Armenian Bar Association Mid-Year Meeting

If you haven’t done so already, start making plans to attend the ArmenBar Mid-Year Meeting, September 17-18 in Chicago. Events will be held at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Chicago, a 15 story, 185-room and suite hotel located just one block from Michigan Avenue near the “Magnificent Mile” and its renowned shops and fine restaurants.

The schedule of events, is as follows:

**Friday, September 17, 2004**
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Meeting of the Board of Governors at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Chicago
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception at Oscar Isberian Rugs Showroom 122 West Kinzie, Chicago, Illinois.

**Saturday, September 18, 2004**
Mid Year Meeting at The John Marshall Law School, 315 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Business Meeting.
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel Discussion on the New York Life Insurance Company Litigation and Proposed Settlement.
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon
Keynote Speaker
Amy Hoogasian
“Trends in Immigration Law Today”
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Reception

(Continued on page 14)
AN INTERVIEW WITH CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE

By Melineh B. Verma

In an effort to engage politicians on Armenian-American issues, the ArmenBar recently conducted a Question & Answer session with Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ). We thank Congressman Pallone for graciously agreeing to answer all questions posed to him on a host of topics of interest to Armenian-Americans. His frank and detailed responses are printed in full below:

ArmenBar: How did you first become interested in Armenian issues?

F. P.: When I was elected to Congress in 1988, one of the original members of my staff was Ms. Rosalie Chorbajian, who had previously worked for my predecessor. She is responsible for bringing to my attention the situation in Armenia and the plight of the people living in that country, which had just suffered a major earthquake and was engaged in a war for Nagorno-Karabagh. Rosalie suggested that I form a Congressional Caucus that would deal with Armenian issues, as they relate to Armenia as well as the diaspora that exists in this country.

ArmenBar: What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Armenian diaspora today?

F. P.: Certainly, as with many ethnic minorities, assimilation is a significant struggle for the Armenian diaspora. Armenian-Americans that have been in the United States for a longer period of time struggle with maintaining their culture and traditions, while still adapting to their adopted homelands. On the other hand, a large portion of the Armenian diaspora that consists of more recent immigrants must overcome the various obstacles associated with being in a new country. The challenges they face include not only language barriers, but also unfamiliarity with the legal and political process in the United States.

I feel that advocacy groups such as the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee of America play a significant role, by serving as a tool through which Armenian-Americans can better understand and participate in the U.S. political and democratic process. In addition, cultural and philanthropic organizations such as the Armenian Relief Society and the Armenian General Benevolent Union do their part in aiding Armenia and the Armenians who remain there, while also ensuring that Armenian culture be kept alive within the diaspora.

ArmenBar: What do you think is the most effective way for diasporan Armenians to educate non-Armenians about Armenian issues?

F. P.: The most effective way for diasporan Armenians to educate non-Armenians about Armenian issues would be to get involved politically and try to affect a change from within the governmental structure. Working along with non-Armenian policy makers provides diasporans the opportunity not only to voice their opinions but to also have them heard by people who are in a position of authority or who have the means to bring Armenian issues to the forefront of the political arena.

On a more informal level, diasporans can also promote awareness of Armenian issues by simply keeping themselves informed and up to date on current affairs. Their knowledge of the issues combined with a willingness to discuss Armenian matters forms a sort of small-scale advocacy network that can be incredibly successful.

ArmenBar: How would you describe the current relationship between the United States and Armenia? What are some of the strong points and what are some of the obstacles?

F. P.: In looking at the relationship between the U.S. and Armenia, one can see both strong points, as well as areas in need of improvement. The weak point in U.S.-Armenia relations is due to political pressures: for example, the U.S. government is usually unwilling to take a tougher stance against the blockades and trade embargos placed on Armenia by her neighbors, Turkey and Azerbaijan, due to strategic military interests. However, recently the House Appropriations Committee secured $65 million in humanitarian aid to Armenia and despite political pressure, the U.S. has been a great friend to Armenia, providing over $1.4 billion in assistance to Armenia over the last decade. Due to Turkish/Azerbaijani blockades and the earthquake of 1989, the U.S. is now

(Continued on page 4)
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND ON THE MOVE

Harry Sarkis Cherken, Jr. was voted one of the top 100 lawyers in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia in Super Lawyers by the publishers of Philadelphia Magazine and Law & Politics. Harry was also specifically listed as one of Pennsylvania’s Super Lawyers in Real Estate. Harry earned his JD degree from Villanova University in 1976 and currently specializes in real estate matters. Harry can be reached at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, One Logan Square, 18th & Cherry Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Tel.: (215) 988-2721; Fax: (215) 988-2757; E-mail: Harry.Cherken@db.com.

Mark S. Horoupian was recently named partner at Sulmeyer Kupetz. Mark graduated from Loyola Law School in 1994 and specializes in bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation, commercial real estate and business litigation. Mark can be reached at Sulmeyer Kupetz, 333 South Hope Street, Thirty-Fifth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071; Tel.: (213) 626-2311; Fax: (213) 629-4520; E-mail: mhoroupian@slmeylaw.com.

Canadian Liaison Vasken Khabayan recently accepted a position at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada. In August 2004, Vasken will move to Geneva, Switzerland, where he will work for three years as a Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization (WTO). He will be working on cases brought before WTO panels regarding trade disputes involving Canada. Prior to accepting this new position, Vasken had been practicing civil and commercial litigation in Toronto until the summer of 2002, when he moved to Ottawa to join the Department as a Legal Officer in the Criminal, Security and Treaty Law Division of the Legal Bureau. In 2003, Vasken was assigned to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York working as an Advisor in the 6th (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly. Vasken can currently be reached at Criminal, Security and Treaty Law Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, C7-226, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2; Tel.: (613) 944-3034; Fax: (613) 944-0870; E-mail: vasken.khabayan@dfaitmaeci.gc.ca.

