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

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

In episode one, you will hear from Defense Attorney Peter Blair ‘09. Blair opened his criminal solo practice in 2013 where he now handles mostly serious and violent felonies, narcotics possession and sales, domestic violence, fraud and simple misdemeanors such as DUI and petty theft. “I am thankful for my success in my short career as a Defense Attorney solo practitioner, and I am determined to secure continued success in the future,” said Blair.

In episode two, TJSL Alumni Kim Carter ’11 discusses her experience in law school. She has learned for any recent bar passer it is important to know your strengths and avoid second guessing yourself. “You have all the tools you need to succeed, except for maybe confidence. Confidence is not something that can be taught in a book. It comes by experience. Take advantage of every experience you have and learn from each. Ask lots of questions and learn from the experience of others. Constantly reevaluate your performance and be honest with yourself. And, above all, collect mentors for various aspects of your career and personal development, take their advice, really take their advice, and be appreciative. I have found people are willing to help those who help themselves,” Carter concluded.

She enjoys practicing law as an associate at the distinguished labor, employment, and immigration firm Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP. “I love that every day is different,” she states as she reflects on the personal and professional experiences that brought her to where she is today.
By Alfredo Bustamante, 2L, CSLP Fellow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Log onto the NSLNC event page to see a list of teams that are registered to compete in this year’s competition as well as the conference schedules and registration information.
By Jeremy M. Evans ‘11
Director, Center for Sports Law & Policy

The Center for Sports Law & Policy at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) is churning out some great future sports lawyers and professionals. Recently, some terrific news was received when several Sports Fellows received their dream job offers and began working. We reached out to them and asked them some questions about their new jobs and how they received their job offers. Here are the stories in their own words.

Jonathan Stahler ‘14
Legal Consultant at Upside Media Group, LLC (UMG) in Miami, Florida

“I have been working at Upside Media Group as Legal Consultant and soon-to-be Counsel once I hear from the Bar. I am also awaiting my applications to get certified as an agent with the NBPA and the state of Florida. I work on contracts, legal research, and marketing.

Once I knew I was moving to Florida, I made a list of sports and entertainment firms in South Florida and starting cold calling and sending resumes. I have a friend from Syracuse who is currently in law school at Villanova and also works for UMG, and that helped me since I had a foot in the door. I had a series of phone interviews and got officially hired at graduation.”

William Kava ‘12
Assistant Director of Compliance at University of Washington (UW) Intercollegiate Athletics

“Currently I am working as an Assistant Director for Compliance at the UW Athletics Department. I deal with initial academic eligibility issues for football, women’s volleyball, women’s gymnastics, and women’s soccer. I am responsible for general compliance education for all NCAA bylaws for those sports mentioned as well. I am also a liaison between our athletics department and our schools admissions department. I also handle monitoring duties for all UW sports, which includes playing and practice monitoring, coaching staff personnel, student athlete employment, and permissible and non-permissible student athlete benefits.

I received my current job through networking with athletic department staff members. I had that opportunity because I was interning in the compliance departments at Cal State San Marcos and San Diego State during law school. Networking helped me get a few interviews, but the compliance internships I received was due to help from Randy Reliford in Career Services at TJSL and projects I did at the direction of Rodney Smith (former Director at the Center for Sports Law & Policy). I needed those experiences to get the job at UW.”

Benjamin Gaus ‘13
Athletics Compliance Coordinator & ICA Director of Legal Affairs at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis)

“After interning at UCLA for one year (May 2012-May 2013), I was one of two finalist for a full-time position. UCLA offered the position to the other final candidate, as he had just completed a paid one-year internship at the University of Oregon. A few months later, my supervisors at UCLA knew that UC Davis was looking to add to their department, and suggested UC Davis contact me. UC Davis called me to gauge my interest, flew me in for an interview, and offered the job.

Initially, the position was intended to be the standard Compliance Coordinator job. That position includes: handling all questions regarding NCAA bylaws and interpretations, monitoring CARA (Countable Athletically Related Activity or “practice”) logs, approving campsclinics, processing any and all waivers (medical hardship waivers, legislative relief waivers, student-athlete reinstatement waivers, etc.), along with submitting violations and conducting investigations (as necessary). However, I have also been given the opportunity to be the Director of Legal Affairs for Intercollegiate Athletics. Within this role, I give legal perspective on issues within the athletic department. More specifically, I draft and review contracts for UC Davis football games, review concussion procedures, and act as the liaison to ensure we are in compliance with Title IX and settlement agreements re: lawsuits brought against UC Davis Athletics.”
Thomas Jefferson School of Law President and Dean Thomas Guernsey on Monday, August 11 as he welcomed TJSL's incoming students during the Week One orientation program that helps prepare students for the demands of law school. “You have just made one of the most important decisions of your life. You’ve chosen to become a lawyer, to take on a role and a set of responsibilities that will truly change you forever.”

