LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN ARMENIA

by MHAER ALAHYDOIAN, Esq.

These past six months, the Armenian National Assembly adopted and amended several important laws. According to Article 69 of the Armenian Constitution, the regular sessions of the National Assembly convene twice per year: from the second Monday of September to the second Wednesday of December and from the first Monday of February to the second Wednesday of June. The National Assembly was in recess from the second week of December through the first week in February. Therefore the following summary includes the last few weeks of the 1997 Second Session and the first few months of the 1998 First Session.

During the last six weeks of the National Assembly’s 1997 Second Session, it adopted legislation important to Armenia’s continuing efforts towards economic and democratic reforms. General legislative amendments include amendments to "The Bylaws of the Armenian National Assembly;" "The Law On the Armenian State Budget, 1997;" "The Law On Constitutional Court;" "The Law Annual Report About

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The Report of the Chair

by S. TAMAR HAJIYAN, Esq.
Chair of the Board of Governors

Our Annual Meeting in Philadelphia launched a resounding start to the tenth year of the Armenian Bar Association’s operations. What a splendidly-organized meeting it was, thanks to the untiring efforts of Harry Cherken, Jr., Mark Momjian, Roger Ashodian, Robert Cannuscio, Carolyn Graham, Megen Karakelian, Arousian Keshishian and Suzanne Serfenian and the generous participation of our stellar members from several countries.

I take this opportunity to express the Association’s heartfelt appreciation to Ann Lousin for her leadership as she completes a productive and inspiring term as Chair, but continues as an active Board member.

Many challenges have arisen during the course of our activities, but none is more daunting than the call to service in the interest of our common heritage. At a time when revisionists are baldly rewriting the history which brought most of our forbears to diasporan life, we are told that there was no genocide in 1915, that there is no legal right for Armenians

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On April 17th - 19th, 1998, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania played host to the Armenian Bar Association’s Ninth Annual Meeting. Association members from diverse parts of the world traveled to the birthplace of the United States of America to be part of an enjoyable weekend of educational and social events. And they were not disappointed. The Philadelphia Organizing Committee, which included Roger Ashodian, Robert Cannuscio, Harry S. Cherken, Jr., Carolyn Graham, Megen Karakelian, Arousiaq Keshishian, Mark Momjian and Suzanne Serfian, worked tirelessly for several months preparing the weekend’s events. The Annual Meeting was, by all accounts, a complete success.

The Annual Meeting began on Friday night with a private wine and cheese reception at the Elkins Room in the Philadelphia Free Library. The Elkins Room includes a large collection of rare books and manuscripts dating back several hundred years. Included in this collection were six beautiful Armenian manuscripts. Two curators were on hand to answer questions about the manuscripts and the other rare items in the room. Part of the Elkins Room is John Elkins’ actual library. Upon his death, John Elkins requested that his private collection of rare books be donated to the Philadelphia Free Library. Mr. Elkins’ widow decided that it would be more fitting if Mr. Elkins’ entire library was transferred. Hence, everything from the beautiful wooden paneling down to the enormous oriental rug was moved to the Philadelphia Free Library. The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Elkins was enjoyed immensely by the attendees who were permitted to stroll freely through the once private study of Mr. Elkins.

Saturday morning began with breakfast on the 19th floor Promenade of the Park Hyatt. The morning events included the Association’s business meeting. The business meeting included a discussion which helped focus Association initiatives on (1) supporting the preservation of academic freedom and objecting to revisionist history at major American universities regarding Turkish Government-sponsored academic chairs at these universities and (2) recovering bank accounts of Genocide victims and life insurance proceeds belonging to victims’ beneficiaries.

Immediately after the business meeting, the morning lecture commenced. The morning lecture was a panel dis-

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Tigran S. Aloyan, a Muskie Fellow, completed his LL.M at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in May 1998. Mr. Aloyan also holds an M.A. in political science from the American University of Armenia and a Law Faculty Diploma (J.D.) from the Byelorussian State University in Minsk, Belarus. From 1993-1995, Mr. Aloyan served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yerevan, Armenia as Attaché, Third Secretary, CIS Division and, from 1995-1997, he served as head of the CIS Division.