Albert Momjian was voted one of the top 10 lawyers in Pennsylvania and one of the top 100 Philadelphia lawyers in Super Lawyers by the publishers of Philadelphia Magazine and Law & Politics. Albert was also specifically listed as one of Pennsylvania’s Super Lawyers in Family Law. Albert earned his JD degree from Columbia University in 1957 and currently specializes in family law matters. Albert can be reached at Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, 1600 Market Street, Suite 3600, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Tel.: (215) 751-2516; Fax: (215) 751-2205; E-mail: amomjian@shsl.com.

Mark Momjian was voted one of Pennsylvania’s Super Lawyers in Family Law. Mark earned his JD degree from Columbia University in 1986 and currently specializes in family law matters. Mark can be reached at Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, 1600 Market Street, Suite 3600, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Tel.: (215) 751-2524; Fax: (215) 751-2205; E-mail: mmomjian@shsl.com.

Armenian Bar Association Vice-Chair Gary Moomjian has recently moved his firm, Moomjian & Waite, LLP. Their new address is 100 Jericho Quadrangle - Suite 225, Jericho, New York 11753; Tel.: (516) 937-5900, Ext. 47; Fax: (516) 937-5050; E-mail: garym@mwwilplaw.com.

Newsletter Co-Chair John Kevork Shamsey was recently elected by the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners to the Sarasota Historic Preservation Board and County Historical Commission. In addition to his new job on the Commission, John is an attorney in the law firm of Dooley & Drake. John earned his JD degree from Florida State University College of Law in 2002. John can be reached at Dooley & Drake, 1432 First Street, Sarasota, FL 34236; Tel.: (941) 954-7750; Fax: (941) 951-1509; E-mail: shamsey@sbcglobal.net.

On May 2, 2004, past Board of (Continued on page 18)

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

Robert E. Cannuscio, Esq.
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Editors
Armenian Bar Association
working closely with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to promote economic development and nurture the budding free-market system in Armenia. Moreover, the U.S. receives 8.3% of Armenia’s total exports. Also, USAID has been instrumental in creating a technological base in Armenia, and the U.S. government is dedicated to the success of Armenia’s democratic system. It is clear that there is currently a strong and healthy relationship between Armenia and the U.S., and it is my belief that it can be strengthened even further.

ArmenBar: Can you tell us about the Armenian Caucus in the House? How large is it, what issues do you discuss, and do you think it is an effective Caucus?

F. P.: The Armenian Caucus was formed in 1995. I founded the Caucus with the hope of having it serve as a vehicle by which members of Congress could address the issues that relate to Armenia and Armenian-Americans. Currently, the Caucus is Chaired by myself and Congressman Joe Knollenberg of Michigan. The Caucus boasts a membership of 131 members and continues to grow. Ensuring foreign aid for Armenia, Genocide Recognition, finding equitable and lasting peace in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and continuing to build on the strong U.S. and Armenia relationship are just some of the issues that the Caucus focuses on. Just in the last few months, the Caucus was able to ensure military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan, thus guaranteeing that both countries receive an equal amount in military assistance.

ArmenBar: How has the Bush White House handled the Armenian Genocide issue? Do you have any sense of whether a Kerry administration would handle the issue differently?

F. P.: Unfortunately, President Bush began his Administration by retracting from his campaign pledge to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide, a promise he made on the campaign trail back in February of 2000. Starting with his first April 24th statement, the President has ignored bi-partisan outcry, instead resorting to the use of evasive and euphemistic terminology to avoid calling the Armenian Genocide by its proper name - a clear instance of genocide.

When we talk about Senator Kerry, we are not talking about a candidate, like Governor Bush, who is simply making a campaign promise. We are, rather, looking at a serious legislator with a strong track record in support of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and on so many issues of concern to Armenian-Americans. Time after time, year after year, Senator Kerry has acted out his convictions, and stood with his Armenian-Americans friends as, together, they fought for official U.S. recognition of the Genocide, strengthened U.S.-Armenia ties and supported the Republic of Armenia and a fair and durable peace in Nagorno Karabagh. So, I am convinced, clearly, that Senator Kerry will handle this issue, consistent with his past record, by properly recognizing the Armenian Genocide and supporting legislation to do the same.

When Armenian-Americans go to the polls this November, they will have a clear choice. On the one hand, they will have President Bush, who has walked away from his commitments to the Armenian community. On the other, they will have Senator Kerry, a leading advocate of Armenian issues who has proven himself time and again as a friend of the Armenian community. I think that a Kerry White House would open an era of strengthened U.S.-Armenia relationship not seen since the presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

ArmenBar: Do you think the Congress will ever pass a resolution or other legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide?

F. P.: My hope is that that will certainly happen. House Resolution 193, which reaffirms the U.S. commitment to Genocide prevention, listing various crimes against humanity, including the Armenian Genocide, is waiting to be brought to the House Floor for a vote. In addition to backing away from his commitment to the Armenian-American community, President Bush has pressed the Congressional Republican leadership, in both houses, to block the adoption of the Genocide Resolution. Despite the existence of broad, bipartisan pro-Genocide Resolution majorities in the Senate and House, under pressure from the Bush Administration, the Republicans have prevented this human rights measure from coming to a vote. In a sense, they are thwarting the will of the Congress - the representatives of the American people - from speaking out on this important issue.

ArmenBar: Why has it been so difficult to get such a resolution passed?

F. P.: The truth of the matter is that one cannot suggest that it would be difficult to get a resolution passed, because a resolution has yet to be permitted to come to a floor vote. Due to political pressure, and the United States’ relationship with Turkey, the Leadership has yet to allow a vote to even take place.

ArmenBar: What can Armenian-Americans do to influence the Congress for official recognition of the Genocide?

F. P.: Unfortunately, with Turkey being a NATO ally of the U.S., the issue of genocide recognition is complicated tremendously. Instead of it being an issue of proof, some have tried to make it an issue of politics: though the Armenian Genocide is widely accepted as a genocide by the academic community, as well as numerous countries all around the world, the U.S. has not recognized it as such due to political pressures and U.S. military ties to Turkey.
HONORARY LIFE MEMBER ARMAND ARABIAN RECEIVES ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

Adding to a long list of awards and achievements, Armenian Bar Association Honorary Life Member Armand Arabian, a former Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, was recently named a recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The award was bestowed on May 15, 2004 at a gala ceremony on Ellis Island.

