

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**WOMEN AND THE LAW**  
CONFERENCE



**WOMEN AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

## SCHEDULE

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8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Check-in
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome – <b>Dean Thomas Guernsey</b> History of Women and the Law Conference – <b>Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp</b>
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Panel 1: <i>Are Women Treated Like Men in the Criminal Justice System?</i></b> <b>Amita Sharma</b> – KPBS, Moderator <b>Rita McKnight</b> – San Diego County Sheriff’s Department Bailiff <b>Bridget Kennedy</b> – Attorney, Federal Defenders of San Diego <b>Rebecca Jones</b> – San Diego Criminal Defense Attorney <b>Cassandra Lawrenson</b> – Editor-in-Chief, Thomas Jefferson Law Review  This panel will contrast the percentage of men and women arrested for and convicted of equivalent offenses, the battered women defense, and the way prostitution and human trafficking laws discriminate against women.
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture</b> <b>Leslie Abramson</b> – Los Angeles Criminal Defense Attorney (ret.); Author of <i>The Defense Is Ready: Life in the Trenches of Criminal Law</i>  Ms. Abramson will discuss why, in a moral sense, women make the best and the worst lawyers in the criminal justice system. When a woman reaches for her strongest and most instinctively protective essence she becomes the most effective kind of advocate. When she sees herself as a weak and vulnerable girl, she is a persecutor rather than a public officer seeking justice.
12:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Panel 2: <i>Pathways to Power: Trailblazing Women in Criminal Law</i></b> <b>Professor William Slomanson</b> – Moderator <b>Gerald Uelmen</b> – Santa Clara University School of Law Professor (ret.); Co-author of <i>Justice Stanley Mosk: A Life at the Center of California Politics and Justice</i> <b>Honorable Irma Gonzalez (Ret.)</b> – U.S. District Court Judge <b>Wendy Patrick</b> – San Diego County Deputy District Attorney  This panel will discuss legal and personal challenges facing the first woman admitted to the California bar, the first woman on the California Supreme Court, and women lawyers and judges in general.
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Panel 3: <i>Women in Prison</i></b> <b>Professor Julie Greenberg</b> – Moderator <b>Maya Schenwar</b> – Editor-in-Chief of Truthout; Author of <i>Locked Down, Locked Out</i>

**Adriana Buelna** – Translator, Paralegal and Consultant; Former Federal Prison Inmate  
**Alex Landon** – San Diego Criminal Defense Attorney; Co-author of *A Parallel Universe*  
**Julia Yoo** – San Diego Civil Rights Attorney

This panel will analyze the effect of prison on families, particularly the incarceration of women (and particularly mothers), as well as how men’s incarceration affects women. A former woman inmate will discuss discrimination she faced while in prison. The panel will cover detainee/inmate abuses women face (that differ from those facing men) and legal issues relating to those abuses. Finally, it will discuss litigation challenging those abuses.

5:00 p.m. Wrap-up – **Professor Marjorie Cohn**, Conference Organizer

5:15 p.m. Reception

## RUTH BADER GINSBURG LECTURE



**Leslie Abramson**  
*2015 RBG Lecture*

Leslie Abramson was among the most recognized criminal defense attorneys in the United States during the 1990s. She was best known for representing Erik Menendez, who was accused, with his brother Lyle, of killing his wealthy parents in their Beverly Hills home. Ms. Abramson has represented clients in many high profile cases. Her list of clients includes Phil Spector; Khalid Parwez, a gynecologist accused of murdering his son; Peter Chan, who was charged with the death of a police officer during a robbery; Ricky Sanders, one of the killers in the Bob’s Big Boy Massacre; and Jeremy Strohmeyer, a 19-year-old charged with the sexual assault and murder of a seven-year-old girl in a Las Vegas casino bathroom. Her autobiography is *“The Defense is Ready: Life in the Trenches of Criminal Law.”*

