



# Graduate Program Newsletter

October 2011 Issue

## TJSL's Graduate Programs

Since Associate Dean William Byrnes brought the program to TJSL in 2007, it has grown from 97 students in 2007, to 180 in 2010/2011, up to 400 in 2011/2012. Dean Byrnes explains this remarkable growth in the following manner: "The leaps and bounds this program has grown is directly reflective of the correlation that the program and our publications have on the evolving financial markets. Our faculty mostly serve the industry actively and feel the pulse of the market and calibrate their knowledge to prepare students for the evolving market with new and fresh ideas to work on today and tomorrow's problems, not

stuck in the past with antiquated ways of thinking."

Dean Byrnes has always been proactive with keeping ahead of technology curves, starting the first online LL.M. program in the world in 1997. The program existing online uniquely leverages the resources that brick and mortar institutions are simply not able to do. Professors in the program range in locations from New York, Florida, Chicago, and San Diego. Students also hail from all the corners of the United States and the world. This brings a diversity to the classroom where students can

learn in a collaborative environment from professional around the world.

This monthly Graduate Programs Brochure will put on full display the talent that the program recruits, and the quality of the professors and students in the program.

Next month will feature Assistant Dean Arnold Rosenberg. ■



William H. Byrnes, IV

## Faculty Spotlight

Dr. George L. Salis is an economist and lawyer, specializing in the area of international economic law; principally in the areas of international trade, taxation and transfer pricing. Since 2007, he has been an adjunct professor in the Walter H. and Dorothy B. Diamond Graduate Program in International Tax & Financial Services, at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he teaches international taxation and financial services, as well as transfer pricing courses.

Dr. Salis, who also presently serves as Principal Senior, Tax Compliance Analyst and Counsel at Vertex, one of the largest tax software development companies in the world, asserts that "...I do not recall a time when I have been solely doing one or the other; I always have had a foot in the taxation and another in academia, in one way or another," he states. "In my daily world, these two areas are to a great extent, highly compatible and I constantly bring actual corporate practice experience, skills, and knowledge

to the classroom, inasmuch that I also infuse a great deal of what I teach into my daily tax work and projects at our company..." Salis, who in addition is himself a 2002 LL.M. graduate of the Diamond Graduate Program, states that the main reason why he likes to continue to teach in the TJSL Graduate Tax program is because the focal point of this curriculum is centered upon he calls "the practitioner's method."

"...Teaching taxation devoid of a multidisciplinary applied perspective that comprises economics, law, policy analysis, banking, corporate and tax governance, accounting and fiscal science, generally results in a rather "bland" and ineffective tax degree, signifying little for would-be practitioners. In today's dismal economy that it is coupled with a complex regulatory and global governance structure, they need much more than just theories and principles. It is like teaching and learning economics lacking some sort quantitative methods and

statistical elements; which would be almost absurd. It is just simply unrealistic and here, we embrace this intricacy." He explains. "Our faculty consists of actual experienced practitioners in their own chosen field of practice. That is the single, most significant purpose or function; the training of effective and skilled tax practitioners, that are equipped to go out there and just "do it." From planning to compliance, all they need to do is just add time, if they do not already have it- that's what set us apart from the rest. I am not only a proud graduate of this program, but also a quality-driven faculty member, with a vested interest, as it were" He quips.

Dr. Salis earned his Ph.D. in International & Comparative Law & Economic Policy, from The Union



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## Alumni Spotlight

Jason Fiske is a California attorney and is a TJSL '08 graduate and a TJSL LL.M. '10 graduate. Jason currently works for the LL.M. full time as the Publication Director where he is responsible for supervising a team of 15 JD students and several LL.M. students in authoring and updating publications such as LexisNexis: *Foreign Tax and Trade Briefs, Tax Treaties, Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Asset Forfeiture & Compliance (a Global Guide)*; Westlaw's tax treatise: *Mertens Law of Federal Taxation*; and Wolters Kluwer: *International Trust Laws and Analysis with Company Law*.

Jason had an outstanding experience in the LL.M. program, "I took several amazing classes at the JD level in taxation with Professor Winchester, but the LL.M. program with the qual-

ity of faculty and curriculum expanded my spectrum of tax knowledge exponentially. I found the unique online environment both enriching and collaborative, experiencing the learning of the tax law with professionals from around the world I would not otherwise come into contact with."

Jason is now progressing in the JSD program and is a professor in the LL.M. program teaching: Income Tax, Advanced Income Tax, Partnership Taxation and co-teaching Corporate Taxation and Civil Tax Procedure. ■



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Institute & University Graduate School and a Specialist Diploma in European Union Law from Holborn College London and Oxford University (UODLE), as part of the same doctoral program, becoming the first graduate student to complete the same. In 1988, he obtained a M.A. in Legal & Ethical Studies, from The University of Baltimore's Yale Gordon Graduate School.

While in England, he read law at the University of Wolverhampton's

School of Law, receiving his LL.B. (law degree) with Honours. In 2002, he obtained an LL.M. in International Taxation from St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami and from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego (Magna Cum Laude). He earned Bachelor's degrees in Economics & Political Science (dual majors) with Honors, from The University of the State of New York, and another in Philosophy and Humanities from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. ■

## LL.M. Student Spotlight

Kimberley Kellogg is a student at Thomas Jefferson School of Law's LL.M. (Master's of Laws) Program in International Tax and Financial Services. She graduated in two and a half years from University of Missouri Kansas City Bloch School of Law. (Yes that would be Bloch from HR Bloch). She recalls "baby tax class" as a first year law student as very difficult. She was called on every day of the class, Prof. Ed Hood would ask her: "Kellogg what's the answer??" However, as challenging as law school was; working on an LL.M. is much more challenging and rewarding. "I am surrounded by very capable and knowledgeable students."

In her first class at Thomas Jefferson Kimberley recalls Professor Rinaldi and Dean Byrnes saying, "If you have a life you aren't studying enough." Kimberley took this advice to heart, and was quoted in last fall's press release, thanking one of the professor's: "Thank you for all your hard work; in providing materials, before or as the article or book is published. This class has changed my life; the experience, knowledge, and view of the world. The dedication of everyone involved with TJSL is incredible."

Kimberley, is the author of *Your Survival Guide to Divorce*, a book she published while a TJSL LL.M. student. Her second book is scheduled for publication in November 2011 and she is currently working on her next literary project. She has written for *The Examiner.com* as a breakup relationship expert, a project which came about during the first year of the LL.M. program.

Kimberley is scheduled to graduate from the LL.M. program in Summer 2012. ■



### TJSL Graduate Program

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