, distinguish yourselves, as well as our school, and establish a lasting pride. Set the Precedent. Thank you for allowing me the honor and pleasure of being your SBA President.

Picture top right: Chris, Melodie, & Jeremy

OUR SCHOOL SITS
UPON THE
PRECIPICE OF
GREATNESS

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herent duty to only display the athletes that are good for our society. If companies possess the ability to sign athletes to sponsorship deals, shouldn't they be held accountable for the athlete's shortcomings? Similarly, shouldn't National sports leagues that also use their athletes in a sponsorship role be held accountable for promoting a bad "role-model?" However, asking such questions delves into a monster of an argument on its own, how do you hold people accountable for the bad behavior of others?

There are no easy answers when grappling with these questions. Ultimately, the duty to determine who is a positive role model and who should not be followed rests with the individuals of our society. In

Farewell & Thank you!

By Jeremy M. Evans, 2L
Editor-in-Chief (2009-2010)

Last April, I was elected as Vice-President of the Student Bar Association and I relished the opportunity to be the right-hand man to Chris Paulos. In particular, one aspect of the role intrigued me, Editor-in-Chief of *The Informer Newsletter*. I knew the year ahead would provide a learning experience and I looked forward to serving my colleagues at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSJ). In our first issue of the *Informer*, which ran in August, I promised several things, and believed we have delivered. I promised that we would run a professional,

consistent, and entertaining newsletter. I figured the year would be a reputation building process for the paper and I believe Jon Cooper (Managing Editor) and Katie Tooma (Editor-in-Chief) will continue that tradition, and take the newsletter to greater heights, while expanding readership, staff, content, and sections.

It has been an honor to serve the students of TJSJ. I look forward to our next academic year, serving you as President of the Student Bar Association. I promise to lead our school for all students, with honesty, loyalty, and professionalism. I will never give up on the mission until complete. Thank you for your trust, I will not break it.

addition, regardless of whom we choose to follow, the possibility of such a person being of bad moral character or committing a crime is endless. Woods' exemplifies this situation. Prior to the scandal there was a commercial featuring Woods, where children of differing ages and ethnicities stood before a camera and stated "I am Tiger Woods," but no one truly knew or knows Tiger Woods, or any other athlete for that matter. In the end, athletes have exhibited a strong propensity to make bad decisions and act inappropriately, and there are no sure-fire measures to extracting this dynamic from the public domain. Therefore, choose wisely when idolizing an athlete and do not be sour if they end up being someone else.



Congratulations! You are a chartered organization! Now what? – Follow-up to January's "Starting an On-Campus Organization."

By Jenn Kish, 3L
LSRJ President

So you took the plunge and founded or re-invigorated a new student organization at Thomas Jefferson. Or, maybe you have been elected to the executive board of an already existing organization and are unsure what to do now. The following are some hints for ensuring the longevity of your organization:

Create and submit a full-year budget and full-year calendar of events BEFORE the fall deadline! The SBA and Student Services will ask you to submit a full-year budget and calendar of events before the beginning of the fall semester. They require the calendar to ensure that multiple clubs are not planning events at the same time on the same day. They require a budget so that they can determine how much money will be available for each student organization. At least a couple weeks before the submission deadline, get your new executive board together over coffee and treats, and spend a few hours developing your calendar of events and determining how much money you will need for the entire year. This will also make your life easier once the school year starts because it will give you time to plan the other things in your life (like studying).

Spread the word! Make sure the student body, aside from your regular members, knows about upcoming events. There are certain protocols you must follow to have your event advertised in *The Advisor*, the *Informer*, on the touch screens, and in the weekly SBA emails. Designate one officer on your board who will send the emails to those who help you publicize (i.e., Communications, the SBA, etc.), and make sure they follow the requirements to a "t." The

best thing you can do to make your student organization visible is to advertise through various channels. Consider making a Facebook page for your student organization and request to be "friends" with TJSJ students, so that posts for your upcoming events show up in their newsfeeds.

Build coalitions with other student groups and the community! Working with other student organizations saves money, spreads the workload, and gives you a larger audience. It also helps you establish a common ground and find other like-minded people. Reaching out to the San Diego legal community is great for networking and helps establish you in the legal community before you get out into practice.

Be proactive! Do not expect people to seek out your organization. Talk to everyone you meet about your organization and any exciting upcoming events.

Put on relevant events! Once you have decided which events to put on, get to it! Touch base with Kathryn Markey at least five to six weeks before your event if you are holding the event on campus, especially if you are having food from Indigo Café. Kathryn is instrumental in making sure events run smoothly (her office is adjacent to the Student Lounge). Consider reaching out to alumni if you plan to host a speaker panel. The Alumni Relations Office can help put you in touch with alumni who may practice in the area your organization focuses on. Also, get creative with your events and bring in a variety of interesting speakers. This will draw in a more diverse crowd of students who could potentially become members in the future.

Good luck next year!

TRAVEL SECTION: Summer in San Diego, Ron Burgundy Style

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Senior Staff Writer

We all know that San Diego boasts miles of beautiful beaches, Balboa Park, and the San Diego Zoo, but there are countless other fun things to do around America's Finest City. For those of you sticking around this summer, I have made a list of some of my favorite things to do in San Diego. Just like most of us, I am on the dreaded student budget, so I have included plenty of cheap escapades that will make you appreciate this city even more than you probably do.

Outdoor adventures – The San Diego weather is one of the main reasons this place is so amazing. Take advantage of the Vitamin D, work on your tan, or just make all your friends in other cities and states jealous.

Farmer's markets – There are a big handful of farmer's markets all over the county. Fresh flowers, organic produce, and crazy food booths can be found on different days of the week. Go to <http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php> for times and days.

Hiking and views – There are so many places to hike all over the county; some of my favorites are Torrey Pines State Beach, Sunset Cliffs, Cowles Mountain, and Black's Beach (the actual beach is clothing optional). Cabrillo National Park, Mount Soledad, and Mount Helix all provide a spectacular panorama of different areas of the city.

Kayaking in La Jolla Cove – Get some sandwiches from the Cheese Shop, rent a kayak, and dine on your own private kayak island.

Del Mar Fairgrounds – Two events that you ABSOLUTELY cannot miss: the San Diego County Fair and Opening Day at the Del Mar Racetrack. Fried Pepsi and outrageous hats? Duh.

ComicCon – Not outdoors, but an adventure nonetheless. Dress up like Samurai Jack and head downtown to the Convention Center on July 22-25.

North County – There are a ton of fun things to do in Northern San Diego County. You can take the coast the whole way, so the drive is beautiful in itself.

The Self Realization Fellowship in Encinitas – Open to visitors every day except Mondays, this spiritual retreat is an amazing place right on the ocean. There

are secret gardens, koi ponds, and daily meditation classes, so it can be a great experience whether you are spiritual or not.

Swami's – just near the SRF is the famous surfer's beach. It is known for its amazing surfing conditions and gorgeous views, and there is a yummy café named after the beach right there on the 101.

La Jolla Tide pools – There are some beautiful tide pools near Tourmaline and Shell Beaches, and it is easy to find tide timetables online.

Lou's Records in Encinitas – Pretty much the coolest music store ever, stocked with used and new music, lots of vinyl, and obscure artists. A delicious taco shop frequented by surfers, Juanita's, is also right down the 101.

La Jolla Midget Colony – Rumor has it that the munchkins from the *Wizard of Oz* came and built a colony after getting rich off the famous film. Find out for yourself by taking Torrey Pines Road to Hillside Drive. Score points on a first date by surprising them with a creepy nighttime drive-by.

Questhaven – A former insane asylum near Elfin Forest is the subject of many urban legends including the White Witch, a ghost that lives on the grounds. Much of the property has either burned down or been developed, but it can still make for a fun late night field trip.

Stone Brewing Co. in Escondido – A local brewery boasting the infamous Arrogant Bastard Ale offers tours, beer education, and has an onsite bistro for those who love the brew.

Fiesta del Sol – This annual festival in Solana Beach takes place this year on June 5-6. It offers live music, arts and crafts, a beer and wine garden, and international food.

Music – San Diego has some really fun venues, ranging from massive outdoor amphitheaters to tiny, dark dive bars. Often times, shows are a lot less expensive than you think.

Cricket Wireless – My absolute favorite venue! This amphitheater in Chula Vista has a huge lawn section that has the cheapest tickets in the house (and affords the most fun). Shows this summer include Kings of Leon, Tim McGraw, Slightly Stoopid, Elton John, Warped Tour, Dave Matthews,

Big Brother is lending: Changes in federal student loan funding—no reason to be alarmed.