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the U.S. Congress to distinguished living Americans who have made a significant contribution to their own ethnic group, American society, and the nation's heritage, and who have attained outstanding achievement. Honorees' names are listed in the Congressional record.

Arabian joins Judge Dickran Tevrizian, a Federal Judge and current Board member of Armenbar, along with six U.S. Presidents, numerous Congressmen and Senators, Nobel Prize winners and others on the list of outstanding individuals who have received the award.

To receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the recipient must: (1) exemplify a life dedicated to the American way of hard work, self-improvement and community service; (2) preserve the history, traditions and values of his ancestry group; (3) dedicate himself to support and defend the values of American life; (4) build bridges between ethnic, racial and religious groups in the United States and/or abroad; (5) reinforce the bonds between an American heritage group and its land of origin; (6) nurture the life of a particular ethnic or heritage group, enabling that group to participate more fully in American society; (7) share his personal and professional gifts with the local, national or international community; (8) contribute distinguished service to humanity in any field, profession, or occupation.

Arabian has received numerous other achievement awards and honorary doctorate degrees, and has authored several articles and treatises. He has also been a champion of the rights of rape victims. While on the California Supreme Court, he authored 104 majority opinions in six years, making him one of the most prolific writers in the history of the Court.

Arabian has been a staunch supporter of Armenbar, and has lectured at several Annual Meetings. He is currently in private practice, primarily serving as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution matters. He is also currently an adjunct professor of appellate advocacy at Pepperdine University School of Law.

BRUTAL MURDER OF ARMENIAN OFFICER BY AZERI AT NATO PROGRAM

On February 18, 2004, an Armenian military officer attending a NATO Partnership for Peace program was hacked to death with an ax and a knife by an Azerbaijani participant.

Lt. Ramil Safarov of Azerbaijan has been charged with murdering Lt. Gurgen Markarian of Armenia while Markarian slept. The Budapest police stated that the murder was committed with "unusual cruelty" due to the number of knife wounds and ax blows to the head.

The officers were attending an English language course within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace program at the Hungarian University of National Defense. The program is aimed at increasing cooperation between neutral and former Soviet bloc nations and NATO in peacekeeping and other areas.

The Armenian Defense Ministry stated that the murder was "a result of the bellicose anti-Armenian propaganda, unleashed by the authorities of Azerbaijan lately," while Azeri officials allege that Markarian had insulted Safarov, thus driving him to murder.

It should be noted that the killing occurred only a month after Azerbaijan refused to allow three Armenian officers to attend a conference held in the country's capital, Baku, under the aegis of the NATO program.

Initial extradition attempts were made by Azerbaijani officials to have Safarov sent back to Azerbaijan for trial, but Safarov is still being held and awaits trial in Hungary. It has been reported that Azeri politicians, lawyers, and advocates have created a "legal defense fund" to assist Safarov in his defense against the murder charges.

CANADA RECOGNIZES THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On April 21, 2004, the Canadian House of Commons adopted a motion recognizing the Armenian Genocide by a majority of 153 votes. The passing of this resolution was the culmination of a 25-year long process during which similar resolutions were passed by city councils, provinces and the Canadian Senate (July 13, 2002).

Canada now joins a long list of nations, including France, Switzerland and Russia, who have recognized the Armenian Genocide, of 1915. The United States still has not formally recognized the Armenian Genocide, but we should be inspired by our neighbors to the North to continue to press the issue until we succeed.
ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

A few Members of the Executive Board and others, L-Rt: Armen Hovannisian, Ara Tsamblian, Vicken Simonian, Garo Hovannisian and Saro Kerkorian

An impressive group of lawyers, politicians and legal scholars from throughout the United States, Canada and Armenia assembled in Boston, Massachusetts the weekend of April 30, 2004 to attend the Armenian Bar Association’s Annual National Meeting. Organizing Committee Chair Sonya Nersessian, Vice Chair Michael Zeytoonian and a committee of eleven, including Anthony Barsamian, K. Vasken Babigian, Susan Eksian, Taline Festekjian, Aaron Javian, Christopher Mensonian, Martha Mensonian, Seta V. Nersessian, Lisa A. Sedrakian, Lisa Terrizzi and Michael S. Varadian, did an incredible job of arranging a weekend filled with exciting programs and social events. The Armenian-owned “Nine Zero” hotel in downtown Boston and Suffolk University Law School served as the venues for the meeting. The hotel has been ranked among the top 50 in the United States and overlooks one of the oldest cemeteries in the nation.

“We were happy to once again be able to provide our members with seminars on a wide array of legal topics, while facilitating new and continuing friendships among many of our nation’s leading Armenian attorneys,” said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of ArmenBar.

The Armenian Bar Association’s Board of Governors held a meeting on Friday. Armenian Bar Chair Robert Cannuscio conducted the meeting, which included discussions and updates on many important issues with which the Armenian Bar is involved.

After the meeting, the Board members joined the attendees and guests on a bus trip to Watertown, Massachusetts to visit the famous Armenian Library and Museum of America (“ALMA”). The bus was graciously provided by Boston-based Gulbankian Bus Lines. There could have been no better way to start off the weekend than with a reception at ALMA. Over eighty members and guests enjoyed a wonderful night of food and festivities as they strolled through the facilities’ fabulous collection of books, coins, artwork and artifacts relating to the history of Armenians throughout the world, including significant items about the Genocide. The staff at ALMA provided everyone with interesting anecdotes and information related to the exhibits. Representatives from several organizations that conduct activities in ALMA, including Project Save, an organization dedicated to archiving Armenian photographs, were also in attendance and provided everyone with information on their organizations’ activities. The Organizing Committee arranged for a delicious array of food and Armenian delicacies. As a special treat, the group was entertained by Armenian folk singer Gor Mkhitarian, who performed solo with acoustic guitar.

