TEVRIZIAN/ARMENIAN BAR
CO-HOST RECEPTION
FOR ARMEAN PROSECUTORS

Federal District Court Judge Dickran Tevrizian and the Armenian Bar Association co-hosted a gala reception at the Burger Continental restaurant in Pasadena, California, for a team of ten prosecutors and investigators from Yerevan and Gyumri, Armenia on December 16, 1997. Cocktails and a sumptuous dinner were served to the attendees by the staff of the famous Armenian-owned eatery.

The trip for the guests from Armenia was organized and sponsored by the American Bar Association (ABA), Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI). The two-week visit entailed meetings with U.S. prosecutors, judges and defense counsel in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, with the goal of providing a practical

(Continued on page 8)

The Report of the Chair
by Prof. ANN LOUSIN, Chair of the Board of Governors

When I spoke to our assembled members in Yerevan on October 1, 1997, I outlined several projects the Armenian Bar Association should consider undertaking in the next few months or years.

Most of the projects dealt with helping the Republic of Armenia, particularly the Law Department of Yerevan State University (YSU) and the LL.M. program at the American University of Armenia (AUA). We were impressed with YSU’s new dean, Gagik Ghazinian, and the changes he has made. The classrooms are undergoing renovation, and he is hiring new, young professors who have studied in the West. The ArmenBar library, of which we are so proud, is still a research center.

The new AUA program complements, not competes with, YSU. It is an LL.M. program, not a J.D. program.

(Continued on page 10)

UPDATE ON THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Armenian Bar Association has set Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the venue and April 17-19, 1998, as the date for the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Association.

If you live in the Phili area and/or would like to participate in organizing the meeting, please call Lucy Varpetian at (310) 939-9263.
LEGALISTIVE AND JUDICIAL UPDATE FROM ARMENIA

by MHAER ALAHYDOIAN, Esq.

During its current term, Armenia’s National Assembly adopted numerous new laws and amendments to previously-adopted legislation. The following is a brief summary of some of the recently-adopted laws.

ENERGY
The Law on Energy, which consists of 8 chapters and 48 articles, regulates the relationship between the government and the energy producers and other actors in the energy industry. The law includes certain tariffs on thermal and other energy, including natural gas.

The law also defines the regulatory framework to govern relations between energy distributors and consumers. Under the new energy law, regulatory mechanisms have been established, including the Energy Commission, whose purposes include providing regulatory control, consistency and stability in the energy industry. The Energy Commission’s authority includes the authority to license entities for energy production, transmission and distribution.

BUDGET
The Law on the Budget System establishes the general rules regarding budget management, regulations on the state and local government budgets, and liabilities for various violations of this law.

RELIGION
The Law on Religious Organizations and Freedom of Conscience was amended to include a provision that religious organizations are prohibited from giving or receiving financial support from political parties. The new law also creates the priest-confessor right to confidentiality from government and judicial inquiry.

Other seminars provided presentations and discussion opportunities specifically on the draft civil code and the draft law on the judiciary. Drafters of these laws (for example, Vladimir Nazaryan and his staff attorneys who have worked on the draft civil code) made presentations and participated in healthy debates on the draft laws. Copies of the draft civil code, other draft laws and legal publications were distributed to participants.

MISCELLANEOUS
Amendments were also adopted to the Law on Collateral and the Law on Local Government, including certain provisions regarding the retirement of the Marzbed (governor) and new interpretations of provisions regarding tax evasion. Other legislative amendments adopted by the National Assembly include amendments to the Laws on State Pension, Highways, Excise Tax, Tariffs on Cars Registered Abroad, Customs Tariffs and Duties, the Civil Code, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Civil Procedure, and the Administrative Misdemeanor Code.

REQUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR ARMENIAN JUDGES
Armenian judges have begun a comprehensive judicial requalification process, including a professional competence examination to be taken by all judges and prospective judges. The examination is scheduled to be administered beginning in the spring of 1998. This requalification program was developed and adopted by a special commission consisting of representatives from the judiciary, the National Assembly, the Ministry of Justice, the Prime Minister’s office and Yerevan State University Law Faculty. Preparation courses are held in the evenings at Yerevan State University and the Academy of Sciences. The subject matter of the courses includes important draft laws and codes, including the civil and criminal codes.