By Scott Greenwood, 1L
Staff Writer

Most people I speak to really do not know too much about financial aid. They know they need it, a signature is required at some point (or is that a pin?), and they know that a FAFSA may be involved. Personally, I want to know as little about this system as possible—just so long as I get the funding necessary to continue attending school. With the passing of the new Federal changes to the financial aid system earlier this month, I was left even more in the dark—until I spoke to Marc Berman, director of the Financial Aid office here at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL). Mr. Berman and his staff have been hard at work for the past several months to make sure this transition is as smooth as possible for everyone involved. He calmly explained, "There's no reason to be alarmed." The good news is that things just got a bit easier for everyone.

As of July 2010, federal student loan programs are no longer originated from private banks. Instead of going through your previous lender (Citibank, AccessGroup, Wachovia, Wells Fargo, etc.) you will now be able to do everything through the federal government's easy to use website: studentloans.gov. This will save \$61 billion over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. With the government now being the lender, this frees up money to increase Pell grants for low-income undergraduate students and increases aid to Black colleges with traditionally under-represented populations.

These changes will not effect funding for the summer session. If you still need a private loan for that period, you can still go through your old lender.

Aside from the new lender, very little else has actually changed. The amounts that students can borrow for both Stafford and GradPlus loans remain the same. There are now more lenient income based repayment plans as well. Additionally, the loan origination fees for both the Stafford and GradPlus loans have decreased. So, more of the actual loan you request will go into your bank account. In addition, the GradPlus interest rate is now down slightly to 7.9%.

The Federal Government will look at the same criteria as your previous lender for determining creditworthiness. That is, the only real impediment facing most students is accounts that are more than 90 days past due—necessitating a co-signer.

Another interesting feature of the new Federal scheme is that students who get jobs in the public service sector (i.e., teachers, police department, military, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and non-profits) will see increased leniency in repayment as well. For those who work in public service sector, repayment is capped at 15% of monthly income, and debt forgiveness occurs after only 10 years of repayment.

For more information on Federal student loans, please visit studentloans.gov, or speak with Marc Berman in the TJSL financial aid office.

and The Eagles

The Casbah, Soma, Belly Up, House of Blues, and Anthology are all great venues that have a huge variety of indie, reggae, rock, hip-hop, and whatever else you may have on your iPod.

Mini-trips – So many amazing cities are a short car (or train) ride away, and having the benefit of being able to go mid-week (if your schedule allows) makes for less crowds and lower price tags.

Temecula – a short ways up the 15 will take you to a beautiful city where you can do a day of wine tasting, take a trip to Pechanga casino, or go to one of the city's summer festivals.

Disneyland/California Adventure – There are all kinds of deals for tickets, but the best deal is probably on the Costco website. It applies to Southern California residents, and gives you a four-day pass to both parks that can be used through the end of summer.

Julian – This quaint town, known for its apple orchards and art galleries, is only about an hour east of San Diego proper.

For those of you leaving for the summer, stay safe and be jealous. For the rest of us, stay classy San Diego.

Staff:**Admissions & Administration**

By Jonathan Cooper, 2L
Senior Editor

Ever wonder what the Administrative Staff at Thomas Jefferson School of Law is really like? Here's a quick look into the lives of the staff which help keep our school running smoothly day-to-day.

What is your current role at TJSL?

Tim Spearman (TS): Director of Admissions

Kay Henley (KH): Director of Academic Administration

Skylar Rayhill (SR): Assistant Director of Academic Administration and Senior Faculty Assistant

Donna Gehlken (DG): Faculty Assistant

Julia Starkey (JS): Faculty Assistant

Randy Ward (RW): Faculty Assistant

Jan Dauss (JD): Executive Assistant to the Dean

How long have you worked at TJSL?

TS: 5 years

KH: 19 years, I love my job!

SR: This is the 6th year of working here.

DG: 1.5 years

JS: Since August 2009, so almost 1 year.

RW: 8 years

JD: 17 years

What did you do for work prior to working at TJSL?

TS: I was attending Law School.

KH: Elementary School Registrar in California.

SR: Girl Scouts of America, managing the annual cookie sale.

DG: I was an Administrative Assistant with the Office of Facilities, Management and Construction at the University of Texas, El Paso.

JS: I was a Mom & I worked from home. I have two kids; 1 boy (4 years-old) and 1 girl (7 years-old).

RW: Retired US Navy Senior Chief.

JD: I worked for an electronics company as an Inside Sales Supervisor in Anaheim, CA.

What is your favorite hobby growing up/as a student?

TS: Writing

KH: Camping and Tennis

SR: Swimming

DG: Shopping. I loved me some big hair . . . ohhh aqua.

JS: Modern Dance

Spotlight

RW: Woodworking

JD: Horseback Riding

Currently, what is your favorite hobby?

TS: It's still Writing.

KH: Gardening

SR: I am learning to ride a motorcycle!

DG: Reading (especially historical fiction), you can find me reading on any given hour.

JS: Making Jewelry

RW: Yard/ Home Improvement

JD: Knitting, Hiking, and Bike Riding

Do you drink coffee? If so, how do you like it?

TS: Yes, with cream and sugar.

KH: Yes, with cream and sugar. . . .from my kitchen.

SR: The only flavor of coffee I like is Coffee Flavored Ice Cream.

DG: Yes, with cream and Cinnamon Dolce syrup from Starbucks.

JS: No, I don't drink coffee. I like hot green tea.

RW: No, I don't drink coffee.

JD: No, I don't drink coffee.

Favorite Board Game?

TS: Don't have a favorite

KH: Scrabble, and I don't need a dictionary!

SR: Life, and Pirates of the Caribbean

DG: Monopoly

JS: Monopoly

RW: Monopoly

JD: Backgammon

Do you play any video/computer games?

TS: Nope

KH: Free Cell on the computer. I have a 73%.

SR: Farm Frenzy, Pizza Party Land, Mushroom Farm Revolution and Sushi Go Round.

DG: Mrs. Packman on the Atari

JS: Simms

RW: Solitaire on the computer.

JD: The Wii.

Cats or Dogs?

TS: Dogs

KH: Both, I had both as the kids were growing up but none now.

SR: Both, I have one dog and two cats that I serve.

DG: Cats, but sadly I am allergic.

JS: Dogs

RW: Dogs

JD: Both, but I have two cute cats right now.

Faculty:**Professor Kenneth Vandeveld**

By Jenni Leys, 2L
Creative Director

Jennifer Leys (JL): What did you major in while doing your undergraduate work? Why?

Kenneth Vandeveld (KV): Sociology. I wanted to study human behavior and I had always liked math. At my undergraduate university, the sociology department had the most extensive program in quantitative methods of all the social sciences.

JL: Why did you decide to attend law school?

KV: When I was in high school, I was on the debate team and people started telling me that I should become a lawyer, which was the first time that I ever considered a career in law. I had always been really interested in public affairs and I also considered a career in journalism. I decided on law, however, for two reasons. First, I was very active in politics and I had noticed that at political meetings when issues were debated those who were lawyers seemed to be the best informed and were accorded a special respect by everyone else. I wanted to know the things they knew. Second, becoming a lawyer was not only a way of becoming knowledgeable about public affairs, but also gave me the skills to be actively involved in things I cared about, rather merely than observing from the sidelines.

JL: How did you get where you are today? In other words, describe your path from your first job forward.

KV: After law school, I went into private practice with the Washington, D.C., office of a large New York law firm, where I represented American Indian tribes and did general litigation. Then I moved to the State Department, where I represented the United States before international tribunals like the World Court, negotiated treaties, and advised the department on questions of international law. After I left the State Department, I started teaching at Whittier Law School, at a time when it was still located in downtown Los Angeles. After two years at Whittier, during which I commuted from San Diego, I accepted an offer from the San Diego campus of Western State University. At the end of my first year, the dean asked me to serve as associate dean. When she resigned, the president of the university asked me to serve as acting dean for a



year while a search for a permanent dean was conducted. During that year, I persuaded the men that owned the school (WSU was a for-profit corporation) to let the San Diego campus split off and apply for ABA accreditation. Meanwhile, the faculty had met while I was out of town and adopted a resolution asking me to stay on as dean. So, I agreed to stay on in order to get the school accredited. After the separation from WSU and the receipt of ABA accreditation, I was able to persuade the owners of the school to sell the school to a nonprofit foundation I had created in the 1990s, which is how TJSL became a nonprofit. All of that took 11 years. In 2005, I left the dean's office and began to teach the courses that I teach now.

JL: Can you tell me a funny or entertaining story about your life?

