Dean Guernsey, his wife Kathe Klare and Alumni Relations Director Stephanie Marquez joined Seattle area alumni in Seattle, Washington on Thursday, January 8. The event was hosted by Eileen McNamara ’05 at GroupHealth Headquarters and sponsored by Elizabeth Jamison ’06.

“I was happy to sponsor this event bringing together my fellow TJSL alums in the Pacific Northwest,” Jamison said, “It’s so important to stay connected and I’m thrilled that TJSL is working to make these events happen around the country.” With such a great response from the Seattle alumni, the group said they will continue to get together in the future for more networking mixers.

The next regional alumni event will be held on Thursday, February 19, in Washington, D.C. at The 201 Bar Capitol Hill, 201 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, CA 92101. Please RSVP if you are interested in attending.
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the path I wish to take. I went to court for a
default dissolution of marriage case the
week after I was sworn into the California
Bar. In September 2013, I opened my
own family law practice in Santa Ana
and the rest is history. When I was not in
court, I spent much of my time attending
MCLEs and studying the law to build up
my knowledge base. Now, I specialize in
providing affordable family law services
to low and middle-income clients.”

Despite the success of her practice, Donovan
hopes to specialize even further. “Currently, my niche is providing
affordable legal services to Orange County residents,” Donovan said.
“in the future, I would like to tailor that
niche even further, and serve as an
advocate for family law litigants who
suffer from mental health and addiction
issues. This is a commonplace problem
in family court, and I don’t believe there
are enough lawyers who focus on the
rehabilitative aspects of these types of
cases. One of the most rewarding
experiences in my career so far has been
working with a client who suffered from
bipolar disorder and alcoholism, and
watching him recover from his illnesses
and become a wonderful father. Now,
he has joint custody of his two kids. As
a family law attorney, my goal is not only
to represent my client’s best interest, but
do what is best for the entire family.”

When asked what advice she would
give recent graduates, Donovan said,
“Follow your heart, and tune out the
negativity that currently surrounds the
legal profession. Do what feels right for
you, and don’t lose faith in yourself. If
you made it through law school and the
bar exam then you will find your way
to a place you can call your own.
Always be respectful and professional.
Find your passion, go after it, and do not
let up.”
As Managing Attorney of California
Sports Lawyer, President of the TJSLS
Alumni Association and Director of the
Center for Sports Law & Policy, former
SBA President Jeremy Evans ’11 has
accomplished what he considers to be the
American Dream. “What is the American
Dream but to live free and make your
own decisions?” Evans said of running
his own practice where he represents
athletes, businesses, and models. “Being
a solo practitioner provides me the
opportunity to better serve my clients
and the community.”
Evans has always loved sports and movies.
“Because of that it seemed appropriate
for me to work in a field where I represent
individuals and companies in the sports
and entertainment industries. In my law
practice, I played baseball in high school and Days
of Thunder with Tom Cruise is one of my
favorite movies so it makes sense that I
can provide legal services to people in
the sports and entertainment industries.”

Shorty after graduating from the Thomas
Jefferson School of Law in 2012, Orange
County native Elisabeth Anne Donovan
opened her own family law practice in
Santa Ana, California. “Practicing Family
Law comes with many rewards and
challenges. The most rewarding part
of my career is making a difference in the
lives of my clients,” Donovan said. “Many
of these individuals come to me during
what is the most trying time of their lives.
Aside from being their legal advocate, I
have the benefit of walking these people
through their personal challenges and
acting as their counselor and friend. I
also have the opportunity to present my
cases in court on a regular basis, which is
exhilarating.”

Like many law students, Donovan did not
begin law school knowing what area of
law she would pursue, but she had a clear
understanding of the path she wished to
avoid. “When I began law school, I did so
knowing that I did not want to work in
a corporate environment,” Donovan said.
“I wanted to find a niche where I could
truly connect with my clients and make
an impact. During law school, I worked at
the TJSL Veterans Legal Assistance clinic
and had the benefit of helping disabled
veterans with their family law issues.
Many of these people suffer for PTSD
and have been stigmatized by society,
and those are exactly the types of people
I wanted to serve. That is when I knew
that this area of practice was for me.”

In addition to her clinic experience, Donovan
was motivated by the altruism of former TJSL Professor Luz
Herrera. “Professor Herrera, was a huge
inspiration for me. For those who don’t
know her story, it is truly remarkable.
After graduating from Harvard Law
School, she decided to set up her own
law practice in Compton, CA. Although
she had many opportunities available
to her as a Harvard alum, she followed
her passion of helping people she could
identify with. In doing so, she was able
to provide legal services to individuals
who otherwise could not afford them
and made a tremendous impact on the
community,” Donovan said. “Professor Herrera
inspired me to do what I am
doing now and made me realize that
opening my own law practice at the age
of twenty-seven was both attainable
and rewarding.”