Upon returning to the hotel, a large group of attendees and guests made their way down to Faneuil Hall to enjoy a bit of Boston’s nightlife.

On Saturday, Suffolk University School of Law served as the location for the business meeting, legal seminars and the luncheon. The morning began with a continental breakfast. Armenian Bar Chair Robert Cannuscio of Philadelphia, PA presided over the business meeting. Robert began by providing the attendees with an overview of the Armenian Bar Association’s activities over the past year, as well as a summary of the decisions made and issues handled over the last year by the Board of Governors. Robert then invited the Committee Chairs in attendance to provide the membership with updates on their respective committee activities. Professor Ann Lousin (IL) presented a report on the Genocide Project Research Committee, Datev Shenian (CA) presented a report on the Grants Committee, Robert Roomian (DC)
presented a report on the Membership Committee, Robert Cannuscio (PA) presented a report on the Newsletter Committee, Vicken Simonian (CA) presented a report on the Treasury, and Gary Moomjian (NY) presented a report on the Website Committee.

Following the committee reports, Robert Cannuscio introduced the Nominations Committee, Denise Darmanian (NY) and Saro Kerkonian (CA), who presented the nominees for filling the four open positions on the Board of Governors. The voting was conducted and the following individuals were elected for three-year terms on the Board of Governors:

Christine Engustian - Providence, Rhode Island
Lisa Esayan - Chicago, Illinois
Datev Shenian - Los Angeles, California
Melineh Blackwell Verma - Washington, DC

Robert thanked Denise and Saro for their dedication and hard work. With that, Robert closed the business meeting and introduced the Organizing Committee Co-Chair Sonya Nersessian. Sonya began the lecture portion of the meeting by introducing the first speaker, Gail Goolkasian, Assistant General Counsel at the Gillette Company in Boston. Gail presented an informative lecture on recent developments in age discrimination law. Gail provided the attendees with an overview of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (the “ADEA”), the federal law that prohibits discrimination against employees who are forty years old or older, and then discussed recent decisions, including a recent Supreme Court decision, interpreting the ADEA.

The next speakers were Susan Karamanian, an Associate Dean at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., and Catherine Kessedjian, a Professor of European Business Law, Private International Law and International Litigation at the University of Pantheon-Assas in Paris and a current visiting professor at NYU School of Law. Susan and Catherine presented issues relating to dispute resolution in international commercial law, with a specific focus on the relationship between arbitration and U.S. courts as well as choice of courts questions.

Jay Hachigian, a founding partner of Gunderson, Dettmer, Stough, Villeneuve, Franklin & Hachigian, LLP, then spoke about the recent landscape of venture capital. Jay is one of the country’s leading lawyers in the area of emerging growth companies and the formation and representation of venture funds. Jay provided the attendees with an informative overview of some of the issues and pitfalls involved in venture capital financing transactions.

At the conclusion of the morning session, the attendees retreated to a separate hall at the school for a delicious catered luncheon. While the food was fabulous, the highlight of the luncheon was, by far, the keynote speaker, Stephen Kurkjian, a three-time Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist with the Boston Globe. Stephen won his most recent Pulitzer last year for his work in uncovering the clergy abuse crisis in the Catholic Church in Boston. Stephen eloquently spoke about the case and his remarkable career, including his trip in 1993 with his father to his father’s birthplace in eastern Turkey. His travels there led to a highly acclaimed article in the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, “Roots of Sorrow.”

Stephen concluded his luncheon presentation with a discussion of the efforts that led to the Boston Globe’s policy change to use the word “Genocide” when referring to the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

(Continued on page 8)
ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

(Continued from page 7)

Following Stephen's presentation, Ex Officio Ara Tramblian gave a stirring speech to the membership recognizing the efforts of Robert Cannuscio for his leadership during the past year as Chair of the Armenian Bar Association. Ara noted that, while Robert's year involved some of the more challenging issues facing the Board, he always managed to find a way to work through the diverse opinions of the Board members. Ara also referred to his many years of dedication to the organization, and discussed how he had become one of the cornerstones of the Armenian Bar. Vice Chair Robert Roomian then took the podium and remarked on how much he enjoyed working through the year on the Executive Committee with Robert Cannuscio and then presented him with a painting from an Armenian artist.

Robert Cannuscio then addressed the membership, thanking Ara and Robert Roomian for their kind words. Robert remarked how fast the year had passed and that it was truly an honor to represent such an august organization. Robert then thanked the organization for the opportunity to serve them. "It has been a privilege to chair the Armenian Bar Association over the past year. And I do not say that lightly. The Armenian Bar Association has grown from a handful of attorneys to the largest and most well-respected Armenian legal association in the United States. That growth was not by happenstance, but by the dedication and efforts of many of the people in this room. I am humbled to be in the same room as them. The Armenian Bar Association, however, is more than an association of attorneys. It is also an association of friends from around the country. While we might see each other only once or twice a year, the bond is still strong. I am part of many different associations, but this is the only one where I feel that true friendship. So it is I who thank you for granting me the honor of chairing this wonderful organization over the past year."

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the attendees returned to the lecture hall for the afternoon series of lectures. Thomas Samuelian, the managing partner of Arlex International, Ltd., a public interest law firm in Yerevan, and a past chair of the Armenian Bar, presented an informative talk during the afternoon session with Noubar Afeyan, Ph.D., Senior Managing Director and CEO of Flagship Ventures, entitled "Armenia 2020: Scenario Planning and Legal Infrastructure in Armenia." The presentation centered around Scenario Planning with respect to Armenia's future in the world. Tom discussed how Scenario Planning could be used as a tool by attorneys to help develop the laws, courts and government in the years ahead. Noubar discussed the various scenarios that could play out for Armenia by the year 2020, and how the steps Armenia takes now can affect where Armenia is in 2020.