KV: My favorite stories would take too long. Here is a short one still amazes me. I started my teaching career at Whittier Law School. Shortly after I started teaching at TJSL, I was riding on a train in Europe one day when I heard a group of American students talking and laughing a few seats away from me. Happy to see some Americans, I went to talk to them. It turned out that it was two groups of law students who had met on the train by pure chance. One group was composed of very recent Whittier grads who coincidentally had been my students at Whittier! The other group was composed of TJSL students! They were laughing because, having no idea that I was on the train, they were taking turns doing their impressions of me teaching a class. I thought, "Great! Now I've been mocked on two continents." Being American students, they were all wearing grubby jeans. So, of course, they had the right clothes for the impressions.

VANDEVELDE on pg 6

Student Leader:

Brandon Leopoldus, 3L

Spotlight

Student Organization

MELSA



By Ian Van Leer, 2L,
Executive Editor

It is nearly your last chance to congratulate this semester's last named student leader, 3L Brandon Leopoldus. Brandon graduates in mere weeks, takes the bar exam in just a few months, and will be a renowned rainmaker at a major sports/entertainment law firm in some small number of years. However, during his time at Thomas Jefferson he has made a very notable impact on both the school and the community.

Like many of our student leaders, Brandon came to law school strapped with objectives and set out to accomplish those in the most effective way possible. Baseball had always been a major focus for Brandon before beginning at TJSL. He was even working as a Minor League umpire while awaiting his law school acceptance letters. In accord with his ten-years of experience with professional baseball, Brandon immediately joined the Sports Law Society, serving as president this past year.

As president of the Sports Law Society, and with the help of his executive board, Brandon arranged and hosted the highly attended Sports Law Symposium. This was the first time that two still-playing professional athletes attended, as well as other distinguished attorneys and sports agents. Among the attorneys present were some that Brandon interned for last summer at Mandalay Baseball Properties. This is where Brandon experienced firsthand the business and legal sides of baseball. For Brandon, one of these experiences included writing the sales agreement for the sale of one of Mandalay's six Minor League baseball teams.

As busy as Brandon is with school, work, and his obliga-

tions to the Sports Law Society, he felt underutilized. Also aware of the complexities and relative fields of entertainment law, Brandon became a member of the Intellectual Property (IP) Law Society, and this past year served as vice-president. In addition, Brandon is a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) team

and served as the team's vice-president.

Both the IPLS and the ADR team have provided Brandon with valuable networking and leadership experience, but the ADR team has also taught Brandon how to thrive in an adversarial environment. He has competed in and coached mediation, negotiation, and arbitration events, some of which involved controversies over baseball-player salaries.

Brandon's reach is not limited to his eventual career ambitions, as he also serves the current and former Thomas Jefferson student body. Brandon is the SBA Alumni Liaison and SBA representative on the Alumni Board. For current students, Brandon informs alumni and arranges for their appearance at student networking events. For the Thomas Jefferson alumni, Brandon maintains contact to allow their participation in or attendance at panels and symposiums of interest. To complete Brandon's extra-curricular participation and effect, he has also been an actively participating member of the Phi Alpha Delta fraternity for the last three years as well as a member of the SBA for all three years of law school.

Between his amiability and dedication, Brandon has made a significant impact at TJSL and in the San Diego community. Brandon Leopoldus has done as much, if not more, for the school and himself than one can hope to accomplish in three years, and is well deserving of your congratulations.



By Pejman Kharrazian, 2L
MELSA President

The Thomas Jefferson School of Law Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA) is one of many student groups on campus that is centered around an ethnic minority. MELSA is unique, in that "Middle Eastern" covers a wide variety of cultures, countries, and languages including, but not limited to: Armenian, Chaldean, Egyptian, Persian and Lebanese. The cultures that make up MELSA have many similarities and differences that allow for rich cultural exchanges. The group creates opportunities for all students, regardless of their heritage, to get together for networking, social, and fundraising events. MELSA encourages diversity among members and urges participation in events by members and non-members alike.

A unique advantage of being involved in MELSA is the strong relationship we have with the MELSA groups at the other law schools and professional organizations in San Diego. There were three tri-MELSA mixers this academic year, in which members from all three San Diego law schools were given the opportunity to broaden their network while

enjoying fun cultural events. Further, this past February, ten MELSA members were sponsored by the school to attend an Iranian American Bar Association (IABA) fundraising event. The event was a cultural celebration featuring music, dancing and traditional cuisine. The funds raised supported the IABA's annual law student scholarship and IABA San Diego Chapter programs. The event included music, dancing, and networking opportunities with legal professionals in San Diego.

The outgoing President Terry Nashed and the Board are pleased to announce the newly elected 2010/2011 MELSA Executive Board: President Ronza Yako, Vice President Vako Artinian, Secretary Christine Tornatore, Treasurer Mark Hermiz, and Public Relations Chair Lyla Askejian. The incoming Board has set lofty goals for the upcoming term with a focus on increasing events and community involvement. This lively group of go-getters is sure to take MELSA to new heights in the next academic year.

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ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: ASKEJILA@TJSL.EDU**

Health Care Debate

By Nikolas Antovich, 1L

Section 5000(A) has been added to the Internal Revenue Code. This provision demands that every American taxpayer obtain health insurance, which qualifies as “minimum essential coverage” or be subject to a monetary fine. At least thirteen states, represented by their respective Attorneys General, plan to challenge the healthcare bill (the mandate in particular), in federal court. The question has been posed, is this federal mandate, or any federal mandate, to enter into a contract with a private firm for a good or service constitutional?

This mandate may be justified on several implied constitutional grounds. This article will focus on the Commerce Clause found in Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution. The reason for this is two-fold: First, when I asked a friend, who works for a Congressman, about the constitutionality of the mandate he replied, “This will be argued, and won, the same way these challenges have been kicked out of court for 40 years. Article 1 Section 8 gives the federal government broad authority to regulate commerce.” Because my friend is heavily immersed in D.C. politics, and his knee-jerk reaction to a constitutional challenge was to turn to the Commerce Clause, it is assumed this is the defense that supporters of the mandate will rely upon. Second, there is a provision within the health care reform bill, which states: “The requirement [to purchase health insurance] regulates activity that is commercial and economic in nature: economic and financial decisions about how and when health care is paid for, and when health insurance is purchased.” This suggests Congress is attempting to base the constitutionality of the mandate in terms of the regulation of commerce.

A common theme among challenges to the mandate is that the right of individual states is to determine solutions for affordable health insurance. Therefore, when discussing the mandate, it is important to interpret it within the context of federal powers. The federal government has been granted, through the Constitution, limited enumerated powers. That is, the federal government is allocated, admittedly in ambiguous terms, certain governmental powers. The states, on the other hand, through the Tenth Amendment, are reserved all other rights not granted to the

federal government.

Probably the most infamous clause within Article 1, the Commerce Clause states: “Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.” Proponents argue that this clause allows Congress to mandate the purchase of a private good or service in order to regulate commerce.

There are two main flaws with this justification: First, insurance companies, by law, do not operate across state lines. There is a valid argument that because it is illegal to purchase insurance across state lines, insurance companies and individuals who choose to purchase insurance, do not apply under the term “among the several States” within the Commerce Clause.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, an insurance mandate forces individuals to enter the health insurance market. From the holding in *Wickard v. Filburn*, we learned that the Commerce Clause packs a major punch. In that case, Filburn was growing his own wheat for personal consumption. The Court decided that the Commerce Clause allowed the federal government to regulate his crop despite it never leaving his property; because by growing his own wheat Filburn indirectly affected national trade.

The distinction between *Wickard* and the present health insurance mandate lies in the idea of voluntary participation. In *Wickard*, Filburn chose to participate in the production of wheat thereby indirectly affecting trade among states. Here, the federal government will force individuals to participate in the insurance market or face a monetary penalty. In other words, Congress contends it cannot properly regulate commerce without the ability to regulate individuals who choose to not participate. The conclusion one draws from this distinction – Congress is undertaking a purported constitutional duty to regulate inactivity.

If Congress can mandate individuals to enter into the health care market, it can force individuals to enter into any market in the name of public welfare: the purchase of guns for home safety; the purchase of certain foods to promote health; the purchase of certain homes to promote accessibility to others; one could even go so far as to say the federal government would have the authority to mandate homeowners to grow certain food (or “medicinal”) crops on their land in order to promote

VANDEVELDE, from pg. 4

JL: What is your favorite thing about your job today? Least favorite?

KV: Favorite: It is a tie. I love the interaction with students. I also love the freedom to research, write about, and become involved in things that interest me and that I think are important. Least favorite: The job of a law professor can be isolating. I spend much of my time doing research, either for class lectures, for books or articles that I am writing, or to help people who call me for advice. I love the substance of the work, but for the most part, I work alone nearly all day every day. On some days, that aspect of the job is difficult.

JL: Do you wear any other metaphorical “hats” other than professor and esquire?

