

THE INFORMER

NEWSLETTER

March 26, 2010

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Special Recognition of Latha Duncan & Ryan Ciriaco, Esq. Productions

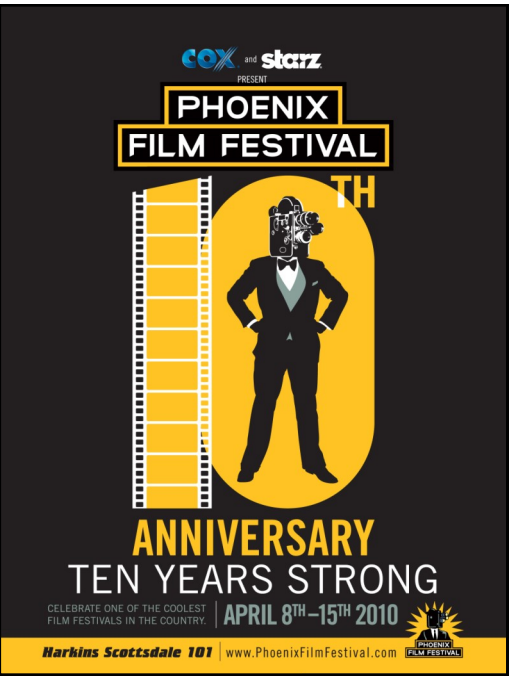
What do you get when you combine a love of film, a strong desire to practice in the entertainment industry, and the ambition to provide a needed service to the independent film community? **Esq. Productions, Inc.**, a non-profit corporation.

While attending the San Diego Film Festival in September of 2009, 1L's Latha Duncan and Ryan Ciriaco were surprised to see that such a well-established festival was not providing filmmakers with any sort of legal education. After a bit of investigative work and a fair amount of schmoozing, it became apparent that other reputable and established film festivals were not offering legal education to their filmmakers. Determined to fill the void, Esq. Productions, Inc. was born.

Esq. Productions, Inc., though in its infancy, is already making moves. The purpose of the non-profit corporation, at least initially, will be to produce educational entertainment law panels and seminars for independent film festivals across the country. These panels and seminars will bring together creative artists, practicing entertainment attorneys, non-legal entertainment industry executives, and law professors in order to provide the broadest possible perspective on all the various legal pitfalls that must be navigated throughout any successful production. From pre-production financing to post-production sales and distribution negotiations, the number of ways in which ill advised legal maneuvering could sabotage a project is many. Fortunately, a little preemptive counsel can go a long way toward empowering the filmmaker and ensuring that their story is told.

Esq. Productions, Inc. is currently gearing up for its first two events: a panel discussion, entitled "You Don't Know What You Don't Know: Navigating the Legal Pitfalls of Filmmaking," to be produced for the Phoenix Film Festival in April, and a day-long seminar event in June, produced in conjunction with the Phoenix Film Festival and the Phoenix Film Foundation as part of their year-round continuing education series. Details regarding both events are available at <http://www.esqproductions.com>.

Latha and Ryan are looking to the future, confident that Esq. Productions, Inc. will greatly benefit the independent film community and provide a tremendous amount of practical experience along the way. William Barrett, also a TJSL 1L, has recently joined the team and brings a unique perspective to the group as a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University (NYU). The trio attended Sundance together in January and is excited to see what the future has in store for them.



Letter to the Editor Regarding UCSD

By Mark Greene, 2L
Black Law Student Association,
Vice-President

Recently, the University of California San Diego (UCSD) has been dealing with the aftermath of several racially offensive acts that stemmed from an off-campus party organized by fraternity students, called the "Compton Cookout." During this event, racial stereotypes of Blacks were used in flyers and on a Facebook invitation. When word of this party spread around campus, students were outraged. Following the "Compton Cookout", a noose was found on the seventh floor of the library and a white sheet was placed on a statue of Dr. Seuss so that it formed the shape of a KKK hood.

The Black Student Union (BSU) at UCSD responded with a list of demands and organized a diplomatic protest in which students, UCSD faculty, and community members came together to seek and ensure that incidents like this would not occur in the future. In addition, a community forum was held Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010, in response to these events. The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) members from Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) have combined efforts with the BLSA members from the other two San Diego law schools and have decided to act as one. We held an emergency meeting Friday, March 5th, 2010, where ideas were brainstormed as to how the law students could assist long term. Two committees were formed to address the immediate needs that were requested after the forum: letter writing and legal observing.

The letter writing committee will be beginning the drafting stages of the letter writing. Anyone who is interested in assisting should respond to Constance Rush

Continued on page 2, **LETTER**

“Educate and inform the whole mass of the people...

They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

Thomas Jefferson

How to Survive Law School

By Jesse Majors, 3L

It took me until my third year of law school to learn effective studying methods and law school survival tips. These tips are not the typical, “Learn IRAC” or “break up the rule into elements”. I truly believe these tips will make a difference in your performance because they have in mine.

- Pay attention to your posture. By not slouching, sitting up straight and pushing your shoulders back, you will feel more confident. This simple change in body posture will help you feel confident in any situation.
- When you fall behind in your reading, do not go back (unless, you have some free time, which most of us do not). This will only get you further behind and if you pay attention in class, the basic rules and concepts you will need to know will be discussed.
- Go outside at least once a day. Sun exposure is factually proven to improve your mood.
- Write out practice problems as they are provided to you or as they are covered in class. These practice problems are many times found on the professor’s exams in essay or short-answer questions.
- Review your notes, teacher supplements, and outlines the same week you learned the material in class.
- Take advantage of the free counseling service the school offers.
- Explain the rules and concepts you have learned to another person and ask

them to explain it back to you. If they explain it back to you correctly, you can be more confident you will analyze the rules correctly on the exam.

- Do not purchase supplements. In my opinion, purchasing supplements are a waste of your hard-earned money because almost all the supplements can be checked out at the library.
- During the exam, write out an outline for every essay question on the exam. If you think this is a waste of time, hopefully, I can change your mind. Most professors will award one or two points depending on how well organized and detailed your outline is. In addition, if you run out of time, at least your outline has already addressed the main provisions, albeit briefly. One point can change your grade from a “B” to an “A”.
- If IRAC does not work for you, I suggest an alternative -the Conditional Imperative. An example given by Professor Speigelman, taken from his Pre-Trial Preparation class, is as follows:

“Breaking down a rule into precise conditions under which the rule is applicable will help focus on exactly what the rule requires and provides an orderly method for analysis. Read the statute carefully and identify each separate portion of the rule which is a precondition to the applicability of the rule into an “if...then” statement. (If A, then must do B).

“[If] an employee is injured in an accident arising in the course of his/her employment (condition), [then] an employer

shall pay compensation (imperative).”

(if D) is an employer,

And (if P is an) employee (of that employer),

And (if P is) injured And (if that injury is) in an accident,

And (if that accident is one) arising in the course of his or her employment (then) D shall pay P compensation”

If you cannot break the statute down further, then you have it! You are done!

