

THE JEFFERSONIAN

A Student Publication



THOMAS JEFFERSON
SCHOOL OF LAW
SAN DIEGO • CALIFORNIA

THE JEFFERSONIAN

Bi-Semester Publication - October 2019



**GLOBAL STUDIES
PROGRAM - IS STUDYING
ABROAD WORTH IT?**

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- EXPERIENCE IS
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A NOTE FROM YOUR CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

by Shelby Scheider & Aundrea Cardoza

As the SBA Vice President, I, Shelby Scheider, was saddled with the responsibility to publish The Jeffersonian. At first, the feat seemed like an uphill climb. The idea of asking students to write even more and on a more creative level. I wasn't sure if The Jeffersonian could be a success. I recruited Aundrea Cardoza to help and contribute in order to make it as successful as possible.

The mission of this year was to scale back the content yet add a platform to hear from students on a more personal level. We wanted to design the first issue around what students had done over the summer while also spot-lighting organizations and students that have more going on to offer than just being a law student.

Thomas Jefferson has always been a tight-knit community, however, with recent fractures shadowing our school, we wanted to reunite the bonds of our community. By featuring who students are and what they represent, this will illustrate the perseverance Thomas Jefferson students possess.

We will be highlighting TJSL students strengths and showcasing their diversity in hopes to also inspire other students.

We hope this issue will motivate students to try new and different opportunities available to them at TJSL. From student organizations to studying abroad, there are many opportunities that students may be missing out on.



CHINA WALLS + BATHROOM STALLS

*by Norra Pe Benito, 2L
Staff Writer*

I spent several weeks preparing for finals in May knowing very well I booked a flight to China the day after finals. After my last final and with less than 24 hours to pack for China, I decided to celebrate finals being over. I woke up the next morning with a slight hangover. I packed my necessities and, with very little sleep and not enough time to pack, I scrambled out the door to make my IAM flight to Shanghai, China. I wanted to write about the ENTIRE trip: 15,516 miles of travel in planes, trains and cars, making memories with classmates, climbing the Great Wall, delicious food, and a culture completely different than ours.

However, I had to narrow it down and here are my fondest experiences of China through the Global Studies Center:

Added Bros from Different Area Codes to my Rolodex (is that still a thing?) Like an International Boss...

One thing I didn't consider when deciding to enroll in the China Global Studies Experience was the networking opportunities with overseas legal professionals. I quickly learned from my Chinese colleague that dinner is equivalent to our happy hour networking. A lot of business and relationship building is done over a massive meal that can last for hours. I am still in contact with a few Chinese students and professors and including international contacts to my network was a huge plus from the program.

Walking on Walls is a Thing.

One bucket list adventure is officially crossed off my list. I never imagined the opportunity to visit one of the Seven Wonders of the World would arise during my time at law school.

With the hike up to the wall being around 5,000 steps, it was definitely no walk in the park. But the breathtaking views made it all worth it.

I am proud to say, I hiked up to the wall in a midi-skirt. It was all for the 'gram and the memories. My classmate Shelby and I decided to buy matching midi-skirts. We captured the best photos to sum up our friendship that blossomed from China.

Bathroom Stalls: the restrooms in China was an adventure in and of itself.

My favorite part: the restrooms at the train station had a monitor that informed you with which stalls were available. My least favorite part: squatting. If you weren't grateful for western toilets, you will grow an immense amount of gratitude for them. However, please do not be deterred, in the most modern buildings, there are western toilets. Also, public restrooms are usually cleaned and have an attendant regularly.

Will you be my 520 date?

In China, May 20 is equivalent to a smaller version of Valentine's Day in the Western World. Lucky for me my classmate, Jasyon Swigart, and I had no clue. On our hunt for dinner, we noticed all of the restaurants were packed!

We watched as husbands got drunk at one table while wives gossiped at another. We came across a cafe with a Western menu that had cats you can pet for comfort. We struggled as we tried to use our translator app to figure out what we were ordering.

Don't get me wrong, we put in work for our grades but it was an experience of a lifetime. The bonds created and the self-discoveries made have no price tag. My experience in China has also been a talking point for connecting with alumni who were part of the Global Studies program in 2008.

If you have the opportunity to study abroad while in law school, don't pass it up.



TRIALS & TREPIDATIONS LEGAL INTERNSHIP LEADS TO LAWYERLY THINKING

*by Courtney Valdez, 3L
Staff Writer*

After only one year of law school, I had trepidations about being a legal intern. I agonized about having limited legal experience and how my supervisor might scold me if I didn't have all the answers. Turns out, I didn't need all the answers, and my supervising attorneys actually encouraged me to ask questions!

The team at the tight-knit personal injury firm Kubota & Craig, P.C., in Orange County motivated me to start thinking like a lawyer. As someone who had always liked to struggle to figure things out for myself, I now valued working with a team who supported my professional growth and was there to answer my questions – so I asked them.

I had lots of questions about my duties at the firm, which were similar to those of a law clerk – I wrote demand letters, interviewed clients, obtained documents, performed legal research and attended site inspections for liability cases. I also got to sit in on court hearings, depositions and mediation proceedings. And although deadlines had to be met, I felt comfortable to take the time and care I needed to complete my assignments.

Working with the clients was my most gratifying experience from my summer at Kubota & Craig. Being a legal advocate for those who face injustice in the legal system is the reason I want to become a lawyer, and through my internship I was able to preview what a future career could look like helping people with physical injuries. Having their clients put their trust in me and open up about their experiences is something that will stick with me forever.