KV: Spouse and father are among my hats. So is owner of three dogs. The job of a law professor entails wearing a lot of hats. At various moments, I am a teacher, a writer, a history student, a consultant to a variety of governmental and international organizations, and (during election years) a political activist. I would like to add tennis player and soccer player, but do not have much time these days for either.

JL: Are you working on any projects currently? What are they?

KV: I am working on three writing projects. (1) In the past year, Oxford University Press has published two books that I wrote on international investment agreements. The agreements that are the subject of my books are the successors to an earlier set of agreements that were negotiated by the Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. I am writing a book now on those earlier agreements, which will shed light on the meaning of the later

agreements and which, with the later books, will create a kind of unified account of American foreign economic policy since World War II. (2) The United Nations has asked me to assist in a study on international investment law. I am flying to Geneva for a week in May to attend a conference that will lay the groundwork for the study and then I will serve as the principal author of the study. (3) Several years ago, I wrote a book called “Thinking Like a Lawyer: An Introduction to Legal Reasoning.” That book was intended to provide students with a roadmap for performing legal analysis and for constructing legal arguments. The book has sold well and has even been translated into Portuguese. At the request of the publisher, I am writing a revised edition.

JL: Who is your hero?

KV: I draw my inspiration from the people around me. I greatly admire values like integrity, moral courage, kindness, fairness, and the pursuit of excellence. People who live by these values are my heroes.

JL: If you could do one other job, not involving the law, what would it be and why?

KV: Had I not gone to law school, I would have become a journalist. I am interested in current affairs and I love newspapers. I read the New York Times, the LA Times and the San Diego Union every day.

JL: If you had to give one piece of advice to the law students reading this column, what would it be?

KV: Stop reading this column and go study! Finals are here! All joking aside, my most profound advice is a cliché: Life is short. Make every moment count. That means that you should find the things that you love to do and then do them.

JL: Thank you for your time!



9 Months of complaining about the parking situation and still Bad Park Jobs!

Biotechnology Law Blogs Around the World

Michael Huynh, 2L
Senior Staff Writer

Ranking of Patent Law Programs for 2011: Perhaps Six Junk-Science Ratings Are Better Than One:

US News & World Report has released its updated rankings of intellectual property (IP) programs for 2011. The ranking is created by polling a subset of law professors who teach at least one intellectual property law course. The professors then list up to fifteen programs with good IP programs. Those "votes" are then used to create a ranking. Under the IP Curriculum Section, William Mitchell College of Law has compiled a "Report on Intellectual Property Curricula" at the various law schools and used that to create a ranking based on course offerings. Thomas Jefferson School of Law placed fifteenth among law schools across the nation. Link: <http://www.patentlyo.com/patent/2010/04/ranking-patent-programs.html>

9th Circuit provides gloss on work-for-hire analysis in case involving data conversion claim:

In JustMed Inc v. Byce, JustMed, a two-man startup tech firm was attempting to bring a hands-free digital voice larynx to the market. The defendant-counterclaimant was hired to revise and complete the source code for the product. The defendant began working full time on the code, and he was paid in stock. The parties never entered an employment or independent contractor agreement (the company generally did not keep formal records other than a series of notebooks). The company never issued the defendant a W-2 wage statement,

withheld taxes, paid workers' compensation or unemployment insurance, provided benefits, or reported the employment to the state. The defendant lived in a different state than the company, worked from home, setting his own hours, and the company did not tell him how to spend his days. The Court held that the district court did not err in holding that the source code was work for hire. Link: <http://www.exclusiverights.net/2010/04/9th-cir-provides-gloss-on-work-for-hire-analysis-in-case-involving-data-conversion-claim/>

www.exclusiverights.net/2010/04/9th-cir-provides-gloss-on-work-for-hire-analysis-in-case-involving-data-conversion-claim/

Policing Priority: Nintendo Escapes Liability Based on Patentee's Failure to Satisfy the Written Description Requirement

In Anascape v. Nintendo (Fed Cir. 2010), a jury found that the Nintendo Wii and GameCube infringed Anascape's U.S. patent No. 6,906,700. The '700 patent claims priority to a parent application and, as it turns out, needed that priority to avoid intervening prior art. On appeal, the Federal Circuit found the asserted claims invalid — holding that parent application could not serve as a priority document because it did not describe the invention as claimed in the '700 patent. Link: <http://www.patentlyo.com/patent/2010/04/policing-priority-nintendo-escapes-liability-based-on-patentees-failure-to-satisfy-the-written-description-requirement.html>

Joint Inventorship: Federal Circuit Denies Vanderbilt's Claim to Cialis Patent Rights

In Vanderbilt University v. ICOS Corp., the University argued that its scientists should be listed as inventors on the patent for Cialis because they provided the building blocks that Glaxo used in its discovery of tadalafil. (ICOS now holds the patent rights). The district court ruled against Vanderbilt — holding that the Vanderbilt researchers could not be inventors because they did not have an independent understanding of the "complete compound claimed." On appeal, the Federal Circuit rejected that misinterpretation of the law of joint inventorship, but affirmed the final holding based on its conclusion that Vanderbilt had not provided clear-and-convincing evidence that it contributed to the invention. Link: <http://www.patentlyo.com/patent/2010/04/vanderbilt-univ-v-icos-corp-fed-cir-2010-vanderbilt-and-icos-have-been-locked-in-an-inventorship-dispute-for-several-y.html>

THOMAS JEFFERSON
SCHOOL OF LAW PLACED
FIFTEENTH AMONG LAW
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE
NATION

Dear Editor: Social Networking

By Anonymous

Repeatedly we proceed to these panels to educate ourselves on what prospective employers want. Resume workshops, etiquette, conversation starters etc., and repeatedly we are informed to monitor our input on social network sites. Sites such as Twitter, MySpace, and Facebook. So fellow students my question for you is, why then would you go and accept an individual whom neither you, nor your classmates know on any basis from any function?

Recently there have been three individuals who have created accounts of people who supposedly went to Thomas Jefferson. At last count these people had somewhere around 300+ friends and there were plenty of your names in the mix.

As a token of good faith, I started asking for any information on these people and I came upon some useful information. It is rumored that these accounts have been established to track and monitor student activity through the administration. Now, I know what all of you

are thinking, that sounds like a conspiracy theory if I have ever heard one.

Therefore, here is my challenge. If anyone can prove that these accounts are legitimate students at TJSL, please present the *Informer* with tangible information. These profiles were created under the names of Sarah, Karen, and Isabelle. I am not going to single out any of them out by last names, for if in fact they are real, then I own a certain level of apology and will print a retraction in the August issue. However, if my hunch proves correct, then it goes to further prove that as a technol-

... AS A TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN
GENERATION, WE ARE TOO
QUICK TO LET OUR GUARDS
DOWN

ogy driven generation, we are too quick to let our guards down. Thus, my advice would be if you do not know a person, better yet on a first name basis, they do not accept them as a friend.

HEALTH, from pg 6

sustainable living.

Confronted with the above rules, analogies and distinctions, my good friend from D.C. replied, "For those who have any respect for stare decisis, the constitutionality of the mandate will not be questioned." However, this is precisely the inconvenience. There is no case law and, in turn, no precedent to turn to for answers. Individuals have never been compelled by the federal government to purchase a private good or service.

As the Congressional Budget Office reported, "A mandate requiring all individuals to purchase health insurance would be an unprecedented form of federal action. The government has never required people to buy any good or service as a condition of lawful residence in the United States. An individual mandate would have two features that, in combination, would make it unique. First, it would impose a duty on individuals as members of society. Second, it would require people to purchase a specific service that would be heavily regulated by the federal government."

What is or is not constitutional, is ultimately in the eye of the beholder. In this country, we are beholden to the United States Supreme Court. For this reason, almost anything can be argued constitutional. Just as *Plessy v. Ferguson* was before *Brown v. Board of Education*; *Swift v. Tyson* was before *Erie RR Co. v. Tompkins*; *Coppage v. State of Kansas* was before *Phelps Dodge Corp. v. N.L.R.B.*; *Hammer v. Dagenhart* was before *U. S. v. Darby*; and *Carter v. Carter Coal Co.* was before *N.L.R. B. v. Jones*. Ultimately, the only opinion that reaches the status of relevancy is the Court's own.