- In addition to the rule of reading the call of the question first, I also suggest using another technique you may remember from taking the LSAT-underlining trigger words. For example, an sample essay question taken from Professor Bisom-Rapp’s Torts Class is as follows:

“Prosecutor Marvin Clark is prosecuting a man accused of robbing at gunpoint Annie Smith, a frail 90 year-old great grandmother. Because the weapon was not found, Marvin brought his own gun into court to make a point. During his closing arguments, he picked up the unloaded gun and stared at the jurors. “This crime has ruined the victim’s life, turning her into a person who lives constantly in terror,” he said. Pointing the gun at the jurors, he continued, “Imagine ladies and gentleman what the victim, old Mrs. Smith, must have felt when the defendant pointed a gun just like this one at her head and demanded money. Imagine what she must have felt like when the defendant pulled back the hammer and the gun made that clicking noise it makes when it’s ready for firing.” Marvin cocked the gun and it made a clicking noise. He then spun around and made eye contact with Annie Smith, who was in the courtroom seated in a wheelchair. Smith let out a bloodcurdling scream, fainted,

and fell out of her chair. She hit her head and suffered a concussion.”

These trigger words will help you apply the facts to your issue analysis. According to Professor Bisom-Rapp, the issue analysis part of the “act” element *only* of “assault” could be: “Assault

Act: Act resulting in apprehension of harmful or offensive contact

Marvin clearly acted volitionally by pointing a gun and staging a reenactment of the crime. Annie might argue that Marvin’s actions caused her to fear he would go on a rampage in the courtroom. However, many courts require that the victim’s apprehension be reasonable. Arguably, Annie’s fear of Marvin was not reasonable. Where the Defendant knows that the Plaintiff has a particular sensitivity, and acts in the face of it, there may be liability. Here, there is an indication Marvin knew of Annie’s sensitivity. He described her as a person who lived in terror. Annie may argue that as far as she was concerned, Marvin had the apparent present ability to carry out what she perceived as a threat. The fact that the gun was unloaded is, of course, irrelevant.”

- “Metal is heated, beaten, and plunged into cold water as part of the process to make a strong piece of steel. In the same way, trials are necessary to develop a strong Christian.” I analogize my struggles in law school to me being the piece of metal. You are, also. Be strong!

LETTER, from page 1 (CJRush@law.cwsl.edu), the lead on that committee, indicating your interest.

The legal observing committee will attend protests or acts of civil disobedience as needed to make sure no excessive force is being used by the police. A brief training on how to be a legal observer, lead by Hasmik Geghamyan, the staff person for the San Diego National Lawyers Guild chapter, was taped for anyone who may want to partake in this role but was unable to attend.

To remain up-to-date on what

is happening at UCSD in reference to this situation visit www.realpainrealreaction.org. If you have further questions or concerns please contact the TJS� BLSA President, Teresa Watts, at wattstl@tjsl.edu. Thank you.



Right: TJS� Students in Nice.

Prepare for the Worst, Anticipate the Best

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Staff Writer

Ni-Hao! For all of those students studying abroad this summer, prepare yourselves for a life-changing experience. I speak from knowledge when I say this, as I attended both study abroad programs through TJSJL last summer. In fact, I visited seven different countries over three months. I learned about a million things about traveling in that time, one of those things being that a journey around the world can be an incredibly rewarding experience. I also learned that it can be very difficult, and it requires a lot of planning. I have developed a list of things I learned, some of which were learned the hard way. This list is based on my personal experience, and everyone’s travels will differ, but there should be something beneficial in here for most everyone.

Necessities

First, get a passport, or make sure yours is valid. Prepare to ignore remarks during your travels about the small number of Americans who possess this document.

If you are going to China, you will need a visa. Sea and Sky Travel on Convoy can help you here.

Luggage

This is the best and most important advice I can give. PACK LIGHT!!! While my trip did entail a plethora of airports, train stations, and hotel staircases, the biggest mistake I made was to bring two suitcases. It did not help that my traveling buddies each brought two suitcases as well. We spent time and money attempting to lighten our load and get bags back to the states while inconveniencing other friends. My best advice is to bring only what you can carry comfortably. This does not mean what you can actually carry, but what you would be willing to carry in your hands and on your back while standing in one- hundred-degree weather while waiting two hours in line for a train. It could happen.

I would recommend one large bag/suitcase and one small one that you can carry on and use for weekend trips.

Although you can always dress casual, you will want some nice clothes for going out and a professional outfit for trips to courts.

Computers

I know that there is a lot of controversy on this topic, but I

would bring a laptop. Let me preface this by saying you will NOT need it for classes. You will need it, however, for communicating with everyone. The downsides are the possibility of it being stolen and lugging it around with you. Unless you have a more expensive computer, I think it is worth bringing. There will be Internet cafes, but they are not always open, and they can get quite expensive.

Get a Skype account if you do not already have one.

Another benefit to having a computer is the ability to back up your photos. This will be further discussed below.

Medications

Bring everything you take regularly and even stuff you do not think you would need. Advil, DayQuil, Imodium, Echinacea, etc. I also recommend asking your doctor to give you a prescription to general antibiotics just in case. Time change, jet lag, weather change, and foreign food can do crazy things to the human body.

Classes

If you are going to only one country, books will not be as difficult, but if you are going to multiple countries, carrying books can become problematic. If you can, try to share books with a friend (cuts down on cost and space) or see if someone coming straight from the States can bring your books with them (applies mostly to Nice). Bring a notebook and pens. Even if you bring your computer, you probably will not be allowed to have them in class.

Electronics

Do not forget your iPod! (And its charger!)

Get converters for every country you plan on visiting.

Things like hair dryers are probably easier to buy upon arrival.

Upload your photos onto your computer often. You never know when your camera or memory card could take a swim in the ocean or a pond in disguise.

Money

Inform your bank and all your credit card companies of the countries you will be visiting and the dates you will be there. If you do not do this, your cards may be frozen and declined.

Make sure the daily charging limit on your cards is enough to pay for things in Euro (and other currencies with higher exchange rates). I had to increase mine in order to pay for a hotel at one point.

Order foreign currency

ahead of time. Your bank should be able to do it for free or at least for a nominal charge. Check the exchange rate for all the countries you will be visiting and order accordingly. One hundred dollars U.S. will get you a lot more Thai Baht than Euro. You may want to get some traveler’s checks as well. You will need cash in airports and for taxis, so remember to keep some American dollars, too.

If you are going on both programs and not coming home in between, you will need to have someone pick up your loan check for the Nice program and put it in your account.

Cell Phones

I found that I did not need a cell phone in China, but it was helpful to have one in France. Make sure your phone is GSM and is unlocked. It should be pretty easy to just buy a SIM card upon arrival. Make sure you get one of the popular carrier’s SIM cards, such as Orange or SFR. You can also buy a phone when you get there for cheap. If I can find the one I bought there, the first lucky person to ask me for it can have it.

Weekend Trips

Research the countries, cities, currencies, transportation, and customs ahead of time.

Book hotels in advance (especially for Running of the Bulls) and bring a print out of your confirmation. I have a few recommendations if you need them.

You may or may not want to get a RailPass for European travel. You may pay more for the pass than you end up actually using. Rick Steve’s website is very useful for information. Keep in mind that day trips to Cannes and Monte Carlo from Nice are very cheap, around six euro.

Renting cars is fairly easy and can be cheap if you have a few people in your group. Bring your driver’s license, and assume the cars will be manual transmission.

Utilize local travel agencies for internal flights and tours.

Find internal airlines for cheap flights; British Airways, EasyJet, and AirAsia, Nok Air, and RyanAir are good ones, but always watch for baggage charges.