Harry Dikranian, a recent graduate of McGill University's Faculty of Law, was called to the Quebec Bar in January 1998. He practices commercial litigation, finance, bankruptcy and banking law at Sternthal Katznelson Montigny in Montreal, Quebec. Mr. Dikranian is a member of the 21st Century Fund of McGill University and is Chair of the McGill Law Library's Alumni Outreach Committee.

Christine J. Engustian formed the Law Office of Christine Engustian in East Providence, RI focusing on land use and zoning real estate matters, family law, landlord/tenant and general civil matters. Ms. Engustian previously was a partner at the Gardner Sawyer Gates Sloane & Engustian law firm in Providence, RI.

Armen K. Hovannisian has been elected counsel in the Los Angeles office of Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Armen handles complex commercial litigation matters, with special emphasis on insurance coverage and reinsurance disputes. He also has extensive experience in employment matters with particular emphasis on wrongful termination and discrimination issues. Armen has published articles in the Environmental Claims Journal and other trade publications, and has contributed many articles to Chadbourne's insurance and reinsurance newsletter, C&R Report. Armen currently serves on our Board of Governors and served as its chairperson from 1994-1995. He has been a panelist and has participated in legislative and judicial workshops on legal reform in Armenia. He received a B.A., summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from U.C. Berkeley and received a J.D. from U.C.L.A. School of Law.

Thomas J. Samuelian served at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy as an international observer for the Armenian presidential elections under the auspices of the OSCE. Mr. Samuelian presented a report regarding the elections at our recent Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Dick Semerdjian recently left Post Kirby Noonan & Sweat with three other partners and an associate to form the downtown San Diego, California law firm Kennerson Schwartz Semerdjian & Haile, LLP. The firm represents clients across a spectrum of specialized areas, including business, real estate, construction, professional malpractice, environmental law, products liability, insurance, personal injury and estate planning. It combines the legal skills, litigation experience, business experience and support found in a large firm with the virtues of a more personal practice.

Sarah Leah Whitson recently joined Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York City as Vice-President and Assistant General Counsel. Ms. Whitson and Josh Zinner are the proud parents of Lena Anabelle Zinner born on October 30, 1997.

Please send your job announcements, press releases, and information about your appointments, publications and/or noteworthy cases for publication to:

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LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN ARMENIA, continued from page 1


Armenia’s taxation regime originally was set forth in "The Law On Taxes and Duties," adopted April 19, 1992. This law provides for a minimum of 14 different types of taxes including profit tax, income tax, excise tax, land tax, tax on professional activities, inventory tax, transport tax, customs duties, and inheritance and gift tax. During the 1997 Second Session, amendments were made to the following tax laws: "On State Duties;" "On Tariff Rates;" "On VAT;" and "On Income Tax." A new law "On Property Tax" was adopted. In corporate law, several amendments were made to the laws "On Circulation of Stock" and "On Joint Stock Companies."

In the sphere of privatization, several laws and decisions have been adopted including amendments to various reports on privatization activities under "The Law On Privatization and Denationalization Project of State Companies and Unfinished Constructions" for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997. The program for privatization of state property 1998-2000 was adopted. A new law "On Privatization of State Property" was also adopted.

Through May 5 of the National Assembly’s 1998 First Session, the National Assembly adopted "The Law On Communication," and the law "Defining of Tax Privileges for Energosystem Companies." These laws are important to the development of the communications and energy industries, respectively.

As part of the judicial and legal reform legislative agenda, three very important laws were adopted: the laws "On the Execution of Judicial Decisions," "On the State Service Providing Enforcement of Judicial Decisions," and "On Arbitration Courts."

ADOPTION OF THE NEW ARMENIAN CIVIL CODE

On May 5, 1998, a momentous day in Armenian legal history, the National Assembly adopted Armenia’s new civil code. The civil code, as a fundamental law in the civil law (code-based) legal systems, sets forth the rules of all civil legal relations including commercial, from the moment of an individual’s birth through death. In this sense, the new civil code is an extremely important piece of legislation for the Armenian citizen. Further, Armenia’s new civil code is founded on fundamental principles underlying a market-oriented economy including the principles of private property, freedom of contract and equality in economic relations.