Sources:

Section 5000(A): http://wyden.senate.gov/newsroom/112309free_choice_amendment.pdf
Individual mandate: H.R. 3590, Subtitle F--Shared Responsibility for Health Care § 1501(a)(1)-(2)(A)
CBO quote: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/48xx/doc4816/doc38.pdf>

Weird Legal News

By Brandi Haefs, 2L
Advertising Director

1. A hockey player in Canada was found not guilty of assault after he drunkenly punched a door that subsequently struck a woman in the face and broke her nose. The player claimed that he didn't know the woman was there, but the interesting part was that the judge said, "If he was charged with being a colossal . . . I would find him guilty."
<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2010/04/09/pei-doyle-assault-verdict-584.html>
2. A Dubai court recently upheld a one-month jail sentence given to a British couple for kissing in public. The British man, currently living in Dubai, and his female friend were arrested on charges of kissing intimately in public and consuming alcohol after a mother had complained her child had seen the indiscretion.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6342IN20100406>
3. Authorities in Germany spent 100,000 Euros (\$134,000) on a three-week mission to recover a missing snake, only to discover it had died.
<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/reuters/100409/odds/>

- [odd us germany snake odd](#)
4. A 16-year-old British girl logged on to her Facebook page and discovered she had been fired from her job. Her manager apparently wrote on her wall because she couldn't reach the girl by phone.
<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWSWeird-News/2010/03/22/13317521-qmi.html>
 5. A longtime judge has just been fired after issuing an arrest warrant for a teenager over an overdue library DVD.
<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/100407/koddities/us odd overdue dvd>
 6. Cleveland police say a motorist was fleeing from officers when he abandoned his car and jumped a fence. The irony is that the fence he jumped turned out to be a prison yard.
<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS//2010/03/30/13412851-ap.html>
 7. A German woman was arrested on suspicion of trying to smuggle a corpse onto a plane. The woman claims her husband was still alive when they reached Liverpool airport.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6382WA20100409>
 8. A Florida man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for trying to break back into the

- prison where he had previously been held after a conviction in his manslaughter case.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62N52L20100324>
9. A college student, formerly known as John Paul LaPointe, recently convinced the Alberta government to allow him to legally change his name to God Dieux. God also happens to be a convicted criminal who spent five years in prison for trying to smuggle marijuana into Japan.
<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Weird-News/2010/03/24/13346956-qmi.html>

10. If you're wearing a ski mask, carrying a gun and walk into a store to rob it but because there are no employees there to rob you abort the task, is that an "attempted robbery"? Apparently so. Two teenagers were recently arrested in Illinois and charged with attempting to rob the Supermercado Viva Mexico after apparently entering when the only employees on duty were in the back room. The boys waited for a minute but found no one and fled empty-handed but the deputy police chief still said that a crime was committed.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/uc/20100321/od_notw/nwx100321xml

Appeals & Prison & Guns! Oh, My!

By Melodie Dan, 3L
SBA Treasurer (2009-2010)

I am one lucky girl. Seriously, I am. Last semester, when I was offered an internship with the California Attorney General's Appeals, Writs & Trials Section, I had no idea what an amazing experience it would be. I really didn't. I just thought I would get a great opportunity to learn more about criminal law at the appellate level and work on my writing skills. However, my internship at the Attorney General's this semester has definitely been one of my most adventurous law school internships. This semester, I have toured Donavan State Prison (which was actually very exciting), learned how to shoot a gun (which was somewhat empowering and scary), went on a police ride-along, visited juvenile hall and court, wrote three appellate briefs, and argued before the California Court of Appeal four times (my fifth will be in May before my first final).

Not many law students can say they have been on an inside tour of a state prison or that they have argued before the Court of Appeals, which is why this internship is such a great and unique opportunity. In addition, while I have been going through those amazing experiences, I have received great feedback and mentoring from my supervisors about my writing and oral advocacy skills. I have also spoken to other attorneys in the office about their experiences at the Attorney General's Office. Believe it or not, some of the attorneys still get nervous before their oral arguments.

As great an internship as this one is, not many students from

Thomas Jefferson apply for it. One of my supervisors pointed out that about 100 students from USD apply for this internship each semester, while only about six to ten students from Thomas Jefferson apply each semester. This bit of information was disappointing to me. As law students, we are given many opportunities to gain real-life experiences through internships. Each semester, the externship office compiles a packet full of government and private employers in need of interns. Career services also emails students internship and job opportunities. However, based on the amount of internship applicants my supervisors receive from Thomas Jefferson, our students are not taking full advantage of the internship opportunities provided. Therefore, I encourage all Thomas Jefferson students who meet the application requirements to apply for this internship, which will provide the Attorney General's Office (AG) a strong and varied pool of applicants from our school. The AG internship has been a great experience and I encourage more students at Thomas Jefferson to take advantage of it.

To apply, applicants must be in the top 20% of their class and be able to become a certified student intern. See http://ag.ca.gov/careers/students/pdf/SD_AWT.pdf for more information about the internship and how to apply. The San Diego AG office is accepting applications for spring 2011. Interviews for the spring semester will begin in early September 2010. Again, **ALL** TJSL students who meet the requirements should apply!

Sudoku

			7	8			6	
1		2			9	4		
	4					3	5	9
	7		3		5			6
5	3							2
8			1		7		3	
	2						1	
		5	6			9		7
	1			7	2			

Submit your finished Sudoku Puzzle to the SBA office for a chance to win a prize.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Puzzles will not be accepted after May 15, 2010

I OBJECT YOUR HONOR

Compiled by
Sterling Williams, 2L

Objection to all the school emails! I do not care TJ!

Objection to movies that won't let you fast forward through the previews

No objection to getting the body right for summertime weather!

Objection to losing my work-study job so that the top 5% can be bribed to stay at TJ.

Objection to people who stay invisible on Gmail and then write to you. Hey, you are not that cool.

No objection to having a party bus for my birthday and getting dozens of people wasted!

Objection to upper level classes having finals scheduled within days let alone hours of each other. No love for the 2L's & 3Ls!

Objection to having 10 bike cabs offer to give me a ride. All I wanted to do was go for a nice walk.

Objection to finals...that is all.

Objection to TJ losing my undergrad transcript before graduation. Thanks! Not like I need that to graduate or anything!

Objection to all the fake messages that are broadcasted through BBM. You guys suck! What are we 12?

Objection to the construction starting once we are back from Spring Break. Great timing people!

Objection to the TJ student who has enough time to create fake Facebook pages! Who the h#ll are Karen Rose, Sarah Laura, and that Isabella girl!?!?

Objection to the prank my BA professor pulled for April Fool's Day! Really had me going!

Objection to these women picking on B. Roethlisberger...Seems to be dangerous being rich and single.

Objection to XM radio being so tight. I cannot even get out the car when I need to!

Objection to the timetable coming out 2 days before we can register!

Objection to the school losing practice exams during the Gmail transfer when we are a month before finals. Really?!?

I object to SBA special of the week, enchiladas: No cheese inside, and no Enchilada sauce.

Objection to someone finding a threatening letter on their truck regarding the parking situation...and they live on the STREET!

I object to the hours for the IT Department being displayed incorrectly on their signage. If they are not available, they should not display that they are.

I object to student organizations being required to purchase food from the cafe when they are not provided a price list! How are we expected to plan our events if no answers will be provided as to our food budget, etc.?

No objection to my professor coming to the back of the room and asking what the score of the Suns game was in the middle of class!

Objection: I would like to know why the second floor of the LLB is only accessible by the northernmost stairwell. Why do the elevators not stop on the second floor?
Answer: I think the reason you cannot get to second floor is to prevent theft of books.

I object to members that are especially active in an organization being discouraged and told not to participate so much because it implies they are taking a leadership role in the organization. Who gave them the right to forbid members from active participation?





The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) invites Thomas Jefferson students to take part in any of the following events taking place through April. The SDCBA's online calendar (www.sdcba.org/calendar) includes comprehensive event information, so be sure to check there if you are interested in a particular program as you will be able to download CLE flyers, read about programs and most importantly, register for seminars and events. Please keep in mind that while it is rare, changes to event times or cancellations do occur at the last minute, however, up-to-the-minute event information is maintained on the SDCBA online calendar.

SPECIAL EVENTS

6/9/2010 **SDCBA Annual Judicial Reception** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

All SDCBA members, law students and all members of the judiciary are invited to the San Diego County Bar Association's Annual Judicial Reception, where we will recognize Judges and Commissioners who recently joined the San Diego judicial community. This event is a great opportunity to meet leaders of our legal community and SDCBA member attorneys in a fun, relaxed environment. More information on this free event will soon be available at www.sdcba.org/judicialreception.