Lodging in Nice

There are many more options for housing in Nice than in China. I personally stayed in the Buffa with two other girls, and we were very happy. Most people stayed in the Citea, due to the price. As far as space, they are similar. The difference is the location. I think the de-

ciding factor is which walk you want to take. If you do not mind walking twenty to thirty minutes at 7:45 am, stay at the Buffa. If you would rather make the walk in the middle of the night after a few drinks, stay at the Citea.

Random items

Toilet paper and sanitized hand wipes. These are a serious necessity. Try to find the mini rolls and keep them with you at all times. This applies to China and Nice, although more important in China.

Laundry detergent. Washing your clothes in the sink/bathtub is the cheapest and easiest way to do laundry. There are laundry mats, but they are difficult to find in China, and the hotel fee is expensive.

Non-perishable snacks (Granola bars, e.g.)

Print out from Randy Ward with hotel names and common phrases written in Chinese. This is incredibly important if you do not speak Mandarin!

Learn how to say “thank you” in the languages of every country you will be visiting. (“Cheers” is another good one!)

Important Dates

Shanghai Expo, World Fair, China – May 1-October 31
Full Moon Party, Haad Rin, Koh Phangan, Thailand – May 29, June 26, July 28, August 25
Zurich Festival, Zurich, Switzerland – June-July
Wimbledon, London, UK – June 21-July4
Tour de France – July 3-25
San Fermín Festival (Running of the Bulls), Pamplona, Navarra, Spain – July 6-14
Bastille Day, France – July 14
La Tomatina, Buñol, Valencia, Spain – August 25

If I do not make it to any of the programs this summer, let me express my jealousy in advance. You are probably about to have the best summer of your life. On that note, you should anticipate having to make the best out of sticky situations (missing flights, getting lost, sleeping in parks, etc). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Au revoir et bonne chance!

Please see picture on page 2.

Faculty:

Communications Office

By Jenni Leys, 2L
Creative Director

Communications Office staff:
Lori Wulfemeyer, Assistant Dean
for Administration and Communi-
cations Supervisor; Chris Saun-
ders, Communications Specialist;
Diana Mikesell, Web & Graphics
Coordinator; Denice Menard,
Communications Coordinator;
and Sherwin Laranga, Art Director

Lori Wulfemeyer has been a
part of the Communications Of-
fice for 17 years. When she first
began working in the Communica-
tions Office, there had never been
one at the school before. She is
dedicated and extra friendly. Who
else is she?

Lori Wulfemeyer (LW): My
original background is I have a
journalism degree and English
minor. I wanted to teach high
school journalism, and I did that
for a while. But in the mean time,
I was also starting to work in the
business a little bit. So, I eventu-
ally went into TV news and pro-
duced here at Channel 8 San
Diego. When I was in Hawaii, I
was a news reporter and producer.
I went to law school while I was in
Hawaii and changed my focus
again. I get to use a lot of my
communications background here
at the law school. We actually
have a pretty good professional
news room here because I have
about 10 or so years of media ex-
perience.

Chris Saunders worked at
Channel 8 for about 20 years, and
a couple other stations before that.
Denice Menard worked at Fox
news here and did anchoring and
reporting in Austin and Tampa for
a total of about 10 years of news
experience. Therefore, we have
some good expertise about what
appeals to the media, that kind of
thing.

I went to law school mainly
because I wanted to have a little
more focus on communication law
and never intended to practice. It
was more to help me with the
career path I was on.

Jenni Leys (JL): What exactly
does a Communications Office
do?

LW: Well, we handle a lot more
than you would think. Number
one, we put out *The Declaration*

magazine, which is actually a good-
sized magazine. And it's also an
award winning magazine. We try
to do that twice a year. We put
out the *Vienbook* for Admissions,
for recruiting. We also put out
other recruiting materials – in
other words design, content, that
kind of thing, depending on what
they need.

Denice enjoys putting together
the electronic weekly student
newspaper *The Advisor*. She and
Chris also cover and photograph a
lot of student events.

We maintain the TJSL website
in terms of putting current content
in. Diana works with every de-
partment in the school to help
maintain fresh content. Chris is
always adding new stories for the
homepage. Right now, our new
CIO is actually putting together
the structure for a new website for
the school. Sherwin, our new Art
Director, is doing the graphics for
the entire site. We are starting to
work on the new content now.
It's a long process every time you
renew the content on a new web-
site. You're trying to please a lot
of people, reach a lot of different
audiences and provide all the in-
formation that is needed.

We also do all the publications
and publicity related to events that
the school sponsors. We have the
Women in Law Conference on
April 30. Diana is working with
Prof. Wenger on the information
for the WLC website. I've already
done flyers, plus there is an article
coming out in the Lawyers Club
newsletter. We try to reach what
we think is the right audience for
this particular conference. We do
all the post cards, all the publicity,
plus all the design and graphics,
etc., for these events, plus all the
advertisements that go out in a
variety of publications. For in-
stance, we run ads for our study
abroad programs in *The National
Jurist* and *Student Lawyer* because
those publications go to law stu-
dents across the country. We
want them to know we have these
two great summer study programs
that they can participate in.

Then we have legal publica-
tions. Sometimes we're not just
reaching out to recruit students or
advertise our legal programs.
Sometimes we want the legal com-
munity to be impressed with
what's going on here, or we want
to invite them to an event.

Continued on Pg 12 COMM

Spotlight

By Ian Van Leer, 2L
Executive Editor

Victor Tsoi, 2L, may be the
most convivial student leader of
the TJSL student body. While
representing his fraternity as
Social Chair at the University of
California, Berkeley, Mr. Tsoi
gained a reputation for hosting
parties that would make Bac-
chus dance in envy. Victor was
even hired by other fraternities
to DJ at their parties.

An entertainer and future
attorney, Victor brought his
passion for entertainment and
his scholastic intrigue in law to
fruition during his time at Tho-
mas Jefferson. As the Social
Chair of the Asian Pacific
American Law Student Associa-
tion (APALSA), Victor has ar-
ranged for and hosted numer-
ous fund-raising activities, ele-
vating TJSL's APALSA chapter
far above the others in quality
of membership and effect.

This school year, Victor was
able to unite his natural capacity
for leadership and interests in
entertainment and law in his
resume-worthy position as
President of the Entertainment
Law Society (ELS). As Presi-
dent, he has for the first time
reintroduced prominent TJSL
alumni involved in entertain-
ment law to our student body,
with the effect of establishing
lasting relationships that will aid
TJSL students interested in the
field to obtain externships and
associate positions. During his
ingeniously organized "TJSL All
Stars in Entertainment Law"
event, attorneys such as Emile
Nicolaou, who works for Play-
boy Entertainment in the Busi-
ness and Legal Affairs Depart-
ment was present, as was Lisa
Cervantes, a partner at a major
entertainment law firm in San
Diego, and Eileen McNamara,
the Director of Labor Relations
at the Disneyland Resort.

Past events of the Entertain-
ment Law Society marked by
Victor's innovative approach
include networking events with
well known and highly re-
spected intellectual property

Student Leader:

Victor Tsoi



attorneys who have won a multi-
million dollar cases against the
NFL Players Association. Re-
cently, with the help of his sup-
portive officers, the ELS was
able bring the San Diego Film
Commissioner to TJSL. Victor
and his ELS officers have also
sponsored trips to the Sundance
Film Festival in Utah, where the
members, accompanied by their
noble President, met some of
the biggest names in film and
saw this year's best independent
films.