During Week One, students learn how to read case law and write case briefs and how to prepare for law school exams.

“You are about to embark on a rewarding yet also very challenging endeavor here at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law,” said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Linda Keller. “We will definitely challenge you to think more critically and to write more clearly but we will also be here to provide the tools and the support for you to do that.”

Associate Director of Admissions Michelle Allison-Slaughter explained to the incoming class that during Week One, they will participate in sessions to learn strategies for approaching their doctrinal coursework. “The sessions are led by TJSL professors who are knowledgeable about what it takes to succeed in law school,” said Allison-Slaughter. “We understand that transitioning into law school is never easy but we try to give you as much information as possible.”

Students also participate in a doctrinal class session to become familiar with the Socratic Method, and they take and grade a simulated law school exam. Because of this intensive introduction to law school, students begin the academic year with confidence in their ability to succeed and with an understanding of the basic skills necessary to do so.

“You all bring a lot of skills and talents and backgrounds to the school, and this is an opportunity to bring those experiences to the classroom,” said Director of Admissions Tim Spearman.

“Before we get started discussing the nuts and bolts of your transition into law school, I think it seems appropriate to take some time to reflect on the decision that you’ve actually made,” said Thomas Jefferson School of Law President and Dean Thomas Guernsey on Monday, August 11 as he welcomed TJSL’s incoming students during the Week One orientation program that helps prepare students for the demands of law school. “You have just made one of the most important decisions of your life. You’ve chosen to become a lawyer, to take on a role and a set of responsibilities that will truly change you forever.”

During Week One, students learn how to read case law and write case briefs and
On Thursday, August 7, alumni, students and faculty gathered together for the monthly TJSL Alumni Association Mixer. This month’s mixer was extra special because it was co-hosted with the California Western School of Law Alumni Association.

“This alumni mixer really made me feel the support of our fellow alumni,” said TJSL student, Justin Hall 3L. “I had a great time sharing drinks with faculty, staff, alumni, and attorneys already established in the field of law. I also was able to expand my network and strengthen my chances of job opportunities upon graduation through TJSL’s collaboration with California Western School of Law Alumni Association.

Each month the Alumni Association hosts Alumni & Student Mixers to offer an opportunity for networking, connection and fun. It’s a great way to reconnect with former classmates and meet new alums in your area. The Alumni Mixers are also the perfect occasion for students to meet alumni and start building relationships that can possibly lead to an internship, future employment opportunities or even mentoring relationships.

“This mixer was a great opportunity for alums of the local law schools to network together since we really haven’t had a mixer specifically for local alums,” said TJSL Alumni Association Board Member Amanda Thompson ’07. “The Alumni Association enjoys putting on events like this that are valuable networking opportunities for our alums and we look forward to organizing similar functions in the future. It was a great turn-out and a beautiful location. In addition to mixing with faculty and alums, it was a great opportunity for our alums to meet TJSL’s new career services staff, Director of Career Services Jeffrey Chinn and Associate Director of Career Services Paula Gluzman, who I know are excited about further improving the many career services available to our students and alums.”

“Alumni Relations Director Stephanie Marquez and Board Member David Gibbs did a wonderful job on the getting this inaugural joint mixer together,” said Alumni Board President, Jeremy Evans ’11. “In speaking with my counterpart at Cal Western, we decided that we would like to make this a quarterly or bi-yearly event.”

Alumni Association Board member Kristen Roberts ’10 said, “These alumni mixers are great, because it provides a way for Thomas Jefferson alumni to stay connected and current with what’s going on in the local legal community. This mixer was especially fun, because it brought two prominent schools’ alumni and current student bodies together. The San Diego legal community is very small. It’s essential that we continue to expand our professional networks.”

For those who attended TJSL in Old Town, don’t miss out on the chance to reminisce at the next Alumni & Student Mixer on Thursday, September 4, at Kelly’s Pub in Old Town.
23 Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni have been named the Best of the Bar in 2014 by the San Diego Business Journal.