After graduating, Donovan took the bar
and volunteered at The Legal Aid Society
while she awaited the bar results. At that
time, The Legal Aid Society launched an
incubator program and Donovan was
given the opportunity to be one of the
first attorneys to participate. “The Legal
Aid Society’s program, called the Lawyers
Entrepreneurial Assistance Program
(LEAP), provided attorneys with the
mentorship and guidance they need
to start their own practice in exchange
for providing legal services to their
indigent clients,” Donovan explained.
“As the banker, I would tell clients to
fund a line of credit, but I had a
smile on my face. She asked,
“What is the American Dream but to live free and make your
own decisions?” Evans said of running
his own practice where he represents
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Looking back at his journey through
law school, what stands out for Evans
are the great memories. “Thomas
Jefferson School of Law consists of
smaller class sizes therefore allowing
closer relationships to form with fellow
students, faculty, staff, and alumni,” Evans
said. “What Thomas Jefferson School of
Law does best is focus on the individual
student and shines a light on what makes
those individuals great. TJSLS will forever
hold a special place in my heart for the
individual law school provided me to
become the attorney I am today and to
meet some of my very best friends.”

Always be respectful and professional.
Find your passion, go after it, and do not

Jeremy Evans ’11 Shares his Advice and His Journey
Elisabeth Donovan ’12 Makes a Difference Practicing Family Law
PROFESSOR KEVIN GREENE GEARS UP FOR A BUSY YEAR OF IP ACTIVITY IN 2015

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Professor Kevin J. Greene, a nationally recognized scholar in the fields of Entertainment Law and Intellectual Property Law, says he is looking forward to a busy year in 2015. “Just last week, at the beginning of the new year I was interviewed on National Public Radio (“NPR”) Marketplace on copyright fair use issues regarding the film Selma. In February, I have been invited to speak on copyright topics at USD Law School in San Diego and at Fordham Law School in New York. In May, I am scheduled to speak in Seattle on rights of publicity at the Law & Society Conference. Also in May, I have been invited to moderate a forum on trademark issues in the video game context in San Diego hosted by the International Trademark Association (“INTA”). I am hoping a bunch of students will attend INTA with me. In October, I will speak on a panel on film rights acquisition in New York with the legal head of DC comics, secured a sponsorship with San Diego Fashion Week for TJSL and was also a copyright law panelist at the South by Southwest Music Conference in Austin, Texas in March 2014, where I shared the stage with funk legend George Clinton.”

Professor Greene served as a copyright expert and strategist on a team of lawyers representing Mr. Clinton on a landmark copyright case involving Clinton’s iconic master sound recordings. Despite these successes Greene says, “My whole year in 2014 was colored by one thing—arguing in the 9th Circuit in Seattle in February 2014, which was great—then losing the case in July—which was devastating. Even more so because the Ninth Circuit would not hear any of the copyright arguments I devised for technical procedural reasons not of our making.”

“I always joke that I don’t have hobbies—this is what I love doing for fun,” says Professor Greene. “But all this activity comes back in some form to the classroom and our students and alums. Every presentation gets incorporated in class, and every contact is a potential contact for TJSL students. And that is much more rewarding I suspect than collecting stamps!”

Also this year, Professor Greene will work with the Black Law Students Association and La Raza to produce a forum on police practices and communities of color at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Greene is proud to announce that his article entitled “Idea Theft as a Hollywood Business Model” was recently selected to be published in the Hastings Journal of Science & Technology. Also, his book chapter on rap music, innovation and copyright law in a compilation book entitled “Hip-Hop and the Law: The Key Writings That Influenced the Movement” on the most influential writings in critical race theory and IP will also be published this year.

Despite producing two IP conferences at TJSL on Copyright and Visual works and IP Trolls (featuring Robin Thicke’s attorney in the “Blurred Lines” copyright case) Professor Greene says he considers 2014 an off year. “I spoke on a panel on film rights acquisition in New York with the legal head of DC comics, secured a sponsorship with San Diego Fashion Week for TJSL and was also a copyright law panelist at the South by Southwest Music Conference in Austin, Texas in March 2014, where I shared the stage with funk legend George Clinton.”

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Noted criminal defense attorney Leslie Abramson will deliver the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture at the 2015 Women and the Law Conference, which will be held at Thomas Jefferson School of Law on Friday, March 27. Abramson, now retired, handled the first Menendez Brothers trial, Phil Spector’s case, and many other high-profile cases.

Abramson wrote, The Defense Is Ready: Life in the Trenches of Criminal Law and has a great story to tell. “Leslie is a funny and dynamic speaker and I’m confident she will give a great Ginsburg Lecture,” said event director Professor Marjorie Cohn.

The theme of the 2015 WLC is Women and the Criminal Justice System. There will be panels with experts who have worked in the criminal justice system, followed by a reception on the eighth floor.

More information coming soon.
The TJSL Alumni Video Series, filmed and edited by Art Director Sherwin Laranga and produced by Communications Coordinator Denise Menard, showcases a wide variety of Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni and focuses on their areas of expertise and experiences.

In this ongoing series, past graduates give you a glimpse into their lives and discuss their journey from law school to career.

PROMINENT ALUMS ARE AMAZING EXAMPLES OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

STEVE BERENSON

Articles
The Veterans Clinic and Legal Education: A Conversation with Professor Steven Berenson, 9 U. Mass. L. Rev. 444 (with Paul Lee) (2014)

MARJORIE COHN

Presentation

Radio

BRENDA M. SIMON

Presentation

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