The civil code was drafted on a model "CIS civil code" which has been developed by a group of legal scholars from the US, Europe and CIS countries. Armenia, along with Russia and other CIS countries, have used the CIS model as a starting point on which to draft its own civil code. The majority of the work in drafting Armenia’s civil code was done by the National Assembly’s Legal Department. Over a three-year period, the National Assembly’s Legal Department, headed by Vladimir Nazaryan, was provided technical and financial assistance by the US Agency for International Development to draft the civil code. Legal experts from the United States, Netherlands, Germany and Russia provided commentary specifically on Armenia’s draft civil code. After passing two readings of the National Assembly -- where numerous revisions were proposed and adopted -- the National Assembly finally adopted, by an overwhelming majority vote, this historic piece of legislation.

The new Armenian civil code has twelve divisions with a total of 1292 articles. The divisions are as follows: I. General Provisions; II. Persons (Subjects) of Civil Law; III. Objects of Civil Law Rights; IV. The Right of Ownership and Other Property Rights; V. Transactions, Representation, Time Limitations, Limitations of Actions; VI. General Provisions on Obligations; VII. Obligations Arising from Contracts; VIII. Liabilities Emerging from Unilateral Actions; IX. Obligations Arising as a Result of Damage Caused and Unjust Enrichment; X. Intellectual Property; XI. Inheritance; XII. Private International Law.


The National Assembly will adopt a law setting forth when the new civil code will go into effect. However, most likely the civil code will go into effect on January 1, 1999. Also, the new civil code will naturally supersede numerous existing laws. The National Assembly will adopt a law which will state specifically which laws are no longer valid because they have been superseded by the new civil code.

This year, the National Assembly legislative agenda includes the adoption of a new criminal code as well as a new code of civil procedure and criminal procedure. The National Assembly is in the process of developing drafts of each of these codes.

Mher Alabyasian is an attorney from California working in Yerevan. During the last four years, he has taught at the American University of Armenia and at Yerevan State University Law Faculty as a Fulbright Scholar. He is the Associate Director of the LLM program and the Project Director of the Judicial and Legal Training Program at the American University of Armenia.
On April 23, 1998, the Armenian Assembly of America announced that it will begin pursuing legislation aimed at requiring Turkish banks operating in the United States to release lists of all their unclaimed Armenian accounts, and establish compensation, primarily stemming from the 1915 Genocide. The initiative follows the recent precedent established by Holocaust victims, requiring Swiss banks to return to their rightful owners unclaimed Jewish assets held in dormant bank accounts.

"Just as Swiss banks held unclaimed Jewish as well as several Armenian accounts, Turkish banks held accounts of Armenian Genocide victims. Holocaust victims have had some success in demanding that their assets be returned. We are encouraged by this trend and while no amount of money can ever compensate for the Turkish atrocities, restitution on the part of Turkish and other European banks is proper, right and long overdue," said Armenian Assembly Board of Directors Chairman (and ArmenBar member) Van Krikorian, Esq. "These banks should not be allowed to operate in the United States if they refuse to release their unclaimed Armenian accounts and return assets to their rightful owners, or descendants. The Assembly will begin pursuing legislation to that effect."

The push to compensate Holocaust victims and the related outburst of interest has been led by the World Jewish Congress and Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY). As Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator D'Amato led the investigation into what happened to the assets of Holocaust survivors and the heirs of victims that were deposited in Swiss banks in the years preceding World War II and the Holocaust.

The Senator also initiated legislation authorizing the United States to fulfill previous pledges and pay Holocaust survivor groups up to $25 million in assistance relief to be distributed to survivors. Called "The Holocaust Victims Redress Act," the bill also expresses the sense of the Congress that all nations must act in good faith in facilitating the return of private and public properties looted by the Nazis.

In a May 7, 1998 article in the California Courier, Mr. Harut Sassounian commended the Armenian Assembly's initiative and urged a broader approach to include not only Turkish banks, but also major French, Swiss, American, Russian and German banks. Mr. Sassounian stated that one of the biggest Turkish banks at the turn of the century was the Ottoman Bank, which still exists today. It is now wholly-owned by the Garanti Bank which in turn is mostly owned (86%) by the Dogus Group, one of Turkey's largest conglomerates. The Garanti Bank itself is one of Turkey's largest private commercial banks.

Mr. Sassounian further stated that the International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), an affiliate of the World Bank, currently is considering a loan of $104 million to the Ottoman Bank which will be used to attract new international investors. He suggested contacting the IFC, the World Bank and the countries that authorize their funding, to urge them not to provide such loans to the Ottoman Bank.