Continuing Legal Education
During the last few months, the Armenian Judges’ Association continued its work toward creating an independent judiciary. A series of continuing legal education seminars on Armenian commercial law have been held. (Some financial and logistical support was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American University of Armenia.) One set of significant seminars focused on the Armenian commercial law in Armenia’s marzes, (regions). The seminars offered continuing legal education for judges and other legal professionals in the marzes, a group of professionals often neglected by international organizations.

Mhaer Alahydoian is an attorney from California working in Yerevan. During the past four years, he has taught at the American University of Armenia and at Yerevan State University Law Faculty as a Fulbright Scholar. This year he is the Associate Director of the new LL.M Program and the Projects Director of the Judicial and Legal Training Program at the American University of Armenia.
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND ON THE MOVE

Hon. Richard Amerian has joined the panel of judges and arbitrators at Alternative Resolution Center (A.R.C.). Prior to 1984, when he began as a private judge, Justice Amerian spent his judicial career on the Los Angeles Municipal Court, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and the California Court of Appeal.

Stephan W. Baghdassarian was appointed to the position of Treasurer of Young Executives of America. The purpose of YEA is to preserve the entrepreneurial spirit of America through a pro-business agenda that focuses on fiscal conservatism and public policy conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The Law Offices of Stephan W. Baghdassarian, Mr. Baghdassarian's law firm, is located in Encino, CA, and offers its clientele legal services with an emphasis on business, immigration and serious personal injury.

David M. Balabanian recently was a co-chair of the Committee to Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Bar Association of San Francisco. The gala celebration attracted over 1000 people, including California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George. It was successful in raising over $3 million. Mr. Balabanian is a former President of the Bar Association of San Francisco and the first President of the Armenian Bar Association. Based in San Francisco, Mr. Balabanian currently is the chairman of the international law firm of McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen.

John Balian, who is a member of the Bankruptcy Section of the Executive Committee of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, co-hosted a seminar entitled “Life After Bankruptcy” on October 30, 1997. Mr. Balian is a partner in the Sherman Oaks-based firm of Balian & Bergstein, LLP. He holds a masters degree in taxation and is a former IRS Agent. His practice focuses upon tax controversies, discharge of tax in bankruptcy, wills, trusts and estate planning.

Victor H. Boyajian was appointed by Governor Christie Todd Whitman of New Jersey to be on the Counsel of Economic Advisors. Mr. Boyajian also sits on the Governor’s Council and on the Board of Editors of The Corporate Counsellor. He practices corporate and securities law, with a special focus on corporate finance, at Sills, Cumminis, Zuckerman, Radin, Tishman, Epstein & Gross, PA, in Newark, NJ. Mr. Boyajian served on the Association’s Board of Governors in 1994.

Lisa Esayian became a partner of Kirkland & Ellis on October 1, 1997. Ms Esayian's national practice includes commercial litigation, environmental and toxic tort litigation and insurance coverage. Along with serving on the Association's Newsletter Committee, Ms. Esayian’s pro bono efforts include acting as advisor to the Baroness Cox Foundation in forming a 501(c)(3). She is based in Chicago, IL.


Roland H. Kedikian, a recent graduate of Southwestern University School of Law and a new admittee to the State Bar of California, has established the Law Office of Roland H. Kedikian, in Arcadia, CA, where he practices personal injury and consumer bankruptcy.

Karnig Kerkonian, a student member at the University of Chicago Law School, was selected to be a member of the University of Chicago Law Review. He also received his diploma in international law from Cambridge University (U.K.) this fall. He hopes to publish his thesis, “The Normative Foundations of International Law: An Analysis of Hugo Grotius’s De Jure Belli ac Pacis.”

Lora Keshishian is the Vice-President and Associate General Counsel of PHP Healthcare Corporation, which is located in Reston, VA and specializes in managed care and integrated delivery systems. Ms. Keshishian served on the Association’s Executive Committee from 1991 to 1993.