SECTION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

5/03/2010 Children at Risk Committee Meeting
5:15 PM - 7:00 PM

5/03/2010 Ethnic Relations & Diversity Committee Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

5/04/2010 Elder Law Section Non-CLE Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

5/11/2010 Military Law Section Non-CLE Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

5/20/2010 Social Security Disability Section Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

5/25/2010 Legal Ethics Committee Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

5/26/2010 Appellate Court Committee Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

5/28/2010 Immigration Law Section Non-CLE Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

CLE SEMINARS

5/04/2010 Establish Your Personal Brand by Utilizing Social Media
[Webinar] 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

5/05/2010 Writing for the Trial Judge: How to Persuade in Fewer
than 500 Words 6:00 PM - 8:15 PM

5/07/2010 Temporary Repeal of the Estate & Generation-Skipping
Transfer Taxes: 8:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Problems & Opportunities

5/11/2010 The Ethical Bankruptcy Practitioner: Recent Develop-
ments 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

5/12/2010 Short Selling Homes and Rental Properties
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

5/13/2010 Civil Litigation 101 Series Part V: The Appellate Process
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

5/13/2010 Ethics and Social Networking
5:30 PM - 7:15 PM

5/18/2010 Approaching Damages with a Mediation Mindset
5:30 PM - 7:45 PM

5/20/2010 Bioethics and Surrogate Medical Decision Making
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

5/24/2010 Ethical Considerations for Environmental Lawyers
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The SDCBA maintains an up-to-date listing of volunteer opportunities online at www.sdcba.org/volunteer. This list changes and is updated on a regular basis. Please check this page often for new and interesting opportunities.

San Diego Book Project

The SDCBA's Community Service Committee's San Diego Book Project provides needy organizations with books at no charge. The San Diego Book Project works with A Plus Surplus Inc, a partner to St. Vincent de Paul, to sort, organize and distribute books to organizations such as schools, assisted living facilities, juvenile detention facilities, non-profits, etc. **Monthly sortings take place the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the old Jerome's warehouse, located at 841 14th Street, San Diego, 92101.**

If you are interested in getting involved in the San Diego Book Project or know of an organization that could use children's or adult books, please email Mike Meany at researchsd@aol.com or Lori Mendez at lmendez@sbcglobal.net.

The Golf Law Association (GLA) of Thomas Jefferson School of Law

By Alexander Balkin, 2L
GLA Founder and President

The Golf Law Association (GLA) of TJSL was started to perpetuate the game of golf among the students and create networking opportunities with the San Diego legal community. Golf is a mystery to many people, including law students, and this is unfortunate given the close relationship between golf and the law. There is large amount of business and networking that occurs on the golf course, and understating how to play the game at a minimal level is a great tool for any law student to have.

Starting in Fall 2010, the GLA will be organizing golf events for both students with no golf experience and experienced golfers. For the non-experienced golfers, we will be having group lessons with local PGA professional teachers that

will cover both the swing and proper golf course etiquette. Rental clubs will be available if you do not have a set of your own yet. For the experienced golfers, we will organize monthly groups at local courses to provide a much needed round of golf during the semester. Additionally, we plan to organize a tri-school golf tournament between Cal Western, USD and TJSL. This tournament is designed to be fun and to create networking opportunities with local attorneys.

This summer will be a planning period and an opportunity to get our events ready for the fall. If you are a golfer and would like to get involved, or have wanted to try golf, please contact Alexander Balkin at balkinas@tjisl.edu. We look forward to seeing you on the course.

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The Community Committee Networking

Joshua Tallman, 1L
THE CC Marketing

On the evening of Friday, April 2, The SBA Community Committee (THE CC) hosted the Net-Working Event at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL). Influential members of the Thomas Jefferson and greater San Diego communities attended to discuss their ongoing projects and the opportunities available for TJLS students.

Both staff and students, including members of THE CC, listened intently as our distin-

guished guests conveyed the essence of the projects they were involved in and discussed how the students in attendance could contribute, while making connections for the future. After a presentation by various TJSL and San Diego leaders, all those in attendance were invited eat and mingle in the courtyard. Students were able to network and forge relationships that will undoubtedly pay dividends in the future. In addition, guests and professors were fielded student questions, while students were encouraged to bring their

resumes.

The Net-Working Event was a resounding success that provided 30 TJSL students to form relationships with influential members of the San Diego community.

The Community Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their time:

Professor Luz Herrera – Transactional Law Clinic

Greg Neil – Veteran’s Legal Assistance Clinic

Professor Maurice Dyson – Diversity Committee

Professor Jeff Slattery – Lawyers of the Arts Program

Jim Miller – TJSL Alumni and Candidate for Superior Court Judge, Seat 20

Alissa Bjerkhoel – California Innocence Project

Jess Jollett – American Civil Liberties Union

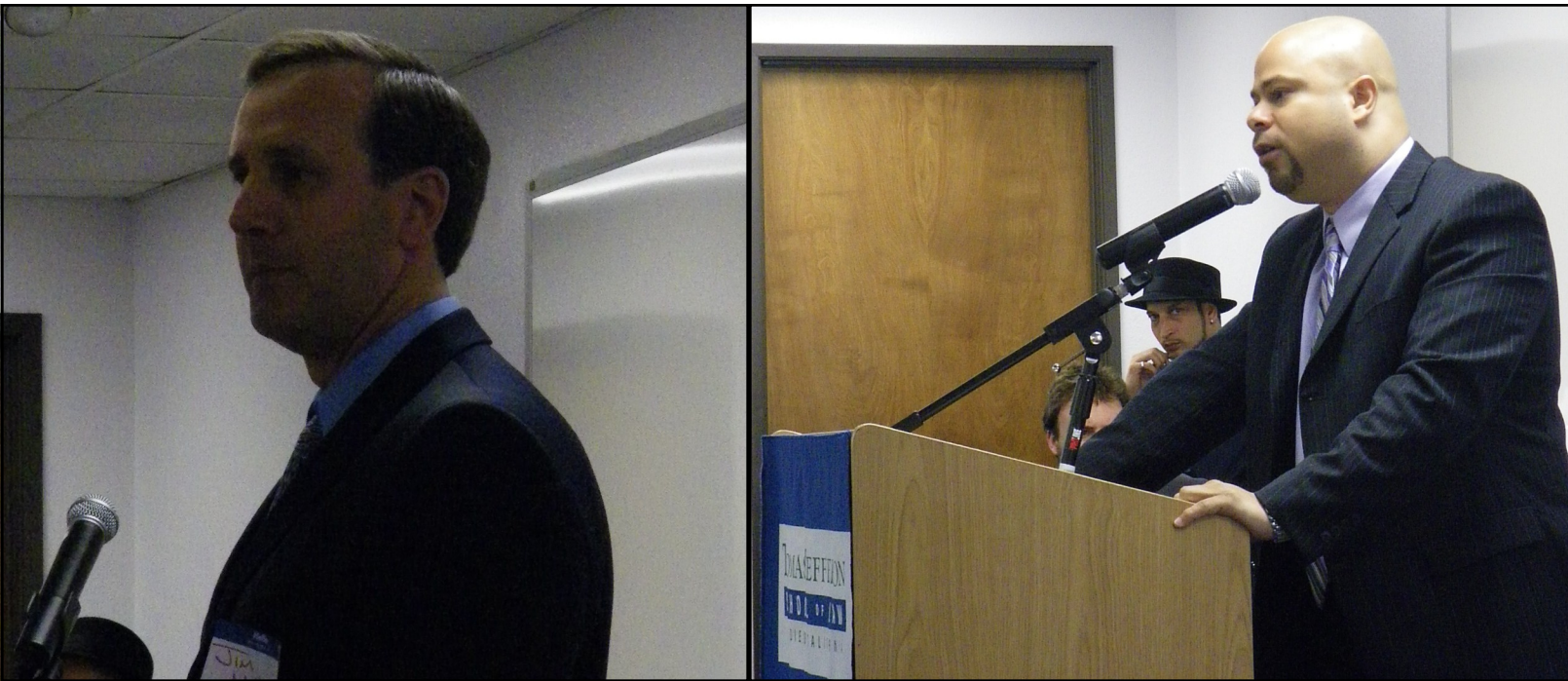
Efren Nava – La Raza

Teresa Watts – BLSA

Natalie Ann Garcia – APALSA

Chris Paulos & Jeremy Evans – SBA

THE CC Members and Leads



THE CC Networking Event: Bottom Left continuing Clock-wise: Attorney Allisa Bjerkhoel, TJSL Alumni Jim Miller, & TJSL Professors Maurice Dyson and Luz Herrera



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Gifted Journeys is currently seeking bright, healthy, women between the ages of 20-30 to become egg donors. Our staff has helped thousands of loving infertile couples realize their dreams of having a family. Our extraordinary egg donors receive between \$7,500-\$15,000 for undergoing this simple procedure, as well as an immeasurable emotional reward.

For more information, or to apply online, please visit www.GiftedJourneys.com or call (818) 505-3026.

We look forward to being a part of YOUR journey!

2010 Barristers Ball Award Statements

Professor Thomas Golden – 1L Professor of the Year Award

I am truly proud to be the recipient of this year's 1L Professor of the Year Award, and I sincerely thank my students for bestowing this honor on me. It is wonderful to be part of a dedicated faculty and a pleasure to have a role among such great colleagues and our devoted administration and staff in helping to develop future lawyers. This award is the tasty icing on that cake. Again, my humble thanks.