The Armenian Bar Association discussed the concept of accounts recovery at the 1997 Mid-Year Meeting in Yerevan and the recent 1998 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Numerous members expressed an interest in working on these matters. ArmenBar and The Armenian Assembly will be working together to address these important matters from a legal and legislative perspective. ArmenBar Members interested in working on legal issues regarding the recovery of accounts should contact Van Krikorian, Esq. (202) 393-3434 or Ann Lousin, Esq. (312) 987-1434.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR, continued from page 1

to live on much of their remaining ancestral lands, and that we should all move on. For us, trained to look at the issues with a critical and analytical eye, this is unacceptable and a call to action for the Armenian Bar Association.

Concurrently, we have witnessed the peaceful transition of power to a new government this year in Armenia's continuing reconstruction from a post-soviet autocracy to a modern democracy. How effective the Kocharyan government will be in eradicating the vestiges of corruption, inefficiency and lawlessness should be apparent in time. Our Association continues to give voice and support to healthy legal reform and the building of a civil society under the rule of law by encouraging active exchange and interaction. We look for signs of change as constitutional and legal reform proceed. The treatment of ordinary people in everyday circumstances, including the mass creation of jobs, liberalization of diasporan relations, and factors of common courtesy which begin with customs officials as one enters the country are significant indicators. We are also concerned with reform in the treatment of army recruits, prisoners, and those accused of crimes. And, of course, the long awaited creation of a legal framework to encourage outside investment and development is of prime importance to us.

Finally, we have an obligation to become involved with what is happening in our own communities, including support for officials seeking elected office who embody the ideals and principles upon which this organization was founded. We are community leaders and people to whom others look for direction in combating the social ills of the times. Our ability to interact with young and old by volunteer efforts may make the difference in so many lives.

Let's each make a commitment to take on one project this year, to contribute time, effort, or resources to address an aspect of our work, as a tribute to ten years of excellence, ten years of leadership, and ten years of the Armenian Bar Association's unique place in the community. Together we can achieve our goals. The Board and I look forward to working with each of you.
1998 ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, continued from page 2

Left to right: Panelists Professor Nicholas Daniloff, Ms. Roxanne Makasdjian, Thomas Samuelian, Esq. and Mr. Boris Navasardian.

cussion on freedom of the media in the Republic of Armenia. The panel included Professor Nicholas Daniloff, Director of the School of Journalism at Northwestern University (Mass.) who recently wrote a study of the Armenian media; Boris Navasardian, President of the Yerevan Press Club; Roxanne Makasdjian, television producer, writer and reporter who has produced shows for both ABC News and NBC News; and Tom Samuelian, Esq., who is an international attorney on assignment as deputy director of Steptoe & Johnson International in Moscow. The panelists addressed a variety of issues, such as the environment in which the news organizations operate in Armenia, the freedom and access of the press during the recent Armenian presidential elections, the general freedom of the broadcast media in Armenia, and the variations in the way Armenia's media law has been applied by the government.

An elegant luncheon was organized for attendees in the Conservatory at the Park Hyatt. The luncheon was highlighted by United States Congressman Frank Pallone, Co-Chair of the Armenian Congressional Caucus, as guest speaker. Congressman Pallone discussed pending legislation in Congress related to Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, and shared his impressions based on his recent visit to the Armenian region on the development of democracy and rule of law. In short, the depth and breadth of his knowledge of and his demonstrated commitment to issues and legislation of concern inter alia to the Armenian community was impressive. On behalf of the Association, Vice-Chair Harry S. Cherken, Jr. conferred upon Congressman Pallone the highest honor bestowed by the Association: Honorary Lifetime Member.

Another special guest speaker was the only member of the Pennsylvania legislature of Armenian descent, Susan B. Laughlin. Representative Laughlin presented the Armenian Bar Association with a copy of a resolution recently passed by the Pennsylvania legislature recognizing the Armenian Genocide. In addition Professor Ann Lousin, who assumed the position of immediate past chair at the meeting, was honored for her outstanding leadership, commitment and accomplishments as Chair of the Association. Meeting participants were not disturbed by Turkish and Azeri demonstrators who convened outside the hotel to object to Congressman Pallone’s pro-Armenian position.

Annual Meeting Committee members: Harry S. Cherken, Jr.; Megan Karakelian, Esq. and Robert Cannuare, Esq.