Dan Maljanian and his wife Patrice celebrated the grand opening of Ann MeMe’s Bakery & Cafe. The bakery is dedicated to serve the food of their Armenian heritage and of the Mediterranean, and is located in Alexandria, VA. Mr. Maljanian’s entrepreneurial spirit was also active in 1993, when after graduating from U.S. Berkeley’s Boalt Hall and engaging in the private practice of law, he formed TARA-Technical Assistance for the Republic of Armenia.

Simon Kalajian Mekevi recently joined Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. in Calabasas, California, as Vice-President and Counsel. Mr. Mekevi’s areas of practice include corporate law, and mergers and acquisitions. Mr. Mekevi previously practiced at Arter & Hadden in its Los Angeles and Dallas offices. Mr. Mekevi is a 1992 graduate of Southwestern University School of Law.

Talin Yacoubian, Nairie A. Balian and Louise Varpetian spoke at an AGBU Hye Geen seminar on October 6, 1997, at Yerevan State University Department of Sociology, entitled “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.” Ms. Yacoubian is an associate at Christensen, White, Miller, Fink, & Jacobs, where she practices business and entertainment litigation; Ms. Balian has established her own firm, where she practices civil litigation, with an emphasis on wrongful termination, insurance coverage, family law and personal injury; and Ms. Varpetian is an associate at Andersen, Keleher & Spata, where she practices real estate and land use law.

CONDOLENCES

The Armenian Bar Association extends sympathies to the family and friends of Michel Esayian, who died in February 1997. Mr. Esayian had been a member of the Association since 1989. He was a partner at D’Luzon & Esayian in Hartford, Connecticut, where he practiced general civil litigation.

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

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WE DID IT AGAIN! SECOND ARMENBAR MEETING IN YEREVAN

by JACK VAHAN BOURNAZIAN

"A
rmenia is now our responsibility. For centuries, when
there was anything bad in Armenia we could blame
others: the Soviets, the Russians, the Turks... Now we must
take responsibility for anything wrong in Armenia, just as we
take credit for anything good."

That was the message of Karekin I, Catholicos of All
Armenians, to ArmenBar members and others at an audience
after "badarak" on October 5, 1997, at Holy Etchmiadzin.

The Armenian Bar Association held its 1997 Mid-Year
Meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, attracting lawyers from the
United States and Canada for a three-day meeting.

Day One -- YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Although many of us arrived in late September, we met
officially for the first time at a business meeting on the morn-
ing of October 1st at Yerevan State University (YSU). Dean
Gagik Ghazinyan of the Law Faculty welcomed us in a newly
refurbished classroom. Prof. Ann Lousin, Chair of the Board
of Governors, presented him with a gift to support the pub-
lication of a year of issues of the "Yerevan State Law Journal,"
a European-style law review.

Dean Ghazinyan acknowledged ArmenBar's continuing
efforts to improve legal education in Armenia. He especially
thanked ArmenBar for sponsoring the Legal Research Center
at YSU for over five years. Reporters from the Yerevan media
interviewed some ArmenBar members.

Day Two -- THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

The second day of our meeting began at the Constitutional
Court, at a meeting arranged by Associate Justice Alvina
Gulumian. Her efforts to provide judicial education have
encouraged judicial independence in Armenia.

Chief Justice Gagik Haroutunian spoke to us at length
about the Court. The Constitutional Court began in
February, 1996, and has decided approximately forty cases. Its
justices have lifetime appointments. The Court is working to
develop judicial training programs. The Chief Justice believes
that judicial competence is the key to judicial independence.

The Court has jurisdiction over inter-agency governmental
disputes, electoral disputes and appeals from lower court
decisions. It can also assume jurisdiction on its own initia-
tive. Perhaps the most intriguing power of the Court is its
power to issue advisory opinions on treaties the government
is considering ratifying. The Court examines a proposed
treaty to see if it conflicts with Armenia's constitution or
statutes. If there is a conflict, the government can reject the
treaty, seek to amend the treaty or seek to amend the statutes.

The Court holds open sessions. Once it even provided a
live video broadcast of its proceedings so that members of the
press and public who could not squeeze into the crowded
courtroom could follow the proceedings.