Professor Leah Christensen – 2L Professor of the Year Award

I would like to sincerely thank all of the students at Thomas Jefferson for this award. As a professor, this is truly the most significant honor that I could ever receive---particularly given the amazing faculty here at TJSL. I am so lucky to have a job that I love so much---and I am so proud of all of my students' many accomplishments and achievements! Thank you very much!

Professor Kenneth Vandevelde – 3L Professor of the Year Award

I was deeply honored to receive the Golden Apple award this year. The award is particularly meaningful because the law school has so many outstanding teachers. To be selected from among this group is humbling. As their many different approaches attest, there is no single path to effective teaching. Every teacher must find a style that makes the best use of his or her own unique combination of capabilities to open up a subject for students and to enable them to make the subject their own. The best judges of whether a teacher has succeeded in this endeavor are the students, which is why I am so very appreciative of this award.

Dean Jeff Joseph – Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award

When the Dean offered me the position of Associate Dean and General Counsel, I told him I would accept if he would permit me to continue to teach. Working with students is the best part of my job. Even when I was a trial lawyer, I taught Civil Procedure and then Trial Practice at night and Environmental Law in the summer. I am very grateful to the students at Thomas Jefferson for the recognition.

Dean Frank Mead – Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year

Award

It is always special to win an award, but it is especially thrilling to win an award that is voted on by the constituents we serve. Thank you to all of our students. I look forward to seeing many of you feign laughter at my bad jokes in class and in the Career Services Office soon.

Paul Spiegelman – Lewis & Clark Award

Thank you to Chris Paulos, the SBA, the members of the ADR and Moot Court teams, and the students who generously honored me with the Lewis & Clark Award. An award for helping prepare "students with practical and pragmatic tools required to head out into the world and chart their own path to success" is particularly meaningful to me. When I entered teaching almost 40 years ago, I vowed that my students would never graduate from law school as ill prepared to practice to law, as I was when I graduated Columbia in 1967. At that time law school was focused on teaching legal analysis and philosophical skepticism, but really did not attempt to teach practical skills. Since I first began teaching, my focus has been to help students gain the insight and experience to be knowledgeable and confident at the tasks lawyers actually do. With the Moot Court and ADR teams, I have found the perfect vehicle for allowing me to transfer to students whatever insights I have gained from practice over the past 40 years. Putting students in the lawyering roles of negotiator and appellate advocate gives them and me the chance to study and perfect what it is lawyers really do. What makes it so exciting, though, is the energy and commitment that the members of these teams put into their preparation and participation for competitions. On these competitive teams, students spend countless hours with enormous dedication to master the knowledge and skills they need. In addition, it is the emanations from that intense student commitment, which is the source of my energy. It is a genuine privilege to work with students so committed to improving and striving for their best. To receive an award for that privilege gilds the lily. Thank you to all. I look forward to working with our wonderful students for years to come. I am gratified that my efforts have contributed to your ability to head out into world and chart your own paths to success. Please stay in touch and let

me know where that path leads.

Randy Grossman – Lewis & Clark Award

I am honored to receive the Lewis & Clark Award and look forward to many more years of service to the students at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Thank you.

Julie Garrett – Staff Member of the Year Award

It has been my pleasure to assist and help the students of Thomas Jefferson School of Law. I take no greater pleasure than seeing TJSL students succeed. Thank you for all of your support, friendship, and love over the years.

Beverly Bracker – Staff Member of the Year Award

Winning this award has truly been the highlight of my time at Thomas Jefferson. I am honored to receive an award like this from the students, because it is working with all of you that makes me look forward to coming to the law school each day. I enjoy working with you as you grow and develop as professionals and as you take the long and sometimes winding path from student to the practice of law. Nothing is more gratifying than seeing your successes along the way, and often when one

thing does not turn out something else that is even better falls into place. I am grateful to all of you for this special recognition. I look forward to staying in touch with you during your careers. My hope is that you will all find jobs that you love as much as I love mine, and I look forward to helping you do that.

Randy Ward – Staff Member of the Year Award

I just wanted to thank all of you for selecting me as one of the "Staff Members of the Year." The greatest reward that I get to enjoy in my position is that of assisting others and I am so grateful that you recognize my efforts. Each year, a new batch of fresh-eyed students comes to our campus and each year I am lucky enough to have the opportunity to be a part of your experience here at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. It is always my pleasure to assist you all in your academic endeavors and facilitate your communication with the wonderful faculty here. Many thanks.

Michelle Bos – Charles T. Bumer Civil Libertarian Award

I am honored to be the 15th recipient of the Charles T. Bu-

mer Civil Libertarian Award. I am proud of the work that I have done with the National Lawyers Guild and look forward to working as President with our advisor Professor Cohn and the San Diego Chapter next year. I would like to thank Professor Cohn again for all of her guidance and assistance, without her, the work we do in the school chapter would not be possible. Thanks!

Jennifer Kish – Student Organization President of the Year Award

I was surprised and humbled to win the "Student Organization President of the Year" award for my role as President of the TJSL Chapter of Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ). LSRJ's overall mission and goals have the potential to be controversial and polarizing; however, the TJSL community has been supportive, open-minded, and tolerant. The willingness of individual members of the student body to stop by our numerous tables in the Courtyard to ask "what is reproductive justice?" demonstrates the supportive environment that helped make LSRJ a thriving student organization. I would not have been able to win the award without the support of the administration, student body, and especially the dedicated LSRJ members and executive board. Thank you everyone for your support!

Natalie Ann Garcia - Student Organization Leader of the Year Award

APALSA's success this year is not simply attributed to the leadership of me. I was grateful and fortunate to have a dedicated, fun, and amazing Executive Board, a fabulous membership, and the continued support by the Career Services and Admissions Offices that made this year so enjoyable and such a success.

Vice President Alex Mun's, New York approach kept things relaxed and fun. He recruited me to APALSA during my first week at TJSL, and I look forward to seeing what amazing things he will do in the future. Treasurer Crystel Galin kept our records in check. Her polite demeanor and compassionate heart is unparalleled to anyone I have ever met, she is an amazing friend, she will always be more than a classmate, but a sister to me. Secretary Dennis Solis's passion, hard work and commitment to keeping our TWEN running was appreciated by many of our first year students trying to tackle this mystery of what an outline was.

Finally, Diversity Chair Michael Zuniga's enthusiasm of food helped keep our budget in check by knowing where to get the best deals and our tummies happy during meetings.

We had amazing group this year, with so much enthusiasm from our first year students and continued participation by our second and third year students. Our presence in the SD legal community would not have been possible without the generous support by Career Services and the Admissions Family (Dean Kransberger, Tim, Michelle, Beth, and Mary) who were always willing to help and provide guidance.

It was an incredible year, and I look forward to seeing how much this organization continues to grow. Thank you again APALSA for giving me the opportunity to lead you.

Sarah Robinson – Student Bar Association Member of the Year Award

Thank you for your support and encouragement; it has been a wonderful experience at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Sajad Husain, AKA Mr. Sid – Student Bar Association Member of the Year Award

Thank you to the Admissions Department for letting me in Thomas Jefferson School of Law and to Chris Paulos and Jeremy Evans for providing me with the opportunity to create The Community Committee (THE CC), all the members of the SBA, and Julie Garrett. Next, The Community Committee Members and leads: Allyson Evans, Jeffery Hutchins, and those who have stepped up for THE CC. My Mom, Dad, Shaun and Sabrina. Professor Slattery for supporting THE CC more than any other TJSL staff member. Professor Herrera. Dean Byrnes. Marty Stratte. Lyla. *To my fans and my haters.* Ms. Jenny Goldman. Dean Mead. Dean K. Dean Joseph. Dean Hasl. Mr. Spearman. Student Services. Financial Aid. John Given. Career Services. Miss Judy – the former bookstore lady. Ms. Riva. The *Informer* Staff. My friends back home for their indefatigable support. Thank you all very much. Now let us get back to work.

Jeremy M. Evans – Student Bar Association Member of the Year Award

It is an honor to receive this award and it encourages me to work harder and more efficiently. Let us look forward to the future and continue our efforts in making Thomas Jef-

erson School of Law a wonderful place to learn the law, build lasting relationships, enjoy ourselves, and create change.