Victor has even exalted his
legal interests beyond the mere
scholastic realm, which is a
characteristic trait of our Stu-
dent Leaders. Victor has since
last summer been working as a
law clerk with a business litiga-
tion firm in Los Angeles. Vic-
tor represents clients from the
various fields of entertainment,
many of whom are famous but
could not be disclosed due to
confidentiality. Over this last
winter break, while working a
prominent concert promoter's
case, Victor sat second chair
during a jury trial as his attor-
ney's right-hand man. They won
the case, of course. Victor also
works as a law clerk in the Olan
Law Corporation in Santa
Monica, which specializes in
entertainment law and civil liti-
gation.

Victor was himself a club
promoter, as well, before law
school. Now, he spins (DJ's) at
all of the biggest clubs between
San Diego and San Francisco.
If you're looking to step into
the field of entertainment law,
or are just looking for a good
party, ask this month's Student
Leader Victor Tsoi!



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Alternative Dispute Resolution Team

By Berend Diderich, 3L
ADR, President

In today’s law practice, almost all cases settle before trial. As Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) becomes more integrated in courts and pre-trial procedures, it is very likely that attorneys will have many cases referred to these processes. Thus, the ADR Team at Thomas Jefferson competes in ne-

gotiation, mediation and client counseling competitions in order to ensure that as law students we become acquainted with the advocacy skills and problem solving approach needed in the alternative dispute resolution processes.



gotiation, mediation and client counseling competitions in order to ensure that as law students we become acquainted with the advocacy skills and problem solving approach needed in the alternative dispute resolution processes.

In February, the teams of Lydia Rose and Andre Zakari coached by Danaly Barajas and Michael Juarez and Michael Pas-trano and Katie Tooma coached by Carrie Stringham and Justin Duncan competed in the ABA Representation in Mediation Competition hosted by Phoenix School of Law. The focus of the competition was on attorney representation of clients in mediation. For each round, one of the competitors played the role

of the attorney and the other played the role of the client, giving each competitor the opportunity to expand their problem solving skills.

This month, the teams of Brett Goda and Emily Maher coached by Gary Scott and Parker Smith, and Julie Kules and Tina Asturias coached by Allyson Evans and Andrea Rodriguez, competed in the California Bar Environmental Negotia-tion Competition hosted by Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. The competition focused on an environmental dispute and gave each team the opportunity to expand their negotiation skills.



TJ’s Honors Moot Court Society

By Jason Argos, 2L
Moot Court Honor Society

In all honesty, it is hard to write about something that you love because of the fear of not being able to fully communicate, in words, the experience that is derived from being a member of our Moot Court Society.

Moot Court is an arena that provides law students the opportunity to not only be a student of the law, but the opportunity to be advanced appellate advocates as well. Generally, competitors are presented with a fact pattern that includes prior decisions from the district court and the appellate level. The “case” presented in the fact pattern will have two issues that will be addressed in the written brief and oral argument by each competitor. The competitors will then choose which side they would like to argue (Petitioner or Respondent), write a brief advocating for that particular side, and then begin preparing for oral arguments.

During the 3-4 weeks in preparing for oral arguments, competitors are required to argue the side that they wrote on (“on brief”) and the side that they did not write on (“off brief”). Competitors must prepare for both sides because they will be required to argue each side at least once at the competition. During the prep time for oral arguments, members from Moot Court and Thomas Jefferson professors sit in on the arguments to judge the competitors and to provide feedback. A member from the Society will also be assigned to each competition team as a coach. The coach’s role is instrumental in getting the brief ready for submission, and the competitor’s ready for the competition.

The process of writing the brief is very similar to the appel-

late brief assignment that is required in Legal Writing II. However, a Moot Court brief is generally longer, formatted differently, and requires a large commitment from the competitors and their coach in getting the brief ready for submission. Nonetheless, the process is indispensable in getting the competitors ready for oral arguments. The countless hours of research, and the careful formulation of arguments that are incorporated into the brief will come to life in the oral presentation given before the court.

Oral arguments are generally an hour long, with fifteen minutes set aside for each competitor and their respective issue. The Petitioner is also given a chance to set aside time for rebuttal. A “moot court” oral argument can be described as follows: “the best of times, and the worst of times...” During argument, the Bench (comprised of three attorneys that love making your life a living hell) will be firing questions at you, your position, and the fragile grounds that support your position. When answering questions, the competitor is graded on knowledge of the law, knowledge of the record, application of the law, cases, or statutory authority to the facts of the case, style, poise, demeanor, and overall deference to the court. The ability to answer on your feet, and sometimes off the cuff, is a talent that can only be perfected through practice and competition experience. There will be times when you feel like you are no smarter than a Fifth Grader, but there will also be times when you walk away from the podium feeling untouchable.

Personally, I have competed twice, both times in New York City, and I have loved every minute of the competitions. In November of 2009, I competed with Jennifer McCloskey at the

Continued on Pg 10, **MOOT**



Gunslingers in the Courtroom

By David "Jae" Lee, 3L
Mock Trial Team Member;
Criminal Law Society, Vice
President

The TJSJ Mock Trial team practices 4 nights a week, 2 hrs per night. This past year we have competed in various national criminal and civil mock trial competitions held in Buffalo, Chicago and San Diego. After competing in four national competitions and months of strict scrutiny by the coaches, we wake up one morning and realize that we have been trained to become trial lawyers, gunslingers in the courtroom.

The mock trial team is coached by Jane Siegel and Lisa Moffatt. Professor Jane Siegel is a professor at TJSJ and teaches advanced trial advocacy and military justice. "Coach" Siegel has been a national criminal trial advocate for the past 31 years. Coach Siegel is an expert in trial psychology and is one of the greatest trial lawyers in the country. Coach Lisa Moffatt is currently a San Diego District Attorney. Coach Moffatt is also an expert in trial advocacy. Both coaches are very strict, but compassionate. It is truly a privilege to be in their presence as they are also fascinating woman.

Coach Siegel and coach Moffatt teach us to be winners. They teach us certain techniques with strict discipline. It is like a car mechanic. It does not matter what kind of car comes in the shop, because a good car mechanic performs the same techniques and applies the same skill. Similarly, Coach Siegel trains us to become mechanics in the courtroom. It does not matter what type of case it is, we will apply the same techniques.

Every practice, we conduct a trial or a certain phase of a trial and each member participates by playing a certain role, such as: a defense attorney, prosecutor, witness or juror. These trials are judged by the coaches. Some of the cases in the past competitions have been similar to real cases like the Michael Vick case. The prosecution in that case was clearly barking up the wrong tree.

We also sue insurance companies because sometimes, bad things happen to good people, and insurance companies breaking their promises

to make a profit.

Now imagine the worst feeling possible as a client. You have finally received your day in court and then feel disappointed with your attorney's lack of trial advocacy skills. Ladies and gentlemen, do not ever let your client feel that way about you. When a case goes to trial and when you have to present a case to the jury, your clients needs a prepared trial lawyer. The issue is whether that trial lawyer is going to be you or someone else.

You will need to learn how to do an opening statement and cross-examine a witness. You need to learn how to bring a photo exhibit into evidence by laying the proper foundation with a witness that can properly identify the photo, fair and accurately. You learn and polish these skills on the mock trial team. However, at the end of the day, "It's not about you because it's about your client. When it's not about your client, it's about their families," J Siegel.