The Chief Justice guided us through the splendid court-
room and offices. He is especially proud of the two CD-
ROM legal research systems the Court uses to research
Armenian and foreign law in both Armenian and Russian.
He said that the Court was trying to find ways to disseminate
its decisions. The Court has a web-site: http://www.con-
court.am/1700.

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

Members met with Mherer Alahydoian, Associate Dean of
the new LL.M. program of the American University of
Armenia (AUA). The LL.M. program is a graduate-level pro-
gram that introduces new lawyers to the rudiments of
Western law in two years of evening classes.

Mr. Alahydoian explained that the curriculum is demand-
ing because it is conducted in English and because the stu-
dents attend class in addition to working up to sixty hours a
week at their respective jobs. The common law system of
thought meets with resistance because Armenian lawyers rely
on legal philosophy rather than case histories, as the basis of
their jurisprudence.

The 1997 Summer Quarter offered courses in International
Commercial Law, State and Constitutional Law, and Agency
and Partnership Law. The Fall Quarter offered courses in
Introduction to Business Organizations and International Finance Law. The schedule for the 1998 Spring Quarter offers International Trade Law, Islamic Law or Public International Law and Environmental Law. The schedule for the 1998 Summer Quarter offers International Commercial Law, International Arbitration, and Public Law. Mr. Alahydoian always is looking for experienced professors and practitioners to teach for a quarter or more.

We were excited to learn that the L.M. students are preparing a guide to commercial law in Armenia for foreign investors.

The AUA’s new president, Haroutune Armenian, invited us to attend the AUA commencement on October 5th, which was an American-style graduation with robes and processionalists.

Day Three -- HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

On the third day of the meeting, members re-grouped at YSU, this time to meet with human rights groups, advocacy organizations and U.S. Embassy staff. Hovhannes Asrian presided over this meeting. Mr. Asrian is vice-president of the Avangard Center for Humitarian Research and represents those accused of crimes and defendants in the "Dashnak" trials. Edig Mamigonian, president of Avangard, spoke of his concerns about the occasional deaths of young soldiers in the army during peace-time and of the tension between advocacy for human and individual rights and the government’s interest in national security. Avangard has written research papers. It has an e-mail address: avang@arminco.com.

Participants came from many different organizations. A representative of the Sakharov Fund spoke about elections, arbitrary arrests and the peace-time deaths of soldiers. Jora Arkhverian of the Law Association reminded everyone that Armenian history shows that Armenians can rebuild their society and should not look to others. Avetik Iskanian of the Helsinki Watch Group advocated formation of a coordinating committee of all of Armenia’s human rights groups to represent a stronger front and to avoid duplication of efforts. He maintained that the only way to achieve respect for human rights is through advocacy for human rights.

Members and Yerevan colleagues continued discussions throughout the day and into the evening at a reception at the Parajanov Museum, which is dedicated to the genius of Sergei Parajanov, a Soviet-era Armenian filmmaker (e.g., "The Color of Pomegranates"). Ashot Boghosian of Arax Company arranged for the facilities and the buffet of local wines and delicious specialties.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During our stay members were able to renew old friendships. Moreover, members in Yerevan, Matthew Der Manouelian and Gahm Markarian, updated us on commercial developments. Mr. Markarian currently is the on-site representative of the American Bar Association’s Central and Eastern European Law Initiative.

One "special event" was the champagne celebration to commemorate the signing of the joint venture between First Dynasty Mining Corporation and the Armenian Ministry of Trade and Tourism to mine and process gold that Yerevan jewelers can fashion into world-class jewelry. Van Krikorian, an ArmenBar member, helped arrange the deal. Minister Garnik Nanagulian, who presided at the signing, had spoken at ArmenBar’s 1996 mid-year meeting in Toronto.

Many participants also tried to help local groups. Tamar Hajian and Garo Yeghnikian spent time with the orphans’ fund they help run. Lee Palvetzian, along with his mother and sisters and Harry Dorian, with his wife, spent hours with their philanthropic activities for children. Harry also rekindled friendships he made while teaching at AUA last year. Jim Derian, a YSU alumnus, also found old friends.