## PRESENTERS, PANELISTS AND MODERATORS



**Susan Bisom-Rapp**  
*Brief History of WLC*

Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp is a scholar in the field of comparative workplace law, who writes about globalization, equal employment opportunity, precarious employment, and occupational safety and health. Under contract with Cambridge University Press, she is presently co-authoring a book on the lifetime disadvantage experienced by working women, which leads to poor outcomes for them in retirement. She is co-author of *The Global Workplace: International and Comparative Employment Law - Cases and Materials* (1st ed., Cambridge University Press, 2007; 2nd ed., Aspen, 2012). Professor Bisom-Rapp is also author or co-author of 24 articles and several book chapters. A member of the American Law Institute since 2007, Professor Bisom-Rapp serves on the scientific committee and the international council of the Doctoral Research School in Labour, Development and Innovation at the Marco Biagi Foundation, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy. She is a senior academic affiliate of the University of California, San Diego’s Center for Research on Gender in the Professions, and also serves on the editorial board of the *Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal*. At the law school, she is presently faculty co-coordinator of the Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic, which launched in July 2013.



**Adriana Buelna**  
*Panelist*

Ms. Buelna currently works as an administrative assistant in the Law Offices of John Kirby, Esq.

Ms. Buelna was arrested in San Diego for conspiracy to distribute marijuana and was extradited to Miami in 2004. Although she had no prior criminal history, she received a 10-year minimum mandatory sentence and 5 years of supervised

release. She spent 2.5 years in pre-trial detention and was housed in 10 different facilities while serving her sentence; most of her pre-trial time was spent in West Palm Beach County Jail and Miami Dade County Jail. The majority of her sentence was completed at Victorville Camp, and she finished her sentence at Dublin Camp where she participated in the RDAP 500-hour residential drug treatment program. She spent 4 months in the Special Housing Unit in Miami’s FDC for administrative detention (separated from her co-defendant). Ms. Buelna served 7 years, 3 months and 1 week in federal custody, and completed 3 years of supervised release.

While incarcerated Ms. Buelna pursued a paralegal degree through correspondence courses and taught herself Pilates. She ran the recreation Department in Victorville and taught Pilates for 6 years.

Ms. Buelna was born in Mexico, the daughter of immigrant parents. She graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in International Business (emphasis on Latin America Studies). After graduation, she worked for the Board of Equalization as a Tax Representative for the State of California for five years. She then started her own nutrition and fitness web-based company with global sales. In addition to her employment with Mr. Kirby, Ms. Buelna currently teaches Pilates at a San Diego gym.



**Marjorie Cohn**  
*Conference Organizer*

Professor Marjorie Cohn is a criminal defense attorney, having practiced both as a public defender and in private practice at the trial and appellate levels. She was a deputy public defender at the Fresno County Public Defenders office, and a staff attorney at Appellate Defenders, Inc. in San Diego. She also maintained private practices in Salinas and San Diego.

Professor Cohn is a former president of the National Lawyers Guild, and currently serves as deputy secretary general for

scientific work of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. She also sits on the board of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign, and the National Advisory Board of Veterans for Peace.

Professor Cohn's fifth and most recent book is *Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral, and Geopolitical Issues*. She writes frequent articles that appear on Huffington Post and other websites, and serves as a commentator for local, national, and international media. Professor Cohn lectures throughout the world on issues of criminal justice, as well as human rights and U.S. foreign policy. She testified in 2008 about government torture policy before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and has testified at military courts-martial about the legality of US wars. The recipient of numerous awards, Professor Cohn was invited to debate at the prestigious Oxford Union.



**Honorable  
Irma E. Gonzalez (Ret.)**  
Panelist

Judge Gonzalez, a retired US District Judge, is presently a neutral with JAMS. She was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern

District of California on August 12, 1992, becoming the first Latina of Mexican heritage to be appointed to the Federal Bench. She served as Chief Judge of the District Court from January, 2005 to January, 2012. Judge Gonzalez served as a judge on the Superior Court, San Diego County (1991-1992) and as a Magistrate Judge, Southern District of California (1984-1990). Judge Gonzalez retired from the federal bench in October, 2013.

Judge Gonzalez graduated from Stanford University in 1970 and received her law degree from the University of Arizona School of Law in 1973. From 1973 to 1975, Judge Gonzalez served as a law clerk to US District Judge, William C. Frey in Tucson, Arizona. She served as an Assistant US Attorney in the criminal division of the US Attorney's office in the District of Arizona and the Central District of California.