The mock trial team is a place only for those who are inspired to become trial lawyers and trial lawyers that win. Coach Siegel and Coach Moffatt train us to become gunslingers in a courtroom by teaching us certain methods and techniques. This type of training requires strict discipline and honest criticism. It is tough love. This process can be very difficult and even painful. However, those who are able to survive will have the skills and tools necessary to give their clients the type of advocacy they deserve and need. This past year's mock trial team has raised the bar when it comes to commitment and competition.

Tryouts for next year's team are April 17 and 18.

Mandatory Organizational Meeting, April 7, 2010 at 7:15pm in the moot courtroom: All participants must attend this meeting to receive further instructions and schedule.



Las Vegas Mock Trial Competition

By Jonathan Cooper, 2L
Senior Editor

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) sent a distinguished team to its first mock trial competition ever. The weeks leading up to the weekend of March 5th, 6th and 7th, this group of PAD members worked diligently preparing, practicing and putting in the long hours in anticipation of this competition.

Steven Riley, Jonathan Cooper, Brandon Leopoldus, Trisha Bryniczka competed and coach Julie Kulas was the team's traveling coach. Brett Goda and Jeremy Evans were instrumental as well playing witnesses, orchestrating objections, and acting as coaches to the team. Professor Grossman was the faculty advisor who accompanied this group to Las Vegas. As well, Professor Grossman held at least two meetings per week

leading up to this event to critique, prepare, and analyze the progress of the team. With his guidance, we had an incredible showing in Las Vegas.

This team did outstanding and placed 7th overall out of 32 teams. There were 40 registered teams, however several could not attend, did not place, or were held out due to financing and the travel distance. Luckily, for Thomas Jefferson and PAD, Lisa Ferreira was able to once again work her magic and orchestrated all the financials for this group's participation.

If you happen to see any of these individuals, take a second to congratulate them on their tremendous performance.

PAD is expecting to hold tryouts again in the Fall to put together another great showing.



Biotechnology Law Blogs from Around the World

Michael Huynh, 2L
Staff Writer

On March 2, 2010, in a unanimous 8-0 decision, the United States Supreme Court overturned a Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Reed Elsevier v. Muchnick*, 509 F. 3d 116, which held that the district court lacked jurisdiction to certify either the class or the settlement in a case involving holders of unregistered copyrights. The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit had held in a sua sponte decision that a copyright holder's failure to comply with 17 U.S.C. Section 411(a) registration requirement deprives a federal court of subject-matter jurisdiction to adjudicate his copyright infringement claim. The Supreme Court disagreed. Link: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-103.ZS.html>

The Federal Trade Commission is concerned about the potential unfair competitive advantage Google would gain by its proposed acquisition of the mobile ad network AdMob, and may ultimately refuse to allow the

acquisition to go forward. Link: <http://www.ecommercetimes.com/story/FTC-May-Put-Kibosh-on-Google-AdMob-Deal-69522.html?wlc=1268853630>

- The New York Times explains that television providers, including TimeWarner and Verizon, are petitioning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to change TV retransmission rules so that stations (like ABC or CBS) have less leverage over TV providers. Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/business/media/10cable.html?ref=technology>

The USPTO has affirmed the validity of Amazon's amended version of its "one-click" patent, a patent for the technology for buying products online with one click of a web page button, which many sharply criticized as being too obvious to patent. Link: <http://www.out-law.com/page-10830>

The FCC is asking people to

test their broadband speeds at its website to evaluate whether American telecommunications companies are keeping their promises about broadband speed and accessibility. Link: <http://www.wired.com/epicenter/2010/03/fcc-broadband-test/>

On February 26, 2010, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the decision in *Office Depot Inc v. Zuccarini*, — F.3d —, 2010 WL 669263, by the District Court for the Northern District of California, to grant DS Holdings motion to appoint a receiver to auction off Zuccarini's domain names and use the proceeds to satisfy an earlier judgment against him. To arrive at its conclusion, the court held that under California law "domain names are intangible property subject to a writ of execution" and that "domain names are located where the registry is located for the purpose of asserting *quasi in rem* jurisdiction." The court also noted in dicta that for in rem jurisdiction, domain names are located where the relevant registrar is located. Link: <http://www.leagle.com/unsecure/page.htm?shortname=infco20100226126>
Business Week reports that the Business Software Alliance (representing Microsoft and Symantec) is getting in-

creasingly angry over China's piracy policies. Link: http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/mar2010/gb20100310_312604.htm

The Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology Li Yizhong warned Google to comply with China's censorship law. Link: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8564822.stm>

In *Ajinomoto Co., Inc. v. International Trade Commission*, the Federal Circuit affirmed that *Ajinomoto's* patents were invalid for failure to satisfy the best mode requirement of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. The best mode doctrine requires that the inventor disclose the preferred embodiment of the invention and any preferences that materially affect properties of the claimed invention, but only to the extent that information is subjectively known by the inventor at the time the application was filed. Sidebar: The Patent Reform Act of 2010 would eliminate the invalidity defense of failure to satisfy the best mode and therefore would flip the verdict in a case such as this. Link: <http://www.patentlyo.com/patent/2010/03/patent-reform-2010.html>

THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF TJSL PRESENTS:

ETHICS & PROFESSIONALISM: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE DOS AND DON'TS

CO-SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, NORTH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, & CAREER SERVICES

Distinguished panelists will discuss resumes, interview techniques, professionalism, networking, ethics, and civility

Thursday, APRIL 1, 2010 – 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Courtyard Building, Room 101

☞ Please join the Panelists for Appetizers and Refreshments in the Courtyard Following the Panel Discussion

Moderated by TJSL Professor Leah Christensen

Charles Sevilla

☞ Charles Sevilla Law Office
University of Santa Clara School of Law

Luz Herrera

☞ Assistant Professor of Law
Harvard Law School

Jennifer Creighton

☞ Winet, Patrick & Weaver, LLP
California Western School of Law

Gita M. Varughese

☞ Career Services Associate Director
University of San Diego School of Law

Weird Legal News

By Brandi Haefs, 2L
Advertising Director

- 1. A court has ruled that a Russian man must pay more than 100,000 rubles (\$3,330) for medical bills and damages to the parents of a young girl that he hit when he jumped out of a window in his suicide attempt.
- 2. A Michigan man sent to prison for 15 years will be getting a new trial because the judge failed to ask the jury to take an oath. His appellate lawyer successfully argued that the verdict should be thrown out because the jury never had to swear to return an honest decision based on law and evidence.
- 3. A newlywed couple spent their wedding night in jail after the new bride tried to run over her husband’s old girlfriend and the girlfriend’s son in a parking lot.
- 4. A Korean man recently married his dakimaura (a body pillow with a Japanese anime girl drawn on it); apparently, the man has also been seen bringing his body pillow to a theme park, where they rode roller coasters and a carousel and taking the pillow out to dinner and ordering two plates of pasta.
- 5. A Texas man was arrested for impersonating a police offi-

- cer after pulling over another driver while in his pickup truck. Apparently he even had a homemade ID badge, which he made by blacking out a restaurant gift card, but the problem was that he kept the gift card’s logo.
- 6. In Miami, a man who filed a fraudulent tax return, receiving a \$10,000 refund, decided to press his luck and do it again. However, the IRS raised an eyebrow at cutting him a check for his next requested refund, which was more than \$14 trillion.
- 7. A man in Washington was recently arrested for conducting a drug deal over the phone, but the ridiculous part was that he did the deal over the phone was from the police department bathroom.
- 8. Pennsylvania police had no trouble apprehending a man suspected in snatching an elderly woman’s purse after they found the phone that he dropped nearby with the phone’s last outgoing text message reading that “I am ready to grab some old lady’s purse.”
- 9. An Ohio woman was arrested for shoplifting while accompanied by her children; ironically, one of the items she shoplifted was a book called “101 Ways to Be a Great Mom”.