The afternoon panel discussion concentrated on the interplay of law and the media. The panel included Aram Kevorkian, Esq. of Paris, France (a Philadelphia native) who frequently has commented for the international press and the electronic media on legal issues surrounding the investigation of Princess Diana’s fatal accident; Richard A. Harpootlian, Esq. of South Carolina, noted former Fifth Circuit Solicitor presently in private practice who was the ABC commentator during the Susan Smith trial; Lincoln Z. Jajalian, Esq. of
Boston, Massachusetts, who is on the prosecutorial team for the Louise Woodard "Au Pair" case; and Albert Momjian, Esq. of Philadelphia, who is recognized nationally for his sophisticated family law practice that has included a number of high visibility divorce cases, and who moderated the panel discussion. The panel addressed such issues as confidentiality, sealing of records, closure of the courtroom, ethical concerns and strategic considerations.

Saturday night was replete with a wonderful social at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. The displays scattered throughout the Balch Institute provided a nice backdrop for the gathering of Association attendees. However, it was the private collection of rare ephemera and antiquarian books that caught everyone's attention. Included in that display were personal letters from William Saroyan and exquisite rare Armenian books. A delicious array of Armenian culinary delights was provided for all to enjoy. The guests were serenaded by a quartet of classical performers led by Levon Zarasian of the Phoenix Symphony. The quartet played a diverse arrangement of classical music, including several classical Armenian selections. The ambiance of the Balch Institute provided the perfect environment for an evening of friendly conversation.

The Annual Meeting concluded with the meeting of the 1998-99 Board of Governors Sunday morning. At the meeting, Board members coordinated the various initiatives for the upcoming year and established the venues for the 1998 Mid-Year Meeting and 1999 Annual Meeting. In addition, the Board appointed committee chairs and elected the 1998-99 Executive Committee as follows:

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Vice-President & General Counsel
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA

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**Immediate Past Chair**

ANN LOUSIN, Esq.
Professor, The John Marshall Law School
Chicago, IL
FOURM HELD FOR LAW STUDENTS

by SILVA AZIRIAN

On this particularly deserted, yet beautiful Saturday morning at Pepperdine University School of Law -- when the student body was off enjoying the first day of spring break as El Nino took a break from her usual routine of rain showers and mudslides causing closures of Pacific Coast Highway and access to the law school -- the campus was still bustling with approximately 40 Armenian-American law students, recent law graduates, and pre-law college students attending the Law Forum hosted by The Armenian Law Students Associations of Loyola and Pepperdine law schools. The forum featured keynote speaker Honorable Armand Arabian, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court (Retired) and a panel of five attorneys from the various walks of the American and Armenian legal community.

The keynote speaker, Honorable Armand Arabian, was chosen not only for his many achievements and contributions to both the American and Armenian legal communities, but also because of his close ties to Pepperdine University School of Law. On April 14, 1997, in recognition of a generous gift from Justice Arabian in honor of his son Robert, who is a 1995 Pepperdine School of Law graduate and was the President of the Armenian Law Students Association, a dedication was held to name the Armand Arabian Judges Chamber in the Darling Trial Courtroom. Justice Arabian is also on the Pepperdine University School of Law’s Board of Visitors, an adjunct professor of Appellate Advocacy during the Fall 1997 term, and in 1990 Pepperdine awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree. Justice Arabian retired from the California Supreme Court on March 1, 1996, and is engaged in alternative dispute resolution as an arbitrator, mediator, special master and discovery referee. He spoke to the students about the current situations in Armenia and how Armenian law students can make a difference.

The panel also consisted of five attorneys representing diverse areas of the law: A. Peter Kezirian, Jr., General Counsel at the California Department of Corporations, Talin Yacoubian, Esq., business and entertainment litigator with Christensen, Miller, Fink, Jacobs, Glaser, Weil & Shapiro, LLP; David G. Adishian, Esq., financial consultant at Merrill Lynch & Company, Kathy Bazoian Phelps, Esq., bankruptcy attorney with Danning, Gill, Diamond & Kollitz, LLP; and Lucy Vartanian, a litigator with Andersen & Kelleher LLP and Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association, who helped publicize the event.

