SHANNON LAOYE 3L NOMINATED FOR BURTON AWARD

Shannon L. Laoye 3L is the 2015 TJSL nominee for the prestigious Burton Award. On June 15, 2015, the Burton Awards will host its 16th annual gala at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where members of the legal, academic, political, and scholarly fields will celebrate significant accomplishments in the law and recognize legal writing. Patterned after the Pulitzers, the non-profit program is one of the most prominent and dynamic awards programs in the legal community.

“I was in complete shock,” said Laoye. “I am truly honored and I feel extremely blessed to have been nominated for such a prestigious award, especially since there were so many excellent student publications. I can only hope that my Note inspires others and stimulates social and judicial change.”

Professor Marjorie Cohn, Laoye’s directed study advisor, was delighted when she heard the news. Professor Cohn described the Note as “excellent - complex statutory interpretation and extremely well-written.”

Laoye’s Law Review Note, Innocent Beyond a Reasonable Doubt, 36 T. Jefferson L. Rev. 309 (2014), discusses and proposes a solution to the unanswered legal question of whether a state prisoner with a freestanding actual innocence claim is entitled to federal habeas relief. The Note provides statistics on those wrongfully incarcerated, reviews the evolution of the writ of habeas corpus, addresses the Court’s federalism, separation of powers and policy concerns, and proposes criteria outlining when federal habeas corpus relief should be granted. The Note also develops the “extraordinarily high” proof of evidence standard suggested by the Court should petitioners seek relief based on a freestanding claim of innocence and applies the proposed standard to an ongoing California Innocent Project case.

“My involvement and commitment to public interest work spans over a decade,” said Laoye. “In 2003, I began studying the social sciences at San Jose State University and interned at a local group home on weekends. In 2008, I graduated with a Master’s degree in Business Administration and started a small organization for at-risk youth. My desire to make a life-changing impact has led me to intern with the California Innocence Project, the Juvenile Public Defender’s Office, the Law Office of Charles Sevilla, and the Dependency Legal Group, San Diego (DLG). In addition to interning, I am a member of several service driven organizations such as the Black Law Student Association (BLSA), the Earl B Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA), Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity Inc. (PAD), and the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF).”

“In recognition of her hard work and achievements, Shannon Laoye has been the recipient of several accolades, including: the National Bar Association (NBA) Gertrude E. Rush Award, the EBGBA Judicial Scholarship, and the Western Regional BLSA Scholar of the Year Award. She is slated to graduate Magna Cum Laude in May and plans to continue working for social justice and equality-speaking for those whose voices often go unheard.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2015 WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual Women and the Law Conference

Women and the Criminal Justice System

Thomas Jefferson School of Law’s Women and the Law Conference 2015 will be held at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in rooms 323 and 325 on Friday, March 27, 2015. The daylong event will include prestigious panelists and a reception on the 8th floor terrace.

All participants must register for the conference that will run from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The conference will explore Women and the Criminal Justice System. Noted criminal defense attorney and author Leslie Abramson, who handled the Menendez Brothers trial and the Phil Spector case, will deliver the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture.

“Absolutely nothing compares to the moment when you realize your passion, and realize that this is where you belong. Right here in this courtroom telling myself, ‘This is where I belong. Right here in this courtroom,’” said Justin Hall.

Every year, the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) hosts the National Trial Competition, consisting of 14 regional competitions and one national final competition. This year, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, University of San Diego School of Law, and California Western School of Law co-hosted the 14 Regional competitions in San Diego that took place on Thursday, February 5, through Sunday, February 8, at the Hall of Justice and California Western.

TJSL sent two three-member teams: the first team consisted of Sarah Brand 3L, Jeremy Garrett 2L, and Andrew Myers 3L; the second team consisted of Joshua Brisbane 2L; Melanie Guil len 2L; and Justin Hall 3L.

Coach Mark Cumba stated, “From Drew’s impeccable ease and confidence she will give a great Ginsburg Lecture, “said conference organizer Professor Marjorie Cohn.

Other notables speaking at the conference include retired U.S. District Court Judge Ima Gonzalez, Alumna San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis ’76, and Santa Clara law professor Gerald Uelmen.

Panels will focus on timely and controversial subjects, including: Are Women Treated Like Men in the Criminal Justice System?, Pathways to Power: Trailblazing Women in Criminal Law, and Women in Prison. The conference will be followed by a reception.

The WLC, inaugurated in 2001 by Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professors Susan Bisom-Rapp, Julie Greenberg, and Susan Tiefenbrun, and fostered over the years by committed TJSL students, staff, and faculty, was the first regular conference by committed TJSL students, staff, and faculty, was the first regular conference in the western United States focusing on issues pertaining to women, gender, and the law.