I encourage all law students to intern during law school and when you do, approach it with an open mind and don't be afraid to fail. You may not know all the answers, but with inspiring mentors, an accepting attitude and a willingness to learn, you won't have to.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CORNER



RISE ABOVE LAW SCHOOL LIFE*

by Hani Habbas

Who are we beyond law school?

I imagine people believe law students have no life outside their books. That we spend countless hours studying, sitting on the windowpane looking out at the city while the midnight oil burns. That we are in a committed and romantic relationship with Thomas Jefferson School of Law and our education with the law.

There is truth to this illustration, however, we also have lives outside of school. Some of us have responsibilities and interests beyond law school e.g., jobs or children to raise. This newly formed Jeffersonian column will feature one student publication that highlight(s) an interesting or unique aspect of his or her life.

My first article will feature Joe Virgilio: third year law student, senior editor for Law Review, and ADR member.

I first met Joe and had the opportunity to learn about him while exploring Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing during summer study abroad.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT



Black Law Society Association

By Tevin Thompson, 3L
Staff Writer

The National Black Law Students Association's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and impacts the community positively.

I, Tevin Thompson, President of the TJSL BLSA, plan to further the vision set forth by our founder, Algernon Johnson Cooper, while also implementing a vision for the future of BLSA at TJSL.

The goals at BLSA are:

- to provide the necessary resources to give each member of BLSA the ability to be successful, not only here in law school but for the bar and their future career in the legal field.
- to ensure that this chapter of BLSA is inclusive, inviting and welcoming to those from different backgrounds and ethnicities.
- to show others that although BLSA is a black association, we are accepting and willing to make the resources we have available to everyone.
- to ensure that BLSA is supportive of all the organizations here on campus. This will further the inclusiveness we believe is monumental to the success of all future advocates at TJSL.

As President, I look forward to leave a legacy at TJSL that will be continued on long after my departure.

I discovered that Joe spent his free time exploring the music scene in China. His mission was to track down some of the best record stores in China (not an easy feat).

One day Joe came back to the hotel with a handful of vinyl records. I asked him what he purchased, and he showed me a bag of vinyl records. He explained that one artist recorded his whole album under a bridge in Beijing.

I was intrigued by his passion for music and asked him if he was going to listen to the records when he traveled back state side. To my surprise, Joe informed me that he might keep the records or add them to his shop collection in San Diego. Wait. What?

In 2009, Joe started out a student run co-op at UCSD called LINK, where its main goal was to give fair prices on quality products for the students and staff. "Now we have a dirty little store in North Park where we do the same thing."

In 2015, he opened that "dirty little store" in North Park called Red Brontosaurus Records.

For those unfamiliar with North Park, it is the bastion of cultural arts and music in San Diego. In the 80s and 90s, North Park was alive with punk rock venues that slowly lost momentum due to music diversification through televised (pop and alternative) music like MTV and VH1.

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Pride Law Society: Equality for LGBTQ+ Students

By Samir Shah, 3L
Staff Writer



Organizations like Pride Law Society are particularly worthwhile because they allow people like myself to be proud of who they are. It is a refreshing reminder that, especially in today's world, respect rather than animosity should be disseminated amongst people of all different types of sexualorientation and disposition. Embracing such inclusivity allows us to learn from others and grow individually.

Pride Law Society was formerly known as OUTLaw. The name was changed to Pride Law Society in order to exhibit recognition for the LGBTQ+ student body at Thomas Jefferson. The goal of the society is to provide a forum for Thomas Jefferson Students who are of the LGBTQ+ community to flourish in their legal endeavors. By facilitating this type of environment, we strive to aid our members throughout their law school careers by hosting a variety of networking events, mentorship opportunities, and visiting LGBTQ+ events within the local legal community.

Another unique aspect of Pride Law Society is that we work closely with the Tom Homann LGBT Law Association (THLA), San Diego's LGBT legal community. THLA holds an abundance of networking events, offers a rewarding scholarship program, and facilitates student development through their mentorship program. THLA also allows law students to participate in LavLaw the nation's largest conference for LGBTQ legal issues. By collaborating with THLA, Pride Law Society promotes equality and justice, inspiring students to pursue legal careers within the LGBTQ community.

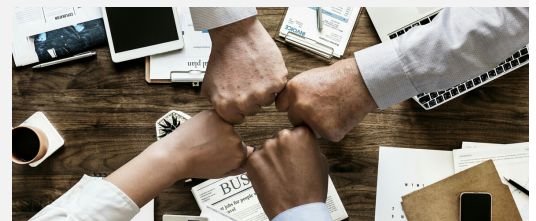
Pride Law Society members are also afforded considerable opportunity to meet law students from other local law schools. Both California Western School of Law and the University of San Diego School of Law's LGBT student organizations have opened their doors to Thomas Jefferson Pride Law Society members, encouraging friendships to be made. As does California Western School of Law and University of San Diego Law School, Thomas Jefferson devotes its resources toward expanding and supporting the local LGBTQ legal community. The biggest resource of them all, Pride Law Society.

Joe has since revived the 80s era scene via Red Brontosaurus Records by selling vinyl records focused on punk, pop-punk, hardcore and indie. Red Brontosaurus also carries a large selection of classic rock and sells video games and consoles from that time. Sometimes, they will put on a show with either local or traveling bands.

After law school, Joe has future plans for Red Brontosaurus. "I think it would be fun to have a Red Brontosaurus Mini Mall. I could have a bar and music venue, a coin laundry, a record store . . . the [law] license should give me a lot of options."

Red Brontosaurus is located at 3044 North Park Way, San Diego, CA 92104. If you have time to check out the shop, I would highly recommend a visit.

*Title inspired by Rise Above by Black Flag



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