The Pepperdine and Loyola Armenian Law Students Association were honored to have such a distinguished array of attorneys who graciously extended their time and efforts in making the forum a success. Peter Kezirian, who previously was an associate with the New York firm Debevoise & Plimpton in its Los Angeles office, spoke to the students about both the public and private sectors of law. Talin Yacoubian discussed the clichés of litigation, interviewing skills, and working in a medium-sized law firm. David Adishian discussed the alternative careers with a law degree and how to find your particular niche. Along with Justice Arabian, David is also closely connected with Pepperdine Law School. He is a 1994 alum and one of the founding members of Pepperdine’s Armenian Law Students Association. He also serves as the vice-president of the Alumni Board of Directors and is a member of Senior Partners, a support organization of the law school committed to alumni network and mentor programs. He was featured in the March 1998 issue of The Cross-Examiner, Pepperdine Law School's student newspaper. Kathy Bazoian Phelps spoke to the students about the benefits of working in a small law firm and as an alternative to the big law firm path. And Lucy Vartanian addressed the students about the various aspects of the Armenian Bar Association and the benefits of membership.

In the end the forum was a huge success which could not have occurred without the kind sponsorship of Pepperdine Career Services whose Director, Carol Almeider, was extremely supportive and interested in helping sponsor the event and who arrived early to help and attend the forum. The speakers addressed the students for two hours beginning at 11:00 AM with a question and answer period at the end giving the students the opportunity to ask specific questions to Justice Arabian and the various attorneys. Following the forum, lunch was served in the school cafeteria where the students had further opportunities to speak with the panel in a more casual setting and to tour the campus.

The Armenian Law Forum was organized by Silva Azirian and Nicole Janigian, President of Loyola's Armenian Law Students Association this past year and who graduated from Loyola on May 17, 1998. Both Silva and Nicole hope that the forum will continue next year as well as the years to come.

Silva Azirian graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law on May 22, 1998. She was the President of Pepperdine’s Armenian Law Students Association and the Editor-in-Chief of The Cross-Examiner, the school newspaper, during her third year at Pepperdine.
Congratulations
To Our 1998 Student Member Graduates!

Anahid Adamian - Glendale, California
Whittier Law School

Silva Azarian - Los Angeles, California
Pepperdine University School of Law

M. Michael Babikian - Laguna Hills, California
University of San Diego (L.L.M)

Christopher J. Dervishian - Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
Widener University School of Law

Joseph Grigorian - Astoria, New York
St. John’s University School of Law

Anthony J. Jacob - Morton Grove, Illinois
John Marshall Law School

Nicole Janigian - Los Angeles, California
Loyola Law School

Ani Kaladjian-Papian - Glendale, California
Southwestern University School of Law

Gina Kandarian - Long Beach, California
Whittier Law School

Milord Keshishzadeh - Woodland Hills, California
Pepperdine University School of Law

Grace Shaghig Kurdian - Old Tappan, New Jersey
Rutgers University School of Law

Christine Magarian - Tarzana, California
Southwestern University School of Law

Leon J. Makasjian - Los Angeles, California
University of West Los Angeles

Simon Manoucharian - La Crescenta, California
Southwestern University School of Law

Raffi Mansourian - Tarzana, California
Loyola Law School

Apik Minassian - Encino, California
University of California, Los Angeles

Tony Tigran Pogosyan - Glendale, California
Western State University

Mamper Pomakian - West Hills, California
Southwestern University School of Law

Aram A. Sarafian - Newton, Massachusetts
Duke University Law School

Anahid Surmenian - Pasadena, California
Southwestern University School of Law

Robert J. Tootelian, Jr. - Evanston, Illinois
John Marshall Law School

Charles V. Webb - Arlington, Virginia
George Washington University

Rima Yaralian - Studio City, California
Southwestern University School of Law

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS A MENTOR OR ARE A STUDENT SEEKING A MENTOR, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM

Date ___________________________

First Time Participant □ Yes □ No

If “No,” year last participated ___________________________

Attorney / Judge

Name ___________________________

Firm / Company ___________________________

Address ___________________________

Work Phone ___________________________

E-mail ___________________________

Area of Practice ___________________________

Years in Practice ___________________________

Comments ___________________________

Student

Name ___________________________

Address ___________________________

Home Phone ___________________________

E-mail ___________________________

Law School ___________________________

Year of Graduation ___________________________

Areas of Interest ___________________________

Comments ___________________________

Please return completed form to:

Armenian Bar Association
Attn.: Student/Mentor Program
P.O. Box 29111
Los Angeles, California 90029
(310) 939-9263
ARMENBAR TO AWARD
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR
COMMITMENT TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC

Unfortunately, battered women's organizations in Southern California regularly receive requests for assistance from Armenian-speaking victims. Here's an opportunity to help the community, learn a new area of the law or gain clinical experience.