"Alternative Careers in the Law" was the topic for a panel consisting of Hannah Aterian, Rachel Kapielian, Michael Varadian and Lisa Tersizzi. Hannah is a Dean and professor of law at Syracuse University. Rachel is currently in her 5th term representing Watertown and Ward 9 of Cambridge in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Amazingly, she was first elected to public office at the age of 23. Michael is the President and CEO of Behavioral Health Laboratories, Inc. in Ashland, Massachusetts, and is a nationally known innovator of progressive health care, managed care and behavioral health systems financing operations and consultation. Lisa is an attorney working in human resources management at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. Each spoke about their respective career paths and offered advice regarding how lawyers can look for paths outside the mainstream legal professions.

The final lecture was given by dynamic attorney Ara Sarian of Boston, who was sent by the U.S. Department of Defense to Iraq to help rebuild the Iraqi Ministry of Justice. Ara explained how he was selected for this unique and dangerous opportunity and went on to describe in detail his amazing experiences during his assignment in Iraq. Ara also discussed a side trip he made to several towns bordering Turkey in his attempt to locate Armenians living there.

Sonya Nersessian and the keynote speaker, Stephen Kurjian

(Continued on page 16)
The Armenian Bar Association, on behalf of its members, wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions and continued support that have helped ensure that the upcoming year will be a success.

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REMEMBERING

A COLLEAGUE, COUNSEL AND FRIEND

Mary Ann Kibarian, Antranig Andrew Kevorkian (brother), Corinne Kevorkian, Esq. (daughter), Denise G. Darmanian, Esq.

On May 10, 2004, a large assembly of colleagues, clients, acquaintances and friends gathered at Vanderbilt Hall at New York University Law School for a memorial service to pay tribute to the late Aram Kevorkian. Under any other circumstances, a group of people assembling for a memorial service for the loss of a friend an ocean away would have been strange. But Aram had the personality that transcended oceans and continents. So it was no surprise that when Janise Oser, who became friends with Aram at West Philadelphia high school, and her husband Alan, who became friends with Aram when they met at the University of Pennsylvania, sent out an e-mail to various contacts, they would get a response.

And so on a Saturday in May, over 100 people filled Vanderbilt Hall for a memorial service remembering their friend. The attendees came from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California and Paris, France. Aram's daughter Corinne Kevorkian was in attendance and one of the speakers, as was Aram's brother Andy Kevorkian.

Past Armenian Bar Board of Governors member Denise Darmanian spoke on behalf of the Armenian Bar Association. Denise's wonderful words are reprinted below. Also in attendance representing the Armenian Bar Association were Board of Governors member Claire Kedeshian and members Chris Parnagian, Souren Israelyan and Catherine Kessedjian.

To give you an idea of the depth of Aram's touch, the following is the agenda from the memorial service:

Welcome, Professor Norman Dorsen
The Goldberg Variations (excerpt), Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by Francois Nazwazky, piano
"The Man I Knew, Bertram Fields"
Our Father, Corinne Kevorkian
"Sailing to Byzantium," William Butler Yeats, performed by Professor Maurice I. Kramer
The Goldberg Variations (excerpt), Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by Francois Nazwazky, piano
My Friend Since High School, Janice Auritt Oser
My Lawyer and My Friend, John Hummer
An interlude of Armenian music:
Penitential hymn, St. Nercess the Grace-filled (10th century)
Hymns from the Requiem Service, performed by Maro Parnagian, mezzo-soprano, Francois Nazwazky, piano
The Armenian Patriot, Denise Darmanian
The Newsletter and Its Influence, Craig R. Whitney
Summing Up, Norman Dorsen

Aram made an impact on lives on both sides of the ocean. He truly will be missed.
THE ARMENIAN PATRIOT
A TRIBUTE TO ARAM HAGOP KEVORKIAN

By Denise G. Darmanian

It was Saturday morning, the eighth of November 2003 in sunny Miami Beach, Florida.

The 14th annual mid-year meeting of the Armenian Bar Association had just convened and our Chairman proudly announced that this year's surprise keynote speaker was expected to arrive momentarily.

Shortly thereafter, the doors of our hotel meeting room flew open and in walked Aram Kevorkian, fully attired in a suit and tie with luggage still in tow, having just arrived from Paris.

"Welcome Mr. Kevorkian!" said one of our colleagues. "I'm so looking forward to your speech this afternoon."

Without missing a beat, Aram turned to him and replied, "So am I, as I have no idea yet what I'm going to say!"

This was the quintessential Aram Kevorkian.

There he was, the intrinsic Armenian patriot.

Having traveled great distances, armed with his usual erudite humor and wit, he was ready to serve a small organization of Armenian lawyers, which he had systematically done in the past with his customary benevolence, but with his well-defined independence of views.

As much as he would have liked for us to believe that his keynote address that day was completely impromptu, it was quintessential Aram.

He started with a first meeting in the early 1960's which had a profound impact on his life - that with the Armenian-American writer, William Saroyan, which Aram broached with the words, "My name is Aram and my son's name is Aram," referencing one of Saroyan's great classics entitled, "My Name Is Aram."

He was named Aram Hagop by his father Karnig and mother Hripsimee after Karnig's two younger brothers, who were killed by the Ottoman Turks in 1915 in the first Genocide of the 20th century.

As he did with Armenians and non-Armenians alike, he shared with us that day the desperate plight of his father's countrymen in the town of Chunkoush, Turkey during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. By exposing their horrific ordeal to us, Aram was stoically determined, like his father before him, never to allow the memory of this obscure village to die, where virtually all 10,000 Armenian inhabitants were slaughtered.

Armed with the book Karnig wrote about his birthplace in his later years, Aram displayed the courage of a true patriot when he embarked on a pilgrimage to his father's village in Turkey in September 2002. He later wrote:

"I was not able to bring myself to read my father's book through and through. It was as though I could escape the pain by leaving Chunkoush in a haze, like a bad dream from which one can flee by awakening to reality. If Chunkoush got too vivid, it would be as though Aram, Hagop and [my father's younger sister] Maryam were peering at me through a window. I did not want to see them. If they were not real for me, then their slaughter would not be real."