Judge Gonzalez served as a member of two Judicial Conference Committees - the committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judge System, and the committee on Judicial Security. She served as chair of the Federal Judicial Center's Bench book committee from 2009-2013. Judge Gonzalez was elected to serve as President of the Ninth Circuit District Judges Association (2009-2011) and chaired the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in 2010. In 2011, Chief Justice JOHN Roberts appointed Judge Gonzalez to serve on the Supreme Court Fellows Program Commission and she served as chair 2012 to 2013. Judge Gonzalez served as Co-Chair of the Federal Practice Task Force of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation (2011-2013).

Judge Gonzalez is a founding member of Latinas in the Law and is on the Lawyers Club Advisory Board. In 2008, Judge Gonzalez was named Outstanding Jurist by the San Diego County Bar Association. In 2011, she received a distinguished Jurist award by the California Women Lawyers, and in 2013 Judge Gonzalez received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic National Bar Association.



**Julie Greenberg**  
Moderator

Professor Greenberg is an internationally recognized expert on the legal issues relating to gender, sex, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. Her path-breaking work on gender identity has been cited by a number of state and federal courts, as well as courts in other countries. Her work has been quoted in hundreds of books and articles and she has been invited to speak at dozens of national and international conferences on the subject. Her recent book, *Intersexuality and the Law: Why Sex Matters*, provides an invaluable description, analysis, and critique of how people with intersex conditions are treated under existing legal regimes. Professor Greenberg was the recipient of the 2013 Bullough Book award for the most distinguished book written for the professional sexological community. She joined the Thomas Jefferson School of Law faculty in 1990 and was the Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2003-2005.



**Dean Thomas Guernsey**  
Welcome Address

Prior to coming to TJSJL in July 2013, Dean Guernsey has most recently served as a member of the faculty at Albany Law School and as its Dean from 2002-2011. Additionally, he previously served as Dean, Professor of Law and Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Southern Illinois University, as well as Associate Dean and Professor of Law at University of Richmond. His contributions at Albany were significant, including placing the school on a solid financial footing, dramatically improving its academics and increasing its stature in the community. Dean Guernsey is active in the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

In 2011, Dean Guernsey was awarded the Trustee's Gold Medal, the highest honor given by Albany Law School to an individual who has demonstrated a record of exemplary support and dedication to the advancement of Albany Law School. Trustees and alumni established the Dean Thomas F. Guernsey Faculty Research and Scholarship Endowment in his honor to support faculty research and scholarship. He also received the Faculty Scholarship Legacy Award in honor of his efforts advancing faculty scholarship at Albany Law School, and the Legacy Award from the Center for Excellence in Law Teaching for his work advancing teaching at Albany Law School. Dean Guernsey was named a University of Richmond Distinguished Educator in 1983 and 1989.

Dean Guernsey has taught evidence, criminal law, criminal procedure and trial advocacy. He has practice experience in disability law litigation and legal aid, and has served as a consultant/trainer in interviewing, counseling, negotiation, mediation and trial practice for various legal, public service, government, insurance, business, medical and banking organizations.



**Rebecca Jones**  
Panelist

Rebecca Jones is an appellate defense attorney in private practice who handles primarily appointed appeals in state and federal courts, including numerous child molest and murder cases. She formerly tried cases in the state and federal courts involving charges of drug smuggling, tax fraud, DUI, domestic violence, and rape, and was part of the David Westerfield defense team.



**Bridget Kennedy**  
Panelist

Bridget Kennedy has been an attorney with the Federal Public Defenders Office of San Diego since 2007. She has represented clients charged with immigration-related crimes, drug and firearms offenses, conspiracy, fraud, maritime violations, child pornography and pimping offenses, bank robbery, and espionage. Her practice has included dozens of federal jury trials and several arguments before the Ninth Circuit, with a published reversal in *United States v. Alvarez-Perez*. While attending Columbia University School of Law, Ms. Kennedy interned at various public defenders offices and an anti-police brutality project. She has conducted district-wide trainings on immigration crimes, and regularly conducts trainings for new attorneys and interns in her office. She is an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, teaching "Oral Advocacy: Criminal Motions Practice," and teaches annually at the school's trial skills academy for the criminal law fellows program.