- 10. Two New Zealand prisoners tried to flee the courthouse while handcuffed together and they might have gotten away if a light pole had not literally gotten between them causing them to slam into one another.

TAX LAW SOCIETY VITA CLINIC
FREE TAX PREPARATION!

By Brent Matthews, 2L, Tax Law President

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic (VITA) at Thomas Jefferson School of Law is authorized by the Internal Revenue Service to prepare tax returns for students and members of the community whose annual gross income is less than fifty thousand. There are currently ten Thomas Jefferson student workers who are certified to prepare and e-file both state and federal returns. The main goal of the VITA clinic is to benefit the members of the community by providing free tax preparation and providing basic financial advice.

The clinic is open on the following days and times:
Monday- 12 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday-3 pm to 7 pm, Thursday- 10 am to 3 pm, Saturday-9 am to 3 pm
You need to bring the following items to the VITA site to have your tax returns prepared:

- 1. Proof of identification
 - 2. Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
 - 3. Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
 - 4. Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
 - 5. Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)
 - 6. A copy of last year’s federal and state returns *if available*
 - 7. Bank routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit
 - 8. Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider’s tax identifying number (the provider’s Social Security Number or the provider’s business Employer Identification Number)
 - 9. To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- We are located within the SBA office in the Courtyard building on campus. Please feel free to schedule an appointment by sending us an email at tax@tjisl.edu or by calling our voicemail at 619.297.9700. We look forward to helping you file your tax returns and answering any questions you may have.

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 by April 5, for a chance to win a prize.

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____



Rock Your Hump Day

Every Wednesday
from 4pm-Close

Raise money for your charity or organization!
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I OBJECT YOUR HONOR

Composed by
Sterling Williams, 2L

No Objection to having a date to Barrister Ball!

No Objection to the SBA food specials, when they are GOOD!

No Objection to the election being over!

NO Objection to the anticipation of the softball season!!!

No Objection to Laf-off!!!
Great job law students!

Objection to not having ALL movies on the "Watch Instantly" for Netflix.

Objection to dropping my phone! Maybe we should go back to Brick-Sized ones!

Objection to putting together a bad March Madness bracket!

No Objection to the ALAMO in Old Town!

No Objection to playing against professors in the next softball season!

No Objection to busting a move at Barrister's!

No Objection to going to China and Nice this summer!

No Objection catching a Spring Training game!

Objection to GMAIL! I want emails, not conversations!

No Objection to Professor's throwing down a few curse words now and than!

No objection to still dreaming about taking class in the new Building, only nine more months.

Objection to bad air conditioners, lack of sanitizer in the dispensers, and sometimes working projectors.

No Objection to ProSlo and Projo!

No Objection to Drink Tickets!

Objection to clogging toilets at TJSL! That is a winning campaign!

I object to the interview of a prominent San Diego politician reading like a 4th grade book report.

I object to student drivers not adhering to the "implied" parking policy of waiting in line for the next open parking spot and taking your turn, by pulling in front of other, patiently waiting students, who oftentimes have their blinker on for the next open spot, and taking the spot from them. Talk about an unethical student code of conduct.

Objection to Kelly's not moving Downtown when we do!



As to the above Objection. I move to "strike" unless the complainant steps up to write a better article... There seems to be so many complaints here with very few ideas for any actual remedies. Lawyers are supposed to be problem-solvers despite the fact that the litigation process begins with a "complaint". It appears our peers are capable of "process serving" but not much else...



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

4/16/2010 YNLD Battle of the Bands 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

In a comeback tour of sorts, the SDCBA's Young/New Lawyer Division will put those with an inner rock star on the stage with its first signature event of the year, Battle of the Bands. Back by popular demand, Battle of the Bands will take place at 4th & B in downtown San Diego with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. All SDCBA members are invited to come out and support fellow members of the bar as attorney-member bands showcase their inner rock star talents and battle it out for first place. For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, visit www.sdcba.org/battleofthebands.

4/30/2010 Law Week: Annual Awards Luncheon & Celebration of Community Service 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

The San Diego County Bar Association will celebrate Law Week from April 26 – May 1. Guided by the theme of "Law in the 21st Century," the SDCBA's 2010 Law Week festivities continue the tradition of celebrating community service, by recognizing the various bench and bar public service activities, events and outreach initiatives that the legal community participates in throughout the year. In addition, the SDCBA Annual Awards Luncheon and Celebration of Community Service will honor the SDCBA's 2010 Service Award recipients. For more information on the luncheon, visit www.sdcba.org/awardsluncheon.

SECTION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4/05/2010 Children at Risk Committee Meeting
5:15 PM - 7:00 PM

4/05/2010 Ethnic Relations & Diversity Committee Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

4/06/2010 Elder Law Section Non-CLE Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

4/15/2010 Social Security Disability Section Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

4/22/2010 Community Service Committee Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

4/22/2010 Ethnic Relations & Diversity Committee Spring Mixer
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

CLE SEMINARS

3/31/2010 Civil Litigation 101 Series Part III: Using Your Evidence-Court Appearances and Motion Practice 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

4/07/2010 EMTALA Basics: Transfer Discharge Challenges
4:30 PM - 5:45 PM

4/12/2010 Crossroads: Outlook for the San Diego Real Estate Market in 2010 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

4/13/2010 Dealing with Special Needs of the Military: DFAS Garnishment Operations 5:30 PM - 7:45 PM

4/15/2010 CFLS Spring Seminar 2010 - Litigants Behaving Badly: Do Court Ordered Services Work? 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

4/21/2010 Update on California's LLCs and LPs
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

4/28/2010 Civil Litigation 101 Series Part IV: Resolving Your Case – Alternative Dispute Resolution or Trial 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

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

MOOT from page 5

American Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA), National Moot Court Competition. It was our first ever competition and we were beaten by a team that was exceptionally prepared and extremely well rehearsed. It was a tough loss, but the experience was phenomenal and I was able to take everything I learned with me to the BMI, Entertainment Law Competition at Cardozo Law.

My partner for the BMI competition was our Student Bar Association (SBA) President, Chris Paulos. Chris and I, with the help of our coach Crystel Galin, put together a solid brief that helped carry us into later rounds. We competed head-to-head against UC Hastings, Franklin Pierce Law Center, Western State University, William Mitchell, and again against UC Hastings in the Quarterfinal Round of eight. With each round, Chris and I improved collectively, and so did the level of advocacy from each team we faced.