In the Best of the Bar issue, 201 lawyers were chosen as the most outstanding in San Diego.

According to the San Diego Business Journal the purpose of the Best of the Bar section is to showcase top attorneys in the area so that others will be able to use the list as a resource for anyone needing legal services.

The nominees were voted on by Legal professionals throughout the metro area. “The final list of attorneys represents a range of practice areas that reflect the diversity of our local economy from intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, to mediation and family law,” according to the San Diego Business Journal. “More than 1,000 votes were cast from 146 firms and solo practices throughout the area. Honorees are listed in alphabetical order with their vital information, and many included comments about the best advice they’ve received or who has inspired them in their careers.”

Full list of TJSU finalists

Seventeen TJSU professors and alumni were honored as finalists for San Diego’s Top Attorneys in The Daily Transcript’s July 31 publication. In the Academics category of the seven finalists, five are TJSU professors. Finalists Professors Julie Greenberg, Marybeth Herald, Lilys McCoy, Jeff Slattery and Kenneth Vandeveld have all been prior finalists in recent years.

Each year, The Daily Transcript invites attorneys across San Diego County to submit nominations and, thereby, pay tribute to those they consider the best practitioners of law. The journal allows attorneys to nominate their peers within fifteen general practice areas that span both the private and public sectors. After obtaining the initial nominations, the journal produces a list of semi-finalists comprised of the twenty-five attorneys that received the most nominations in each practice area. According to the paper, the semi-finalists are then voted on by their peers and the attorneys with the largest amount of votes in each practice area become finalists.

This year, TJSU alumni selected as finalists spanned four decades of graduates ranging from 1986-2011.

TJSU’s San Diego Top Attorney finalists

Thirty-eight U.S. law schools made the list, according to Best Choice Schools, based on “ingenuity, aesthetic beauty, and commitment to creating an environment that honors the history and study of law.” Institutions such as Stanford School of Law, Columbia School of Law, Harvard Law School, Loyola Law School and Duke University School of Law were also among those ranked.

This is not the first time TJSU’s new campus, designed by Carrier Johnson and inaugurated in 2011, has been acclaimed for its innovative design, incorporation of cutting-edge technology and sustainability. In 2013, the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Program awarded the campus the prestigious Gold Certification acknowledging the school’s exemplary achievements as a sustainable site rating the facility based on water conservation, energy performance, use of material and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design process.

Like Gold LEED Certification, Best Choice Schools’ recognition is an international acknowledgement and evidence of an ever-growing societal commitment to the environment.
ANDERS KAYE

Presentations

Corrupting Touch and Fallen Avatars: Unearthing Folk Theories of Sexuality Where the Laws of Prostitution and Pornographic Acting Intersect, CrimFest 2014, Rutgers School of Law - Newark, Newark, NJ (July 22, 2014)

ELLEN WALDMAN

Articles


MARJORIE COHN

Presentations

Achieving Peace & Justice in Israel/Palestine, World Affairs Council, North County chapter, Rancho Bernardo (July 17, 2014)

Radio


International Criminal Court liability for war crimes in Gaza, WZBC Radio News, Boston, August 9, 2014

Interview about Israel and Gaza, RT (Arabic-language flag-bearer for Russian based news media; over 350 million viewers in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe can watch RT in Arabic), August 4, 2014

Interview about Israel and Gaza, Truthout, July 27, 2014

Will Supremes apply cell phone privacy to metadata collection? Progressie Forum, KPFT, Houston, July 2, 2014

Illegality of Obama’s pending attack on Iraq, Building Bridges, WBAI (Pacifica) radio, New York, June 23, 2014


US military force in Iraq would be illegal, evening news, KBOO, Portland, OR

The use of US military force in Iraq would be illegal, True Talk, WMNF radio, Tampa, FLA

MAURICE R. DYSON

Presentations

The 60th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, UMKC Law School, in conjunction with Michigan State Law School, Kansas City, MO (April 11, 2014)

REBECCA K. LEE

Articles


STEVE BERENSON

Articles

From the Ashes of the Lawyer-Statesman Rises the Lawyer Democrat: Practical Legal Wisdom from the Ground Up, 2014 J. OF THE PROF. LAWYER 17 (2014)

SUSAN BISOM-RAPP

Presentations

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

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