**Alex L. Landon**  
Panelist

Alex Landon earned his J.D. from University of San Diego School of Law. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1972, and is a Certified Specialist, Criminal Law,

California Board of Legal Specialization since 1977. He is currently in private practice, and is an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law where he has taught for 29 years. He is a member and past president of the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association, member and former president of the San Diego Criminal Defense Lawyers Club, past president of the San Diego Psych-Law Society, and a member of the Board of Governors and past president of California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. Mr. Landon is the former Executive Director of the Defenders Program of San Diego Inc., and Community Defenders, Inc. He is a frequent seminar and workshop speaker.



**Rita McKnight**  
Panelist

Rita McKnight was born into a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii, the fourth of five girls. Her family lived in many places until they finally settled in San Diego. She attended

Abraham Lincoln High School, Mesa College, and San Diego State University, then worked in the mental health field for four years. Ms. McKnight was hired by the San Diego County Marshall's Office in 1983, where she worked for 16 years until the Marshall's Department merged with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department in 2000. During her extensive career as a courtroom bailiff, Ms. McKnight worked with the Honorable Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund for 14 years, the Honorable Judge Bruce Lyle for 7 years, and the Honorable Judge Larry Kapiloff for 3 years. She currently works with the Honorable Browder Willis, who is an alumnus of Thomas Jefferson School of Law.



**Maya Schenwar**  
Panelist

Maya Schenwar is the author of *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better*. She is also the editor-in-chief of Truthout. Her work

has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Guardian*, *Salon*, *The Nation*, *New Jersey Star-Ledger*, *Mother Jones*, and many other publications. Ms. Schenwar is the recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Chi Award and a Lannan Residency Fellowship, both for her writing on prisons.



**Amita Sharma**  
Moderator

Amita Sharma has worked at KPBS since 2000 and has covered a wide range of stories for TV and radio. She is part of the KPBS Investigative Reporting unit and occasionally hosts KPBS Evening Edition.

Among the reports Ms. Sharma has produced are a three-part series on child sex trafficking in San Diego, a two-part series on how the state is using survivors' benefits for foster children to pay for their upkeep, and a four-part series on the Port of San Diego's finances. Other investigations include the San Diego angle to the U.S. attorney firings, private security firm Blackwater's controversial training camp proposal, and the Sunroad development controversy. Ms. Sharma has also interviewed a number of local and national newsmakers, including former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, Wisconsin Congressman James Sensenbrenner, and fired U.S. Attorney David Iglesias. In 2005, she landed an exclusive interview with three federal prosecutors who worked on the bribery investigation that resulted in the guilty plea of former San Diego Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham. She also covered the murder trial of David Westerfield, the 2001 shooting at Santana High School, and how three of the 9/11 hijackers spent their time in San Diego.



**Cassandra Lawrenson**  
Panelist

Cassandra Lawrenson is in her third year of study at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and will graduate this May with honors. During her three years in law school, Cassandra has

interned at the YWCA Domestic Violence Clinic, the San Diego County District Attorney's office, and in the Chambers of U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford. Ms. Lawrenson has spent many years advocating for victims of violent crime and plans to pursue a career as a prosecutor. In addition to serving as the current Editor-in-Chief of the Thomas Jefferson Law Review, she was recently published in the journal for her Note titled *The Injustice of Convicting Sex Trafficking Victims: A Model Vacating Convictions Law*. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2011.



**Wendy Patrick**  
Panelist

Dr. Wendy L. Patrick, JD, PhD, is an author, speaker, and San Diego County Deputy District Attorney. She has completed over 150 trials ranging from domestic violence to first-

degree murder. In her current assignment in the Special Operations Division, Ms. Patrick handles cases involving sensitive issues, including threat assessment. She is president of the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. Ms. Patrick was named as the 2014 Public Lawyer of the Year by the California State Bar Public Law Section. She is co-author of the revised version of the *New York Times* bestseller *Reading People* (Random House 2008), and author of *Red Flags: How to Spot Frenemies, Underminers, and Other Toxic People in Every Area of Your Life* (St. Martin's Press, upcoming, May 2015).

Ms. Sharma has also worked as a newspaper reporter. She has degrees in journalism and international relations from the University of Southern California.