While at the competition, the nerves are just as high as the stakes. However, the team that remains calm and collected will generally bring home the hardware. In fact, the team that beat Ms. McCloskey and I at ATLA was from Fordham; the same school that won the BMI Competition. The Fordham students are all amazing advocates that do well in Moot Court competitions because of their poise,

demeanor, and deference to the Court. Nevertheless, Jen and I put up an amazing fight against Fordham, but it was their Brief score that ended up putting them over the top in that competition. Chris and I did not get an opportunity to face the Fordham team at BMI, but I am sure the result would have been similar, if not better than the round we had against them at ATLA.

Competing as an appellate advocate (whether you are 3 or 3000 miles away from home) is a transcending experience that can only materialize if you go out and do it. The classroom, FWS, Law Review, Externships - nothing can provide a law student with the opportunity to advocate for a client and the law the way that Moot Court can. The intra-school competition is just around the corner, and I highly recommend that the students at our school take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of our Moot Court Honors Society.

Moot Court Tryout meetings are April 24 and 25 at 6pm in the Moot Court room.

*If you have any questions regarding Moot Court, please feel free to contact me at ar-gos831@gmail.com. You can also contact the current Chairman of the Executive Board (Ben Barlow) at BAR-LOWBP@tjsl.edu.

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THE CC Networking Event

By Martin Stratte, 1L
Community Committee Liaison

How does helping others end up helping yourself? Are you looking to learn how to assist a specific segment of people in your community? Are you trying to find advice on how to achieve your goal of working in a specific legal field? Do you want to interact with legal professionals and hear about how they achieved their post-law school goals? Then come to The Community Committee's (THE CC) Networking Event!

Each semester, THE CC brings in speakers from the San

Diego community to share their stories, inspiration, and future plans with students of Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL). The speakers are comprised of San Diego attorneys, judges, community leaders, and TJSL professors. During each presentation, the speaker explains their organization and any projects they have going on within the San Diego community. They detail how TJSL students can get involved and how this involvement can help lead to the completion of their own post-law school plans.

Last semester, the event had speakers from organizations such as the California Innocence Project, Father Joe's Vil-

lages, the Employee Rights Center, and the San Diego Housing Collaborative. In addition, TJSL professors Luz Herrera, Maurice Dyson, Gregory Neil and Jeff Slattery spoke about the Transactional Law Clinic, the Diversity Committee, The Veteran's Clinic, and Art and Culture in the San Diego community.

The upcoming Networking Event will feature a similar lineup of professionals that will provide background on San Diego organizations and the attorneys that are behind them. After the presentations, all of the guests will have the opportunity to enjoy dinner in the courtyard with the speakers, courtesy of THE CC. This is a

great chance to receive practical advice from attorneys and professionals with experience in a multitude of fields. Last semester, two organizations were hiring on the spot.

Come listen to your community leaders and meet attorneys with common interests at THE CC's Networking Event. The event is Friday, April 2, from 5-7 p.m. in CYB 201. Do not miss this unique opportunity to hear presentations from a diverse group of speakers! The next Community Committee meeting is this Friday, 3-4 pm in room LLB 302.

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Net-Working Event

- Transactional Law Clinic, Professor Luz Herrera
- Veteran's Legal Assistance Clinic, Greg Neil
- Diversity Committee, Professor Maurice Dyson
- Lawyers for the Arts Program, Professor Jeff Slattery
- Superior Court Judge, Seat 20 Candidate, TJSL Alumni Jim Miller
- California Innocence Project, Attorney Alissa Bjerkhoel
- American Civil Liberties Union, Associate Jess Jollett
- La Raza, TJSL Student Efren Nava
- Black Law Students Association, TJSL Student Teresa Watts

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THAT WORKS

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR
THE COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE'S
TWEN PAGE...

Organizations look-

HEAR WHAT IS GOING ON WITHIN YOUR SCHOOL!!!!

MEET THE PEOPLE MAKING CHANGE

HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!

Friday, April 2

5:00 PM (prompt) TO 7:00 PM

ROOM CYB 201

LIMITED SPACE.
PLEASE RSVP by 4/1/10 TO
THECC2020@hotmail.com



The Incredibly Refreshing Professor Julie Cobalt

By Jennifer Goldman, 2L
Staff Writer

As I was browsing the course catalogue to register for the spring semester, *Introduction to Mediation* caught my eye. Mediation sounded interesting, yet I was completely unaware of the process and the course expectations. My initial thought was the first scene in the movie *Wedding Crashers*, where two mediators played by Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson direct the mediation between a couple in the midst of a divorce. Was this scene an accurate portrayal of the mediation process? I was about to learn the important skills mediation offers that are applicable both professionally and personally as a result of the invigorating, interactive teaching style of the Professor, Julie Cobalt.

Professor Julie Cobalt has taught Introduction to Mediation for five years at Thomas Jefferson. Before attending law school, Professor Cobalt received a Bachelor's Degree in German and continued her education with a Master's Degree in German and International Policy. When I asked her what induced her to attend law school after receiving two impressive degrees, which ultimately require a lengthy amount of time, she humorously responded, "School is great because you don't have to face reality." Her answer is one that has crossed the minds of most, yet some are often hesitant to express. After the completion of law school, she went backpacking for five months in Central America before taking the Bar Examination. After taking the Bar, she received her mediation credential and participated in court mediations on a volunteer basis once or twice daily for

six months. She also supervised USD law students who participated in court mediations. Evidence of Professor Cobalt's passion for mediation is through her travels where she educates others on the process of mediation. In addition, Professor Cobalt's fluency in German and Spanish allow her to teach mediation around the world.

When I asked her what she had learned from law school, her response showed her commitment: "For me personally, it was about not giving up and sticking something out even though I wasn't interested. Even when I was very unhappy and wasn't performing well, it was about finishing something and following through. I had made my mind up to accomplish something. Following through provided me with skills I could translate into something that worked for me."

Professor Cobalt devotes half of her time practicing general civil and consumer law. I asked her to describe her perspective on litigation and mediation because of her experience in both fields. "Litigation is an adversarial process; it is about winning and losing. There is no kind of real human aspect to it. It has a competitive aspect, it plays a role and it needs to be in our society to have changes, particularly equality issues. I can say from my experience in litigation, for most conflicts, things could have been easily resolved had the people made an effort to talk to one another, to listen to one another, and to have some appreciation for how the other person was approaching the conflict. Ideally, that's the type of world I would want to exist, and that's not to say litigation shouldn't exist. There is a lot value in having good

Communications pg 4

It's more work than we can keep up with actually.

JL: I was about to ask, aren't there about four or five of you?

LW: Mainly five of us, yes. Plus, one of my other jobs is because we've been a member of the Old Town Community for a number of years now, since 1983. For the

last 5 years, as a part of our community outreach, I have served on

the Old Town Board of Directors and I have been re-elected 3 times now. I try to keep the rest of Old Town informed about what is going on at the law school. We've developed a really good relationship. Banners around Old Town have our names on them because we support and co-sponsor certain events.

JL: You're a busy woman!

LW: A little bit. You know, right now we're working on a new logo for the school for when we move into our new building. We haven't decided on one yet, but I'm working with designers. The Dean has kind of a concept in mind...

JL: What would you say you enjoy most about the job/what creates the most stress?

LW: Deadlines create the most stress. When you think about all that we do, it is really amazing because what we do would cost a heck of a lot of money on the outside and require more people. But you know, it is fun. You always feel good when you get to see that what you've done to promote the school pays off. That's a great feeling to have.