Despite the fact that it was more than 87 years after the Armenian Genocide, Aram learned that his visit to Chunkoush in 2002 occurred under the covert scrutiny of the Turkish police.

Upon leaving the village, he wrote:

"[M]y mind was groping to deal with what I had just experienced. The first thought was how preposterous ... it was for the Turkish government to keep denying the reality of the Armenian Genocide, or to excuse the massacres on the ground that the Armenians were in a war zone and had to be removed. Chunkoush was not in a war zone. It was in such an out-of-the-way place that any Russian Army commander would have been insane to want to conquer it."

This was Aram the patriot - which the dictionary defines as one who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interest.

Most patriots are masters of one country - Aram was a legend in three.

We all knew him to be a proud American and fervent Francophile.

But little did Aram know that in 1991 when he made his first journey to Armenia, a former Republic of the Soviet Union, he was to become a patriot of a fledgling nation.

Aram's journey began at the invitation of its newly elected President for the purpose of assisting the country in evolving its own constitution. Aram prepared a comparative thesis of the American, French and British systems of government for the President, which later served as part of the framework for the current constitution in Armenia.

A few years later, he spent a week in Armenia's capital, Yerevan, lecturing at

(Continued on page 16)
On June 16th, more than thirty attorneys from the greater metropolitan New York area gathered at Turtle Bay Grill and Lounge in New York City to enjoy the Armenian Bar Association's second annual summer mixer. Once again, the mixer brought together law students and attorneys alike and provided a terrific opportunity for them to network and mingle with one another. Those in attendance enjoyed catching up with old friends and acquaintances while also meeting new ones. The event was yet another step towards establishing an active base for the Armenian Bar Association in the Northeast. Many thanks to Gary Moomjian, Betty Jamgotchian, Lisa Boyadjian and Anahid Ughrlyan for all of their help.
THE NEW YORK TIMES CHANGES ARMENIAN GENOCIDE POLICY
AND WILL NOW USE THE TERM “GENOCIDE”

The ArmenBar is pleased to report that in April, the New York Times lifted its long-standing policy against the use of the term “Armenian Genocide.” This change in policy is due, in great part, to the continued activism of many Armenian-Americans, including ArmenBar members.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars reported that the New York Times’ revised guidelines for journalists state that “after careful study of scholarly definitions of ‘genocide,’ we have decided to accept the term in reference to the Turks’ mass destruction of Armenians in and around 1915 . . . the expression ‘Armenian genocide’ may be used freely and should not be qualified with phrasing like ‘what Armenians call,’ etc.” Apparently, the guidelines even advise journalists that, “while we may of course report Turkish denials on those occasions when they are relevant, we should not couple them with the historians’ findings, as if they had equal weight.”

The recently revised guidelines end the policy of not using the term “genocide,” which the Times followed for many years. This policy seemed sadly ironic, as the Times printed hundreds of articles describing and condemning the Armenian Genocide while it was occurring in 1915.

The Armenian National Committee (ANC) has led several grassroots campaigns to force the Times to address the issue, and in fact, a similar campaign led to the Boston Globe similarly revising its policy in July 2003.

As attorneys, ArmenBar members welcome this long-awaited change by one of America’s most prestigious news-papers. As has been noted by many scholars, historians, and organizations in recent years, the events that began in 1915 certainly meet the United Nations’ legal definition of genocide. It is the hope of the editors, ArmenBar members, and Armenians everywhere that other publications and media that still avoid the term “genocide” to describe the Armenian holocaust will follow the Times’ lead and correctly classify this atrocity.

SENATOR POOCHEGIAN PRESENTS
BILL TO ENSURE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
LIFE INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS
ACTUALLY REACH VICTIMS’ FAMILIES

In February 2004, California State Senator Chuck Poochigian (R-Fresno) introduced Senate Bill 1689 to exempt Armenian Genocide life insurance settlements from state taxation and other calculations related to income. The bill was sent forward by the California Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee by a 5-0 vote on May 20, and was amended by the State Assembly on June 29 with instructions to amend and then pass. The full text of the bill can be read at:


If ultimately approved by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger, the bill would allow recipients of Armenian Genocide settlement payments to avoid having their state income tax, financial aid or unemployment benefits negatively impacted by their receipt of such settlements. The bill’s language allows for similar exemptions that have been given to recipients of reparations and other legal settlements related to the Holocaust. Senate Bill 1689 is modeled after Senate Bill 1397 (Brulte) and Assembly Bill 989 (Chan), which exempted Swiss bank claim settlements and restitution payments made to victims of the Holocaust.

Senate Bill 1689 is one of many efforts Senator Poochigian—a lawyer and long-time Armenian-American advocate—has made to affirm the historical record regarding the Armenian Genocide. In 2000, Senator Poochigian authored Senate Bill 1915, which enabled victims and heirs of victims of the Armenian Genocide to access the California court system to compel insurance companies to pay insurance claims owed to victims of the Genocide. That bill received the unanimous approval of the Legislature and provided the opportunity to pursue contractual claims pertaining to the recent settlement negotiations.

The ArmenBar commends Senator Poochigian for his timely and equitable legislation and wishes him further success in championing the Armenian cause.
ARmenian International Women’s Association

By Suzanne Moranian, Ph.D.
AIWA President

The Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) was founded over ten years ago in Boston by Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Eva Medzorian, and Olga Proudian. It is an independent, non-profit, non-political organization. With the support of affiliates in New England, New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Armenia and a circle of friends all over the world, AIWA has proven its dedicated commitment to strengthen and unify Armenian women everywhere. AIWA supports a global community of Armenian women and is unique in its mission.