THANKS!

ArmenBar thanks two AUA L.M. students Garen Gevorkian and Serge Arakelian, who greeted each midnight flight and stayed with meeting participants every day. We also thank L.M. student Anna Abrahamian. We hope to see more of these bright young lawyers. Finally, we thank architect Leon Melikian for his beautifully designed and etched obsidian souvenir gift to each meeting participant. Above all, we thank our Yerevan colleagues and friends, who have all devoted themselves to Hayastan. We join in their determination to maintain a democratic, independent Armenia and a civil society under a rule of law.

Jack V. Bournazian is an Immigration attorney practicing in San Diego, California, and will be teaching at Arzakh State University beginning March, 1998. Mr. Bournazian is a contributing writer to ArmenBar Newsletter.
ARMENIAN BAR SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC

The ArmenBar held its second annual L.A. picnic on September 14, 1997, among the majestic oak trees of Verdugo Park in Glendale, California. About two hundred members, their family and friends participated in the festivities and enjoyed a delicious kebab luncheon, Armenian music and socializing with friends and colleagues.

Following the luncheon, Executive Director Lousine Varpetian welcomed everyone and introduced U.S. District Court Judge Dickran Tevrizian. Judge Tevrizian noted that his inspiration for organizing the picnic was the wonderful memories he had while growing up in California, when the Armenian community would gather for weekend picnics. He hoped the Association’s efforts in sponsoring the picnic would give members and their family and friends, once again, the opportunity to experience the fun of having a community picnic together. He praised the Association for being an active ethnic bar association. He encouraged members to continue to be involved in the Association’s worthwhile activities, especially those that involve legal assistance to Armenia and the Association’s education and pro bono activities. Other special guests at the picnic included: Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ronald M. Sohigian, Los Angeles Municipal Court Judges Alice Alton, and Jacob Adajian and Juvenile Court Judge Raymond Morales.

Entertaining the picnic-goers with lively traditional Armenian music was a trio consisting of Association member Armen Tashjian, Mgerdich Hagopian and Jirair Torossian. Many participants enjoyed dancing to the music. Winners of a raffle held during the picnic received gifts ranging from replicas of Armenian khatchkars to CD’s of Armenian music from the Garni record label.

The event was organized by Judge Tevrizian, his former law clerk Raffi Nahabedian, Lousine Varpetian and Association Treasurer Vicken Simonian. Special thanks to Burger Continental in Pasadena, who catered the event. Due to the enthusiastic turnout for the first two picnics, the Association plans on making this event a yearly tradition.
THE BABAYAN FUND: 5 YEARS LATER

You may not realize it, but many of the special projects of the Armenian Bar Association are financed by a special fund, not by ArmenBar’s general treasury. This fund, The Babayan Fund, has enabled ArmenBar to send law books, computers and other materials to the Republic of Armenia and to support exchanges by Armenians on visits to the U.S. and diaspora lawyers on visits to Armenia.

In the Summer of 1991, just before Armenia became independent, John Yervant Kouyoumdjian of Hendersonville, NC, and his nephew, Vigen Babayan of Waban, MA, realized that the emerging republic would need help in developing a new and democratic legal system. They knew that diaspora lawyers would have to help Armenia lawyers to study in legal institutions in the West.

They created the Khosrov & Nectar Babayan Fund, honoring Yervant’s sister and brother-in-law, who were among the builders of the first Armenian Republic in 1918. They chose the new Armenian Bar Association’s Tamar Hajian to be the administrator of the Fund.

Since, 1991, the Fund has sent much-needed aid to Armenia. It provided law library books, computers and other material for the Supreme Court of Armenia, the Academy and the Law Faculty of Yerevan State University (“YSU”). Most significantly, it established a legal research center at YSU and helps to support the publication of the law faculty’s new law review, the Yerevan State University Law Journal.

The Fund also has underwritten dozens of publications in Armenia, ranging from treatises to popular texts on the constitution, the rule of law, the principles of a civil society, human rights, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, consumer protection and voting rights.