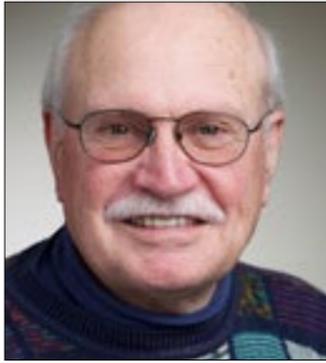
**William Slomanson**  
Moderator

Prior to law school, Professor Slomanson served as a US Naval Officer and received the Navy Achievement Medal. He was an attorney for a Los Angeles insurance

defense firm before joining the Thomas Jefferson School of Law faculty. He has served the American Society of International Law as: (1) Editor of the United Nations 21 Interest Group from 1992–2012 (44 issues); (2) UN21 Interest Group Chair from 1995–2006; and (3) Corresponding Editor for International Legal Materials from 2007-present. He has served on the Women and Law Conference Committee since 2001.

Professor Slomanson has published extensively in the fields of Civil Procedure and International Law, having authored or co-authored 24 books for major legal publishers, and dozens of law review articles, book reviews, and op-eds. His classroom text in International Law has been adopted for classroom use in 239 universities in 34 countries. At present, his publications have been cited over 1,700 times.

Professor Slomanson has lectured or taught courses on procedural, international, and pedagogical topics in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, England, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Kosovo, Mexico, Nagorno Karabakh, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and various locations in the United States. His most recent pedagogical pursuits include multiple conference presentations on blended learning and e-books.



**Gerald Uelmen**

*Panelist*

Professor Uelmen is renowned for his extensive experience in criminal law. He is most well-known for serving on the defense team for the trial of *People v. O.J. Simpson* in 1994-

95; his account of the trial was published as *Lessons From the Trial* in 1996. Uelmen has argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and California Supreme Court, serving as pro bono counsel for patients asserting the right to use medical marijuana. Professor Uelmen is currently the Director of the Edwin A. Heafy Jr. Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy at Santa Clara University School of Law, and served as the dean of the law school from 1986 to 1994.

Prior to joining the Santa Clara University School of Law faculty, he was a member of the law faculty at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where he also served as associate dean for two years. While teaching, he maintained an active part-time criminal defense practice, participating in the defense of Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers trial and successfully challenging the murder conviction of Gordon Castillo Hall. Professor Uelmen also served in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, prosecuting organized crime cases. As a Prettyman Fellow at Georgetown, he did indigent criminal defense work while earning an LL.M. degree.



**Julia Yoo**

*Panelist*

Julia Yoo is a civil rights attorney in San Diego. She represents a broad spectrum of people whose civil rights and liberties have been violated. Her cases focus on retaliatory

arrests, First Amendment protests, excessive force, wrongful death, unlawful detention, sexual harassment and prisoners' rights. Ms. Yoo has successfully tried and resolved cases throughout California and Colorado. She has litigated a number of civil rights cases on behalf of prisoners denied

medical care and sexually harassed or assaulted by prison staff. Ms. Yoo is an AV rated attorney and the named partner in Iredale and Yoo. She is an adjunct professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and a graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Colorado School of Law.



**CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS CLUB OF SAN DIEGO**

The members of the Criminal Defense Lawyers Club of San Diego are among the one hundred most influential criminal defense lawyers in this community. Founded in 1974, we are an invitation only club dedicated to protect and insure by rule of law the rights of criminal defendants guaranteed by the United States and California Constitutions. Our goal is to improve the professional status of all lawyers and to encourage cooperation between lawyers engaged in the defense of criminal cases.

**Domenic J. Lombardo**  
Attorney



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**CRIMINAL DEFENSE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO**



The Criminal Defense Bar Association of San Diego is open to private lawyers, public defenders, law students, and investigators dedicated to protecting the Constitution through representation of citizens accused of criminal activity. Our organization provides MCLE training, a monthly newsletter, and an email list-serve for the exchange of ideas and knowledge to better assist our clients. Please join.

The Criminal Defense Bar Association of San Diego is proud to support the TJSL's 15th Annual Women and the Law Conference. We salute the school's selection of Women and the Criminal Justice System as its topic, and we wish the conference great success!



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**THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW**

The Center for Law and Social Justice at Thomas Jefferson School of Law promotes events, research, and teaching in areas of public policy and law relating to civil rights, civil liberties, international human rights, and equal access to justice. We are happy to be a part of the 15th annual Women and the Law Conference.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORTERS

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Bryan Wildenthal

Rebecca Lee

Thank you to the student volunteers who participated in today's conference.



# **STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION**

**THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW**

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