Our accomplishments and projects include:
Planning the fourth international conference in Geneva, Switzerland on October 24-27, 2004. This follows the groundbreaking international conferences in London, Paris and Yerevan, where women meet, network and share ideas for improvement.
Maintaining an active NGO at the United Nations that provides Armenian women with a forum on the world stage. At the UN, AIWA sponsored a workshop in September 2003 called “Cross-Cultural Leadership Training.”
AIWA also participated in the March 2004 48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
Launching an innovative women’s business education pilot program in Yerevan and Gyumri to help Armenian women start their own businesses.
Supporting women’s health initiatives, including the Armenian-American Mammography/Wellness Center in Yerevan; the Arpen Center for Expectant Mothers in Karabagh; and the Yerevan Women’s Reproductive Health Center.
Maintaining the Agnes Missirian Scholarship and the newly-established Zarouhi Y. Getsoyan Scholarship, which are awarded annually to highly-deserving women in the Diaspora and Armenia.
Maintaining the Alice Kanlian Mirak Archives, the Women’s Information Center and various publications, which document and promote the lives of Armenian women worldwide.
Organizing concerts, films, exhibitions and a new Web site to showcase Armenian women artists.
AIWA is located at 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 and can be reached by phone or fax at 617-926-0171. Our e-mail address is AiwaInc@aol.com, and our Web address is Aiwa-net.org. We welcome new memberships.

Armenian Bar Association Mid-Year Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

held jointly with The Chicago Armenian-American Community in Honor of Samuel Der-Yeghiayan, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.
The John Hancock Center, 44th Floor 175 East Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois.

There are a limited number of rooms blocked for the meeting, therefore, it is recommended that reservations be made early to guarantee the special rate of $139.00 per night. Please contact the Fairfield Inn & Suites Chicago (Marriott) directly at 216 E. Ontario Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.
Phone: 312-787-3777; Fax: 312-787-8714;
Website: www.fairfieldsuiteschicago.com.
Please mention the Armenian Bar Association when making reservations.
To date, the meeting program has been approved by the California and the New York State Bar for Continuing Legal Education credit. The early meeting registration fee is $100.00 and includes the welcome reception, the luncheon and the CLE credits. Please note there is a separate $40.00 charge for the reception on September 18.
To register, please mail the registration fee(s) to the Armenian Bar Association, P.O. Box 29111, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Remember, all attendees must be members in good standing, so if you have not remitted your membership dues for 2004, please mail the dues with the registration fee(s). Due to excellent participation at recent meetings, we expect to have a great turnout for the Mid-Year Meeting, and hope to see everyone in Chicago!
TEACHING POSITION IN ARMENIA

The Law Department of the American University of Armenia expects to have a full-time faculty position available at the start of 2005, with a two-year commitment required. The person chosen must be a lawyer and would be a regular AUA faculty member, teaching, conducting research, and helping to administer the Law program. Applicants should have a strong academic background and preferably some teaching experience. Their legal knowledge should encompass some areas of international or comparative law. Although AUA operates in English, knowledge of Armenian and/or Russian would be valuable.

Interested persons should send their CVs to Professor Stephen Barnett, Dean of the Law Department, at: barnetts@law.berkeley.edu.

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ANNUAL MEETING
IN BOSTON

(Continued from page 8)

After the lectures, Robert Cannuscio concluded the meeting, thanking all the panelists and the Organizing Committee for putting together another successful annual meeting.

The evening began with many of the attendees and guests taking over a restaurant a short walk from the hotel for a delicious dinner. Following dinner, the Merriment continued as many members enjoyed Boston's nightlife.

On the final day of the conference, the Board of Directors met to set the Armenian Bar Association's agenda for the coming year and to select the new officers and Committee Chairs. The meeting was held at the Nine Zero where a delicious brunch was available for guests and attendees. During the meeting, Robert Roomian, an intellectual property specialist from the Washington, D.C. area, was unanimously elected to be the new Chair of the Armenian Bar. "I am honored that my colleagues have selected me to lead this great organization. ArmenBar has developed a reputation throughout the world as a leader in the legal community, and I hope our group can continue to capitalize on the tremendous strides we have made over our 15-year existence," said Roomian. Gary Moomjian and Frank Zerunyan were elected as Vice Chairs. Vicken Simonian was re-elected as Treasurer.

The Armenian Bar will meet in Chicago the weekend of September 17, 2004 for its mid-year meeting. Please see the Mid-Year Meeting article in this edition for more information about the Chicago weekend. The Board of Governors has decided that the 2005 Annual National Meeting will take place in sunny San Diego, California.

More information about the organization can be found at its website located at www.armenianbar.org.

THE ARMENIAN PATRIOT
A TRIBUTE TO ARAM HAGOP KEVORKIAN

(Continued from page 11)

the American University of Armenia. He later joined his fellow Harvard alumni in the Advisory Board to the University's Law Department.

We recently learned that Aram's application to become a "senior specialist," which allowed him to lecture at the expense of the U.S. government, was approved by the U.S. State Department in anticipation of Aram's return speaking engagement in Armenia's American University this spring.

As with any legendary patriot, Aram was first and foremost a patriot of his family.

As many of you know, the dedication in Aram's now famous book is to his parents. He writes:

"To them I owe thanks for whatever proclivity I have in the realms of writing and seeking truth."

Through the power of his pen, the truth is what Aram exposed wherever he went. For this he shall be remembered and revered most.

To Corinne, Anoosh, Aram and all of their siblings, I say to you: you come from a long line of patriots - preserve the legacy of your forefathers and lead us in the fight for your father's dreams: whether it is to continue promoting his despair over the influence of Cartesian philosophy on the minds of his beloved Frenchmen and his firm belief that Montaigne is the better role model for the 21st century;

whether it is to continue the resurrection and preservation of the memory of Chkondoush, as started by your grandfather and stoically carried forward by your father;

whether it is to continue the battle for recognition by the American and Turkish governments of the stark realities of the Armenian Genocide of 1915;

or whether it is to continue supporting the prosperity and growth of an independent Armenia, we stand with you in not just memorializing Aram's visions, but in realizing them.

To Aram, with whom I had the privilege of working for more than a decade as our firms often collaborated on international legal matters, I say: Adieu, mon cher ami. Asdvazh hokesk loosavoroey. May God rest your soul.