Perhaps the farthest-reaching of the Fund’s projects has been the sponsorship of an exchange program. It has enabled over twenty lawyers, journalists and professors in the Republic of Armenia to make “working visits” to the United States. Many have attended and spoken at ArmenBar meetings. Several young diaspora lawyers have received support for their work in Armenia.

The Fund and ArmenBar are very proud of their “alumni.” These include:

1992 (D.C. meeting) Tariel Barsghian, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Alvina Gulumian, Justice of the Supreme Court and now Justice of the Constitutional Court; Garen Chilingirian, Computer Director of the Supreme Court; and Hovhannes Asrian, bar association counsel, who later studied at George Washington University Law School as a Muskie Fellow, from which he received an LLM., and who is now a human rights lawyer in Yerevan.

1993 (Los Angeles meeting) Henrik Khachatryan, Academy Director and now the Procurator General; Edward Mamigonian, member of the Arbitration Court and now President of Avagard Human Rights Organization; Rafael Petrossian, Dean of Yerevan State Law Faculty and now a professor there; Hamlet Hovsepian, a member of parliament; and Boris Ossipian of the Ministry of Justice, who received an LLM. from Emory University.

1994 (Boston meeting) Aida Iskoyan, Professor at the YSU Law Faculty and now also with the CEELI Environmental Law Project; Garnik Safarian, researcher at the Academy of Sciences Law Institute; Armen Haroutunian, a lecturer at YSU Professor; and Vahram Soghomonian, an entrepreneur who is now President and CEO of Armentel.

1995 (Los Angeles meeting) Dikran Janoyan, Marineh Halabian and Nora Mirzoyan, all private attorneys; and Armen Khachatrian, Legal Advisor to the President.

1996 (New York City meeting) Rouben Sahakian, a human rights attorney; and Flora Nahshakarian, editor of Golos Armenii, an independent, Russian-language newspaper.

1997 (San Francisco meeting) David Shahzadeyan, a Muskie Fellow at the University of Georgia Law School, where he received his LLM. and who is now at the World Bank in Yerevan; and David Sargsian, a Muskie Fellow at Notre Dame Law School, where he received his LLM. and who is now with the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Congratulations to the Babayan Fund of the Armenian Bar Association on a fantastically successful first five years and deepest gratitude to those who established the Fund and those who now support it!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Economic Consulting Services seeks someone with a law or economics degree and a background in trade policy. The person would be posted in Yerevan for 18-24 months, starting early in 1998. The position operates under the auspices of the European Economic Union, as part of a EEU-TASS program. For further information, call 202-466-7720.
BOGOSIAN:  NON-TRADITIONAL LAWYER STARTS LOBBYING FIRM

Joe Bogosian sighs and says, “I think I’m coming to terms with not being a commercial litigator.” In July 1998, after eight years of government and public affairs work, Bogosian founded his own lobbying and public relations firm—jbStrategies. He currently represents the Armenian Assembly of America, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, the University of Miami North-South Center, and a Latin American import/export company.

“It was somewhat difficult while in law school to realize that I may never use my J.D. to practice law because of where my interests lay,” says Bogosian. He recalls, “even after two and a half years working in Congress and a year with Burger King’s Government Affairs Department, I was applying to litigation firms.” Then, the Vice President for Government Affairs at Burger King said flatly “Joe, you’re not a lawyer, you’re a lobbyist.” He muses “it’s hard enough to admit that you’re a lobbyist let alone a lawyer/lobbyist.”

In 1986, Bogosian took his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and immediately began working for the late Congressman Jim Howard. After moving home to Miami and a year with the Florida firm of Steel, Hector and Davis, he enrolled at the University of Miami School of Law. While in law school, Joe spent a year at Burger King and a summer at the House International Relations Committee. Returning to D.C. with the law firm of Jorden, Burt, Berenson and Johnson, Bogosian began working for the lobbying partner representing cities and universities before Congress and Executive Branch agencies. He then made the complete transition to The Jefferson Group, a lobbying and public relations firm.