ArmenBar is offering one scholarship of $500 to an Armenian-speaking student in the Southern California area who agrees to provide 40-hours of assistance during the 1998-99 academic year to victims of domestic violence. Following a three-hour training program offered by the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Service, Inc., the student will assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining restraining orders against their batterers from the California Superior Court, in Burbank, Van Nuys and San Fernando. Please contact Pro Bono Committee Chair Soro Kerkonian, Esq. at (818) 584-0043 for more information and to request an application for the scholarship. The application deadline is July 31, 1998.

ATTENTION:
CURRENT AND FORMER JUDICIAL CLERKS

ArmenBar is compiling a list of members who have served or currently are serving as a judicial clerk in any state or federal court. The list will be used to publish a profile of these members in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter. If you would like to be included, please send your name, along with the dates of your judicial clerkship, name of the judge for whom you clerked, the official name of the court and your current title, if any (e.g. partner, associate), and employer name. Optional Information: if you would like to serve as a contact for members seeking judicial clerkships or general court information, please include your telephone number. Send information via mail to:

Lisa Barsoomian, Esq.
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES:
EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS

1. Rule of Law Liaison for Armenia to: a) coordinate the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative ("CEELI") rule of law related activities in the host country; b) identify, develop, and implement technical legal assistance projects in partnership with the host country's legal community and government representatives; c) organize interactive training workshops on topics such as creating an independent judiciary, drafting ethics codes, revising administrative procedures, and developing judicial training programs; and d) manage legal reform programs focusing on continuing legal education, law practice management, and bar development for one year beginning June 1999.

2. Environmental Law Liaison for Armenia to manage the Environmental Public Advocacy Center ("EPAC"), which encourages and supports individual legal cases as they wind their way through the judicial process, support the work of legal experts in the Environmental Advocacy network and submit articles for the newsletter, and organize interactive training workshops on topics such as environmental protection regulations, national park development, land use, international environmental conventions, advocacy strategies and NGO development for law students for one year beginning December 1998. To apply, please call 1-800-98CEELI or (202) 662-1754.

LOOKING FOR ARMENIA'S CONSTITUTION?

A copy of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (as passed by the Constitutional Referendum on 5 July 1995) may be obtained at:

http://www.arminco.com/homepages/ifes/constit1.htm

GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS AVAILABLE

If you would like a free copy of a 25-page glossary of legal terms (English to Armenian and Armenian to English) published by ArmenBar members Hovhannes Asrian and Thomas J. Samuelian, please contact ArmenBar Executive Director Lucy Varpetian.

OSCE FINAL REPORT ON ARMENIA'S
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AVAILABLE

Board of Governors and Committee Chairs 1998-1999

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Please detach this application and send with your check to:

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AIMS AND STRUCTURE

The Armenian Bar Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization formed in 1989 to enable attorneys of Armenian heritage and other interested individuals to better serve the law, the legal profession, and the Armenian community.

The Association provides pro bono services and legal education in Armenian communities across the country and sponsors programs to promote democracy and the rule of law in the Republic of Armenia.

Coming together socially and professionally, members from around the world have the opportunity to learn from one another as they join their different backgrounds and experiences in Association activities.

The Association is a democratic organization. It is supported and directed by its members, who approve its Bylaws, elect its Board of Governors, nominate prominent jurists as honorary members, and set the Association's annual goals and policies.

The Armenian Bar Association is committed to serving the profession of law, addressing the legal concerns of the Armenian community and fostering respect for human and civil rights.

ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS

Some of the Association's operations include:

- Worldwide Network of Attorneys
- Continuing Legal Education, Seminars & Workshops
- Pro Bono Program
- Rule of Law Projects in the Republic of Armenia
- Armenian Rights Watch
- Annual National Meeting
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Membership Directory
- Amicus Curiae Submissions on Issues of Community Interest
- Topical and Regional Practice Groups
- Cooperation with other bar associations and lawyers' societies

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