You Aram shall live forever, for patriots never die.

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The House GOP leaders, the State Department, and the Bush Administration have vowed to kill a legislative amendment that would prevent the Republic of Turkey from using U.S. aid money for lobbying to deny the Armenian Genocide.

In essence, Rep. Adam Schiff’s (D-Calif.) foreign appropriations amendment would have prevented Turkey from using U.S. foreign aid money to lobby against the Genocide Commemoration Resolution sponsored by Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.). Radanovich’s Genocide Resolution (H.R. 193) condemns many instances of genocide throughout the 20th century, including the Armenian Genocide, and, if enacted, would be the first time Congress formally marked the deaths of the 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) issued a statement openly lambasting the foreign appropriations amendment, claiming that it will harm U.S.-Turkish relations and will accomplish nothing, since foreign governments are not supposed to use U.S. aid money for lobbying.

Apparently, Hastert also now says that he will not schedule a vote on the Genocide Resolution, which is a complete turn-around from Hastert’s stance some four years ago. In the fall of 2000, Hastert had scheduled a similar Armenian Genocide resolution for a vote, but then-President Bill Clinton contacted Hastert, claiming that U.S.-Turkish relations and even U.S. servicemen and women would be harmed if the bill passed. At Clinton’s apparently urgent request, Hastert pulled the bill minutes before a vote.

Of course, President George W. Bush has been no better in supporting the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. After his 2000 campaign promise to â€œensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people,â€ President Bush has never used the term â€œgenocideâ€ in his April 24 statements and has aggressively and openly opposed any legislation mentioning or recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Although the Schiff Amendment may actually be only a symbolic measure, it again is truly disheartening to see the â€œfear of offending Turkeyâ€ that still runs rampant through the U.S. Congress and consecutive Administrations. ArmenBar urges all Armenian-Americans to contact their Congressmen and the Bush Administration to speak up on the Schiff Amendment, the Genocide Resolution and the U.S. government’s continued support for Turkey’s denial of the Armenian Genocide.

CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE

(Continued from page 4)

The Armenian community must remain assertive and steadfast in the fight to get Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Armenian-Americans must educate themselves on the issues, and be cognizant of the fact that taking 2 minutes to make a phone call or send a letter to their Representative can and does make a difference. It is crucial that Armenians realize the power that they possess, simply by having the right to vote and/or voice their opinion.

ArmenBar: In your experience, are there many Armenian-Americans working on Capitol Hill or in the Administration? How can our community encourage more Armenian-Americans to serve in government, and to even run for and serve as a Member of Congress?

F. P.: Over the past 20+ years that I have spent in government, from the local level to the federal level, I have been pleased to see an increase in the number of Armenian-Americans working for various government agencies and in the offices of elected officials. In the last few years, I have noticed that more young Armenians are choosing to do internships in Congressional offices and eventually seeking employment in these offices. I cannot stress enough the importance of having Armenian-Americans serve in government and pursuing careers in public service. The number one argument I can make to encourage those that are considering such a path is that change from within is a lot easier to accomplish than change from the outside. For any individual who wishes to make an impact in the decision-making process of the federal government, including changes in the attitudes towards Armenia and Armenian-related issues, I would urge them to get more involved and in doing so, implement those changes from within.
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND ON THE MOVE

(Continued from page 3)

Governors member Sarah Leah Whitson joined the Human Rights Watch as their new Executive Director of Middle East /North Africa Division. Prior to joining the Human Rights Watch, Sarah Leah was an attorney for twelve years at Goldman, Sachs & Co., where she specialized in corporate finance. Sarah Leah earned her JD degree from Harvard Law School in 1991. Sarah Leah can be reached at Human Rights Watch - Middle East/North Africa Division, 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th floor, New York, NY 10118-3299; Tel.: (212) 290-4700; Fax: (212) 736-1300; E-mail: whitso@hrw.org.

Alice Yardum-Hunter was voted as one of the very top immigration lawyers in Los Angeles and Orange Counties according to a survey of 65,000 attorneys in the Southern California area published in “Super Lawyers,” a publication of Los Angeles Magazine, February 2004. Alice earned her JD degree in 1973 from the University of Southern California Law Center and specializes in immigration matters. Alice can be reached at 15915 Ventura Blvd., Penthouse 1, Encino, CA 91436; Tel.: (818) 609-1953; Fax: (818) 609-1964; E-mail: aliyardum-hunter@mindspring.com.

The Armenian Bar Association is saddened to report that Everett H. Berberian, one of the original members of the Armenian Bar Association, passed away on March 2, 2004. Until recently, Everett attended every annual meeting since 1989. Funeral services were held on March 8, 2004 at St. Paul in Fresno, Ca. The Armenian Bar will not be the same without Everett.

Message From the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

trices, federal judges, law professors, eminent American and European practitioners and prominent lawyers from Armenia.

The past Annual National Meeting held in Boston was no exception to this tradition of excellence. The meeting was marked by the committed effort of the members of the Organizing Committee, who both prepared an exceptional program and provided warm and friendly venues for the meeting. You may read about the meeting in detail elsewhere in this issue.

I believe that the Association is both unique in its nature and in the opportunities and benefits that it offers to its members. Where else could one find the opportunity to gather professionally and simultaneously connect with their heritage. In addition to courses and presentations, past meetings programs have included visits to Armenia Town in Fresno, California and to the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Watertown, Massachusetts. I have found visits like these to be profoundly interesting and moving experiences.

In addition to the meetings, the Association has numerous standing committees on which one may serve and make a valuable contribution to both your profession and community. To learn more about the standing committees, please visit our website at www.armenianbar.org.

Thus, I urge members to avail themselves of the opportunities and benefits that the Association offers by attending the meetings and serving on the committees. I honestly believe that if you do, you will discover, as I have, that such participation is its own reward.

Most cordially,
Robert G. Roomian
Chair

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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

COMMITTED TO SERVE

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