Once at TJG, Bogosian brought the Government of Armenia on as a client and settled into the international group — Jefferson Waterman International. He spent four years at TJG representing the Governments of Armenia, Croatia, Romania, and Quebec as well as a number of US companies with interests abroad. Bogosian believes that his litigation skills training during law school is what applies most directly to lobbying. “As a lobbyist,” says Bogosian “you basically are arguing a case before a jury of Congressmen, legislative staff and Administration officials.” He offers that “crafting just the right argument for court is not too different from formulating the right arguments before Washington audiences.” “Except there’s no blue booking involved,” he laughs.

For Bogosian, the decision to strike out on his own was due to a variety of factors. He says, “by the third and fourth year at Jefferson Group, I was basically charged with the day-to-day maintenance of the accounts.” “When the Armenian Assembly offered to hire me for half my time for a year, I figured it was a good time to gamble,” reflects Bogosian. Now, he is faced with the pressures not only of servicing clients but maintaining the necessary administrative efforts as well. “That’s the most interesting realization in starting your own firm,” says Bogosian “that you have to find, service and retain clients as well as invoice them and maintain all business records.”

Bogosian takes comfort in the fact that close friends who have taken this road have maintained and grown their practices. He figures his options are to grow the company and hire employees, or team up with another small group or sell into a larger firm. “Regardless,” he says “the constantly evolving challenges and the intense people contact keep the job fun.” He laughs, “it’s also fun when commercial litigator friends ask if there are any future openings in jbStrategies.”

TEVRIZIAN/ARMENBAR CO-HOST RECEPTION, continued from page 1

and realistic understanding of the U.S. criminal justice system.

The reception was attended by over 65 members including judges Ronald Sofhigian, Arjuna Saraydarian, Ken Norian, Maral Injejian and Alice Altoon. Judge Tevrizian welcomed the distinguished guests and praised CEELI and the ABA for organizing a very worthwhile and practical trip. He also encouraged more Armenian Bar members to consider a career as a judge.

The guests from Armenia included Aleksan Andriasyan, Aristakes Barseghyan, Davit Davtyan, Artur Goyunyan, Martin Manukyan, Mihran Minasyan, Vahagn Muradyan, Vahram Shahinyan, Aleksandr Sirunyan, and Aleksey Sukoyan. They were awarded certificates for their participation in the program, and in turn offered sincere thanks to CEELI and ARMENBAR for sponsoring the trip and reception.
$500 Scholarship Available for 40-hour Commitment to Domestic Violence Clinic

Unfortunately, domestic violence relief organizations in Southern California regularly receive requests for assistance from Armenian-speaking victims. In order to help meet this need, ArmenBar has created two $500 scholarships for a 40-hour commitment to domestic violence clinics. The first scholarship recipient is Anahid Adamian of Glendale, California. Ms. Adamian currently is a law student at Whittier Law School. Ms. Adamian will gain clinical experience and help fill a need by Armenian victims. Following a training program offered by the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, Ms. Adamian will assist victims of domestic violence to obtain restraining orders against their batterers from the California Superior Court, in Burbank, Van Nuys and San Fernando.

The remaining scholarship will be awarded for the winter/spring semester. If you are interested in applying for the $500 scholarship, please contact Anahid Gharakhanian at (213) 892-2010 to request an application. The application deadline is January 31, 1998.

ArmenBar salutes the public spirit and generosity of Anahid Gharakhanian, who made these scholarships possible by donating $1,000.00 she was awarded by Chadbourne & Parke LLP for her own pro bono efforts and dedicated the funds to this important and sincerely appreciated public service. Ms. Gharakhanian currently is the Chair of the Association’s Pro Bono Committee.

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

STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

by ARLENE A. MAYIS, Chair Student Affairs Committee

Since September, sixteen students who have submitted complete applications have successfully been matched with practicing attorneys who have agreed to serve as mentors. I encourage all participants to reap maximum benefit from these relationships.

Students — don’t be shy about calling your mentors and ASKING your questions. Your mentors are ready and willing to help and offer practical, realistic advice. It’s competitive out there and information (or is it oil) is power. All you have to do is ask, and often you will find that what you are experiencing is not unique. Someone likely has been there before or written something about it!

Mentors — thank you for your generous contribution. The relationships you are creating are likely to be long lasting and satisfying. You know best the strategies, resources and realities of the practices in which you engage on a daily basis.