Lorelei P. Westin, Ph.D., Esq., Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati - Prof. A. Thomas Golden Alumna of the Year

I am honored to have received the Prof. A. Thomas Golden Alumna of the Year Award, and am humbled by the association and bond I now share with all previous and future alumni who have been or will be blessed with this achievement. When I started law school, I just wanted a law degree. As a part-time law student and full-time patent agent, I did not care about anything else - the letters "JD" after my name were enough. However, Thomas Jefferson School of Law opened my eyes to the endless possibilities that a law degree could give. The school and its faculty not only cultivated and encouraged my growth as a lawyer, it gave me the confidence to pursue pathways I did not perceive possible. My judicial externships with the Hon. Larry Burns and the Hon. John Houston, and my participation as managing editor and editor-in-chief of Law Review gave me the experience and confidence to go head-to-toe with any graduate from any law school. I encourage all students, past and present, to take advantage of the opportunities available at TJSL, especially the legal externship programs. There is no substitute for practical experience, and the clinical and judicial externship programs provide students with the needed edge to compete in today's legal market. I would not be where I am today without the opportunities and experiences gained at TJSL, and for that I will be forever grateful and in its service.

The Positive Impact of the 2010 Barristers Ball

Jennifer Goldman, 2L
Senior Staff Writer

nity.

My Barrister's Experience

By Danielle Mor, 2L
Senior Staff Writer

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's 2010 Barristers Ball was a spectacular event. The food, dancing and awards contributed to the overall enjoyment by all who attended. The highlight of my evening was immersing myself in the company of my colleagues in an alternative environment. The pressure, stress, and anxiety that coincide with the daily law school atmosphere were noticeably absent at the Barrister's Ball. The evening's relaxed mood and warm setting afforded most who attended, myself included, the opportunity to become personally acquainted with other colleagues, professors, and staff.

The Barrister's Ball is an experience like none other. I had the opportunity to be part of the Barrister's Ball committee and for me it was a great way to get involved and give my input. Planning the Barrister's Ball was as exciting as the event itself. My favorite part of the Barrister's Ball was getting the opportunity to talk with my professors outside of a classroom setting. Furthermore, the Barrister's Ball provided all attendees a time to relax and enjoy the social aspect of law school with your study partners, friends, and acquaintances. I would recommend getting involved with the Barrister's Ball committee if you like planning social events, and want to get more involved with SBA.

My overall experience at the Barrister's Ball was delightful, exciting, and gratifying. The pleasure of interacting and ultimately becoming more familiar with my colleagues, professors, and staff was extremely rewarding. I will undoubtedly attend the event next year and I highly recommend the same to all in the Thomas Jefferson commu-





The Student Bar Association, Officers (2010-2011):

- President: Jeremy M. Evans
- Vice-President: Katie Tooma
- Treasurer: Nancy Astifo
- Secretary: Marty Stratte
- Athletic Chair: Raj Matani
- Assistant to the Athletic Chair: Brian Hassing
- Social Chair: Ryan Ciriaco
- Continuing 1L Class Representatives: David Smith, Steven Noakes, and Neda Shoushtari (Part-time)
- 3L Class Representative: Andre Zakari
- 2L Class Representatives: Wade Tang, Ashley Whitham, Cory Lacy, Joshua Tallman, and Michael Hawkins (Part-time)
- Bar Representatives:
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 - SDCBA: Pejman Kharrazian
 - NCBA: Daniel Klett
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- Parliamentarian: Cheri Aegertar
- Academic Chair: Jonathan Cooper
- Media Outreach/Web Design: William Sand
- IT Information Officer: Joshua Goodrich
- Public Relations Chair: Eric Shakelian
- Alumni Relations Director: Elizabeth Ashton
- Alumni Committee Chairs: Aaron Gorman, Douglas Link, Steven Riley
- Committee Members (Barrister's, Social, & Academic):
 1. Courtney Darnell (Committee Coordinator)
 2. Elizabeth Maughan
 3. Jennifer McCollough
 4. Danielle Mor
 5. Jennifer Goldman
 6. Brian Nam
 7. Jamie Larakos

The Informer Newsletter, Staff (2010-2011):

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- Objections: Sterling Williams
- 2L Manifesto: Albie Masland
- 1L Manifesto: TBD
- Gripes: TBD
- THE SBA CC Writer: Martin Stratte
- SBA Sports Writer: Zenovia Barnes

The Community Committee's Business Spotlight: DIRTY DEL'S in Downtown

By John M. Given, 1L

On Wednesday April 7, Jeremy Evans, Marty Stratte, Mr. Sid and I, John Given, made an effort to escape the confines of the law library, to enjoy some delicious food, off campus. Jeremy suggested Dirty Del's in Downtown.

Dirty Del's is a sports bar about a block from the new TJSJL campus. Unlike a lot of sandwich places, where the person making your sandwich can't seem to wait for their break to start, "Del," the owner and namesake, was in the kitchen and made our sandwiches. It was evident that Del cares about the food and the people that he serves. He told us how he always wanted to own a bar, and it is apparent that he is doing what he wants to be doing. The food was great and the prices were reasonable.

I was tempted by the "El Guapo," in honor of the classic film, "Three Amigos," but decided my choice should be based on what is in the sandwich rather than which movies I like. Mr. Sid and I both had the "Diego," Turkey, Bacon, Avo-

cado, Provolone Cheese, and Veggies on Ciabatta Bread; Jeremy had the "Old Geezer," BLTA – Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Avocado, and Colby Jack Cheese on Sliced Sourdough; and Marty had a Chicken Caesar Salad Sandwich. I did not notice this on the menu... so I am choosing to believe that Marty was just being difficult. It is hard to say what made these sandwiches so delicious. Maybe it was the Ciabatta bread, or the fresh avocado. I cannot quite put my finger on it, but after just one bite, I knew I would be coming back.

Even though we were off campus, law school seemed to be the force that drove most of the conversation. It was interesting to hear what brought everyone to law school and the different directions we seem to be taking. It was great to get to know some of my classmates and I look forward to more tasty food with good people.

Keep your eyes open for more CC Business Spotlight articles: This article is the first in a series of articles that highlight San Diego businesses.

Here's to the future!



The SBA Community Committee (2010-2011)

Chairman - Sajad Husain, Mr. Sid

Chief of Staff - Allyson Evans

Treasurer - Suzy Mohr

Secretary - Lyla Askejian

Writer - Marty Stratte

Marketing - Josh Tallman

Haiti Project Lead - Aaron Gorman

Homeless Campaign Lead - Sterling Williams

Community Mapping Project Lead - Elizabeth Knowles

Community Survey Lead - Brian Link

Net-Working Events Lead - John Given

Father Joe's 'Day before Easter Meal'

By Joshua Tallman, 1L
THE CC Marketing

On the day before Easter, over 435 people gathered outside the gates of Father Joe's Village in downtown San Diego. The line stretched around the block, not for an Easter egg hunt, but for a hot meal. Volunteers served plates of pork chops, hot mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls.

While each volunteer worked diligently for several hours, there were several opportunities to strike up conversations with the thankful attendees. Some of the attendees had families with them, and some came alone. Some had lived on the streets for years, while others were affected by the recent recession. Conversing with the many attendees brought to light an unfortunate reality for many living on the

streets of San Diego.

On this morning, twelve Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSJL) students, along with members of The Community Committee, volunteered their time to help those who are homeless and struggle financially in San Diego. Through efforts such as this, the students of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, as well as The Community Committee, were able help the homeless, while forming meaningful relationships. Students were able to see and experience how fortunate TJSJL students are, as some San Diegans face the challenges of homelessness. The experience of assisting Father Joe's Village in helping the homeless people of our community was a saddening, yet positive experience, due to the smiles and appreciation of those who partook in this wonderful experience.



"Sick of the Homeless, So are They Campaign" Clothing Drive

By Joshua Tallman, 1L
THE CC Marketing

"Helping others help themselves" has become a mantra for the Student Bar Association's Community Committees (THE CC) "Sick of the Homeless, so are They Campaign." On April 27, Sterling Williams loaded bags of clothes for the homeless donated by Thomas Jefferson students and staff into a truck from Father Joe's Village. However, not with t-shirts and tennis shoes, but business attire.

In an attempt to help the homeless help themselves, the "Sick of the Homeless, so are They Campaign" sponsored a clothing drive over the course of the spring 2010 semester.

THE CC asked Students and faculty to donate business attire in an attempt to give the homeless in San Diego clothes to wear to job interviews. The clothing drive was a resounding success with approximately 40 bags full of business attire donated to Father Joe's Village. Father Joe's Village will distribute the 40 bags of business attire clothing to local homeless folks in living in downtown San Diego.

"Sick of the Homeless, so are They Campaign" lead Sterling Williams, as well as The Community Committee, would like to thank all the students, faculty and staff that donated their clothing, time and effort over the course of the last semester. (See picture, back)



The Community Committee

“SICK OF THE HOMELESS? SO ARE THEY!” CAMPAIGN



Congratulations on a job well done—Sterling Williams and The Community Committee!