The WLC is organized by the Women and the Law Project at TJSL. The popular annual conference is open to the public and regularly draws a large audience of academics, legal practitioners, and other professionals as well as students from local universities.

Visit the Women and the Law Conference.

By Ashley Salas 3L

Every year, the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) hosts the National Trial Competition, consisting of 14 regional competitions and one national final competition. This year, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, University of San Diego School of Law, and California Western School of Law co-hosted the 14 Regional competitions in San Diego that took place on Thursday, February 5, through Sunday, February 8, at the Hall of Justice and California Western.

TJSL sent two three-member teams: the first team consisted of Sarah Brand 3L, Jeremy Garrett 2L, and Andrew Myers 3L; the second team consisted of Joshua Brisbane 2L; Melanie Guil len 2L; and Justin Hall 3L.

Coach Mark Cumba stated, “From meeting with coaches on off days to meeting with each other at 7:00 a.m. every weekday morning, the competitors showed a level of dedication and commitment that will serve them well in their future careers as trial attorneys.”

These competitors and their scrimmage teammates had been practicing for this competition since December 2014 and by Thursday, February 5th, they were ready.

Competitor Justin Hall reflected, “Absolutely nothing compares to the moment when you realize your passion, and realize that this is where you belong.”

During the first round held on Thursday two competitors from each team competed against squads from other schools. Altogether 32 teams competed, with 16 trials going simultaneously.

“One of my proudest moments was standing in the courtroom telling myself, ‘This is where I belong. Right here in this courtroom,’” said Justin Hall.

Competitor Melanie Guil len reflected, “My first year being on the team, I have already learned so much and have grown as an advocate and as a student. Trial Team has definitely been the highlight of my law school experience so far, and I cannot wait to continue on the team next year as a 3L.”

The Team is coached by Lea Fields-Bernard, Lilys McCoy, Cassandra Hearn, Ryan Forman, and Mark Cumba, all of whom have shown hard work and dedication to the development of the competitors.

Volunteer witnesses are needed for the upcoming South Texas Competition; please contact Coach Lea Fields-Bernard at jdegs34@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with preparations for the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge.

Students interested in joining the 2015-2016 Mock Trial Team are encouraged to try out on Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11. Contact Coaches Lea Fields-Bernard or Lilys McCoy for additional information.

The winner of this final regional round would advance to the National Trial Competition in Texas. Team TJSL felt up to the challenge and the scores revealed that they were evenly matched with number one seed Loyola. TJSL’s and Loyola’s final scores were nearly identical, with TJSL losing a split ballot by a one-point difference.

“Losing the championship round by one point is obviously a disappointment, but losing by just one point to the top-seeded team in the region and the 6th ranked team in the country is a sign that TJSL’s trial team can compete with anyone,” said Coach Mark Cumba.

The second preliminary round was held on Friday with all 32 teams competing again. Only half of the teams would advance to the sweet sixteen. On Friday night, both TJSL teams received word that they had advanced!

Competitor Cassandra Hearn stated, “I have been involved with the TYLA competition for almost ten years now, kudos to our TJSL teams for advancing in one of America’s toughest trial competitions!”

On Saturday, the quarter-final round and semi-final rounds were held. Only half the teams would advance each round.

During the four-day competition, TJSL went up against teams from California Western, Chapman, Pepperdine, Southwestern, and USD. However, only the top-seeded team in the region was able to nudge TJSL’s teams out of the regional competition.

By Sunday morning, only four teams remained. TJSL was still in the competition! Justin Hall, Melanie Guil len, and Josh Brisbane won their sweet sixteen round and then eliminated one of Pepperdine’s teams in the semi-final round. Hall, Guil len and Brisbane found themselves in the final round and they were up against the 6th highest ranking team in the nation: Loyola Law School.

The winner of this final regional round would advance to the National Trial Competition in Texas. Team TJSL felt up to the challenge and the scores revealed that they were evenly matched with number one seed Loyola. TJSL’s and Loyola’s final scores were nearly identical, with TJSL losing a split ballot by a one-point difference.
On January 31, the Filipino Asian Lawyers of San Diego (FALSD) and the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD) held their annual joint scholarship awards dinner. Two of this year’s scholarship recipients were Julie Houth and Tony Nguyen, both December 2014 graduates of TJSL. In addition to their academic achievements, the recipients had to demonstrate past or current public service to the Asian American and other diverse communities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your having elected to award me with a scholarship towards my studies of the bar exam, this has not only been a financial alleviation for my Barbri Bar Study Course, but it has also served as TJSL’s continuing emotional support for my career endeavors as a future education law attorney.”

Tony Nguyen

“Your award has been incredibly inspiring to me to follow my path to becoming a future education attorney. I am sincerely grateful.”

The Thomas Jefferson School of Law is proud to announce the second installment of the TJSL Bar Study Scholarship that provides financial support to graduates studying to take the California Bar for the first time.