If you are interested in participating in this program as either a mentor or mentee, use the attached form. If you keep sending them in, we’ll keep matching them up.
ARMENBAR SENDS LETTER TO UCLA REGARDING TURKISH GOVERNMENT’S PROPOSED CHAIR

On October 17, 1997, the Armenian Bar Association, by a fax and telephone vote of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors, voted to send a letter to the University of California at Los Angeles regarding the proposed Chair in Ottoman and Turkish History. Senior officials of the university received the letter the following day.

As readers of the Armenian newspapers and the Los Angeles Times have already learned, the government of the Republic of Turkey had proposed funding the Chair in Ottoman and Turkish History at UCLA. This is the latest of a series of chairs at major American universities that the Turkish government seeks to establish.

Many of the Turkish History Chair proposals at American universities contain language requiring the holder of the chair to be, in effect, part of the Turkish scholarly network on the Ottoman Empire, including using the Ottoman archives. Since Turkish the government decides who uses the archives (and has recently banned one German Armenianologist from using them), this language effectively limits the number of people who can hold these chairs.

The ArmenBar letter pointed out that “any recipient of the public funds of Turkey must therefore ask what the purpose of the expenditure (of setting up chairs) is” and suggested that “the primary purpose of these donations has been to advance the Turkish government’s continuing denial of the Armenian genocide.” It concluded by asking UCLA to consider the “danger to U.C.L.A.’s academic freedom and prestige” before accepting funds from the Turkish government.

The ArmenBar letter was one of the first of many from Armenian organizations UCLA received. On December 5, 1997, largely through the effective presentation and advocacy of Professor Richard G. Hovannisian, the UCLA history department rejected the Turkish offer. ArmenBar will continue to monitor the situation at UCLA and at other universities across the nation.

SAVE THESE DATES...

--- JANUARY 23, 1998 ---
Reception at the home of Vicken Simonian
- Glendale, California

--- FEBRUARY 26, 1998 ---
Seminar on the International Criminal Court
co-sponsored with the United Nations Association,
Pasadena Chapter and other organizations
- Los Angeles, California

--- APRIL 17-19, 1998 ---
Annual Meeting
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

... More Information to Follow

CHAIR’S REPORT, continued from page 1

In effect, it provides graduates of YSU Law School with advanced legal training in comparative law and international business, all in the English language. Both programs are very impressive and deserve our help in obtaining educational materials and, in the case of the AUA, teachers.

However, I also suggested that ArmenBar consider spearheading a completely different program: obtaining a list of the residents of the Ottoman Empire who held accounts in Swiss banks at the time of the First World War, circa 1910-1920. Obviously, I am most interested in discovering if Ottoman Armenians who perished had accounts that are lying dormant.

The next step would be to help find their heirs and, if there are no heirs to be found, determining whether the funds could be withdrawn from the banks and sent to elderly, needy Genocide survivors.

I realize this a major project. However, shortly after the Holocaust depositors’ list was published last summer, several of our members suggested we begin exploring the possibilities. I have contacted Jewish community members here in Chicago and the Chicago chapter of the Hellenic Bar Association. All have been most helpful.

So far, I have expended only my time, money and energy. Eventually, I shall have to report to the Board on this issue and ask for a vote on whether we should begin contacting the major Armenian organizations about proceeding with this project.

How many Ottoman Armenians had money in Swiss banks? I cannot tell. However, we must act now, if we act at all. Please give me your thoughts.
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* Auxiliary Members may participate in the Association, but without the right to vote or hold office.
Please detach this application and send together with your check to:

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PLEASE USE THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 1998 DUES
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

COMMITTED TO SERVE

The Armenian Bar Association NEWSLETTER is published periodically by the Armenian Bar Association. Members and friends of the Association receive a subscription to the NEWSLETTER as part of their membership.

Articles, letters and other submissions should be sent to Editor, Lisa Barsoomian Esq., Armenian Bar Association NEWSLETTER P.O. Box 29111 Los Angeles, CA 90029 Telephone: (310) 939-9263. Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Armenian Bar Association.