I like working with students. I would actually like to work with students more. I was for 7 years the academic counselor back when our communications effort was not anywhere near as big and broad as we have now. I get to meet some students, but not as many as I used to, so I kind of miss that part of it. Chris, Denice and Diana also get to interact with students in their jobs, which they like very much. Overall, TJSL has a super Communications team – we enjoy what we do and working with everyone here is great.

relationships and that is not promoted in litigation."

When prompted to provide advice for law students, she explained, "If law students are going to be here, they should find a way to make it through and you can always make it work for you." She continued to emphasize that law students do not have to choose a traditional path that 90% of their colleagues choose to do. "If you are really miserable do something else, you can always make it work for you. Don't get sucked into a culture that may not resonate with you."

On a personal note, Professor Cobalt is the mother of two

daughters and is expecting a third next month. I was amazed at her relaxed demeanor throughout the course despite her many roles as a mother, mediator, attorney, professor and educator around the world. Her ability to balance all of these endeavors is summed up in her simple response, "Everything comes down to what you value."

Introduction to Mediation is a practical course, where every moment is exciting and involves constant participation. I highly recommend taking Introduction to Mediation under the instruction of Professor Cobalt.

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We look forward to being a part of YOUR journey!

April 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28	29	30	31	1	2
	DIVERSITY WEEK OUTlaw Lunch Special BLSA Outline Workshop 11:00 AM DEAN HASL Meeting					SOFTBALL
			DIVERSITY LUNCH BLSA Census Outreach	PROFESSIO... SYMPOSIUM APRIL FOOL'S DAY BLSA Census Event 8:00 PM DIVERSITY MOVIE NIGHT	MOOT COURT TRYOUTS 5:00 PM CC Networking event 7:00 PM OUTLAW PARTY 8:00 PM DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM 9:00 PM Bar Review	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EASTER	PILF Lunch Special 11:00 AM DEAN HASL Meeting 12:00 PM BLSA General Meeting 6:00 PM Community Comm. Meeting 6:00 PM Crim. Law Forensics Panel			6:00 PM WLA Spelling Bee	5:00 PM ILS Beers of the World 6:00 PM HONORS RECEPTION 9:00 PM Bar Review	Ent. Law Symposium SOFTBALL
		1:00 PM LSRJ General Meeting 6:00 PM La Rasa Community Panel	12:00 PM PAD Meeting			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Imm. Law Lunch Special 11:00 AM DEAN HASL Meeting 6:00 PM Community Committee Event				9:00 PM Bar Review	La Rasa BBQ SOFTBALL
		12:00 PM APALSA Elections/Meeting				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WEEK JLR Lunch Special BLSA Elections 11:00 AM DEAN HASL Meeting 4:30 PM APALSA Panel Discussion			ADMIN. PROF. DAY 5:00 PM JLR Guest Speaker	INFORMER EARTH DAY 3:00 PM President's Meeting 9:00 PM Bar Review	BLSA Party Sports 1-day event Beach clean up party
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	SBA Lunch Special 11:00 AM DEAN HASL Meeting			DEADWEEK		7:00 PM PAD Car-Give-Away

Criminal Law Society Does Time

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Recruiting Chair, Criminal Law Society

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010, nine lucky members of TJSL’s Criminal Law Society got an inside look at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, a level four state prison near the Mexican border. We were very lucky to have Officer William Edrozo, one of the prison’s experts on gangs, particularly the Mexican Mafia, show us around the prison. Officer Edrozo was not only friendly, but he was very candid; he answered all types of questions and told us many inside facts that he thought we would find interesting regarding drugs, sex, gangs, and prison life.

We started the tour by going to the gymnasium. This is an area for inmates who are in transition; they are waiting to be either ranked or placed. It is a giant open room filled with hundreds of triple bunk beds and lined with showers and toilets. When we were getting ready to go inside, Officer Edrozo worried us a little. He informed us that he was going to walk us through the “blind areas,” the places where inmates

stab other inmates because they cannot be seen by the gunman overlooking the room. We were a bit scared, mostly because we had to sign a waiver upon entry to the prison stating that in the event we were taken hostage, the officers do not have to do any negotiating to save us.

Our next stop was a special housing unit for rapists, child molesters, and former gang members. These inmates are housed separately from the rest of the prison population because they are “the lowest of the low,” meaning they would be killed quickly if they were around the rest of the inmates. When we were walking in, one of the guards warned Officer Edrozo that one of the inmates had been “doing his thing,” and that he was caged up. Officer Edrozo informed us that this inmate likes to masturbate, and if it made us uncomfortable, we could leave the room at any time. Upon entry, there were numerous men in cages, and fortunately, we never found out the identity of the infamous inmate. While we were in this unit, Officer Edrozo explained something called “gassing”; inmates mix feces and urine in a

cup and throw it in guards’ faces in attempt to obstruct authority.

Edrozo took us through the bakery, a place where many inmates work, baking bread for surrounding prisons. This is a coveted job at the prison and one of the highest paying; the workers in the bakery earn ninety-two cents an hour. We were even able to taste the bread.

The next stop was another one that was on the scary side. We took a walk through the yard while all the inmates were out. This may not sound so bad, but Officer Edrozo informed us that something was about to happen. He explained that every gang has a spot on the yard, and when someone was not in their spot, it means that they are either hiding or preparing. At that time, the Crips gang was not at their bench, and the Asians had left the yard. This is a bad sign because the Asians have much fewer people, so they clear out when a hit is going to take place. He also told us that when a large group of inmates are working out or playing basketball, it means that they are “getting fired up.” We moved on pretty quickly after that.

The last stop was the hospi-

tal ward. This is where inmates go when they are mentally ill, sick, or dying. We got a look into a few rooms with padded walls and some inmates that were heavily medicated. Many of them came and pressed their face up to the window, and one was having an “episode” in his underwear. A few rooms had spit guards and signs on the door stating, “Assaultive to staff.” It was a great end to a well-rounded tour of a state prison.

Although every part of the tour was exciting, informative, and a little freaky, the best part was Officer Edrozo. He gave us so much insight on prison and gang life, we would not have been able to get from anywhere else. He even explained how drugs were smuggled into the prison walls (most ways, such as “hooping,” are very unsanitary). The Prison Tour was my favorite event sponsored by the Criminal Law Society. If you want to spend a day on the other side of the bars (at least for a few hours), consider joining the Criminal Law Society. At the very least, it will give you good stories for scaring your children or future children.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GIVE BACK?

The day before Easter, April 3rd, from 10-1pm, is the perfect opportunity.

The Community Committee's "Sick of The Homeless? So Are They Campaign" will be volunteering to serve food for hundreds of homeless San Diegans at Father Joe's Village located at 3350 E Street San Diego, CA 92102.

Don't miss out on your chance to make a difference...



ALL INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING MUST SIGN UP BEFORE THE EVENT

For all questions and concerns, contact Sterling Williams at Swilliams001@gmail.com

Community Committee

"SICK OF THE HOMELESS? SO ARE THEY!" CAMPAIGN



Date: Through the end of the semester

Drop: Student Lounge and Student Services Office at TJSL

WHY: The "Sick of the Homeless? So are they!" Campaign will be starting a clothing drive February 22, 2009, that will last until the end of the semester. Donations will go to the Father Joe's Villages. Our mission is to provide a "Continuum of Care" that promotes a pathway to self-sufficiency and independence. All clothing is welcome, but business attire is especially appreciated.