The scholarships are funded by contributions from faculty, staff, alumni, and students. “I am incredibly grateful that you looked favorably upon my application as well as to each and every one of the faculty, alumni, and students who donated to this cause.”

THE DEAN’S FORUM

FEBRUARY 25, 2015 - 5-6 PM - ROOM 227
From February 21 to April 13, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program operated by Thomas Jefferson School of Law’s Tax Law Society will provide free income tax return preparation for students, low-income families, senior citizens and others who can’t afford professional tax services or are unable to complete their own tax forms.

Since 1998, TJSL students have annually offered this service to the San Diego community. The Clinic’s student volunteers receive training to become IRS-certified, operate the TaxWise software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return. This year, approximately 15 students, who are IRS-certified, will participate.

The TJSL tax clinic is open to appointment only clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Monday, March 2, Saturday, March 7, Monday, March 9 and Saturday, March 14. Appointments can be made by emailing tax@tjsl.edu.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSL Professor Richard Winchester, a former attorney in the national tax office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, who is a national authority on employment tax policy and the taxation of the closely held business.

The tax clinic is located in the Law Clinic office at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in the East Village area of downtown San Diego. The entrance to the clinic is at 495 Eleventh Avenue. The Park & Market Trolley station is adjacent to the law school and there are commercial parking lots available nearby as well as limited on-street parking.

Items you need to bring to the TJSL Tax Clinic to have your tax returns prepared are:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year’s Federal and State returns, if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider’s tax identifying number (the provider’s Social Security Number or the provider’s business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- If you rented your home, the name and address of your landlord or property management company and their phone number.

Since 1998, TJSL students have annually offered this service to the San Diego community. The Clinic’s student volunteers receive training to become IRS-certified, operate the TaxWise software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return. This year, approximately 15 students, who are IRS-certified, will participate.

The TJSL tax clinic is open to appointment only clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Monday, March 2, Saturday, March 7, Monday, March 9 and Saturday, March 14. Appointments can be made by emailing tax@tjsl.edu.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSL Professor Richard Winchester, a former attorney in the national tax office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, who is a national authority on employment tax policy and the taxation of the closely held business.

The tax clinic is located in the Law Clinic office at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in the East Village area of downtown San Diego. The entrance to the clinic is at 495 Eleventh Avenue. The Park & Market Trolley station is adjacent to the law school and there are commercial parking lots available nearby as well as limited on-street parking.

Items you need to bring to the TJSL Tax Clinic to have your tax returns prepared are:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year’s Federal and State returns, if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider’s tax identifying number (the provider’s Social Security Number or the provider’s business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- If you rented your home, the name and address of your landlord or property management company and their phone number.

Since 1998, TJSL students have annually offered this service to the San Diego community. The Clinic’s student volunteers receive training to become IRS-certified, operate the TaxWise software, interview clients effectively and assemble a proper tax return. This year, approximately 15 students, who are IRS-certified, will participate.

The TJSL tax clinic is open to appointment only clients on Mondays from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 – 5 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Monday, March 2, Saturday, March 7, Monday, March 9 and Saturday, March 14. Appointments can be made by emailing tax@tjsl.edu.

The Tax Law Society is advised by TJSL Professor Richard Winchester, a former attorney in the national tax office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, who is a national authority on employment tax policy and the taxation of the closely held business.

The tax clinic is located in the Law Clinic office at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in the East Village area of downtown San Diego. The entrance to the clinic is at 495 Eleventh Avenue. The Park & Market Trolley station is adjacent to the law school and there are commercial parking lots available nearby as well as limited on-street parking.

Items you need to bring to the TJSL Tax Clinic to have your tax returns prepared are:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year’s Federal and State returns, if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider’s tax identifying number (the provider’s Social Security Number or the provider’s business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- If you rented your home, the name and address of your landlord or property management company and their phone number.
Have you always wanted your own TJSL designed apparel? Well, now is your chance! From now until March 31st, any member of the TJSL community can submit a T-Shirt design. We are planning to have the winning design available for sale on the Shop TJSL site.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Design must be original work.
2. Submit design as JPG or Vector file.
   *(JPG resolution should be 300 pixels per inch or higher)*
3. The design should be universal and one-sided so that anyone can wear the design.
4. Please do not include the TJSL logo *(the Shop already has the logo)*. We would like something new and creative.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN

Send your electronic file with your name and contact information to studentservices@tjsl.edu.

Want to Submit a TOUCHSCREEN FLYER?

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

- **Dimensions**
  6.6 inches *(width)* x 10.1 inches *(height)*

- **File Format**
  PDF or JPG

- **Submit Your Flyer**
  Touchscreenflyer@tjsl.edu

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

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