CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MARVIN BAXTER TO BE HONORED AT ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S MIDYEAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23-24-25, 2005, IN SAN FRANCISCO

Marvin Baxter, an Associate Justice on the California Supreme Court, will be an honored guest at the Armenian Bar Association's Midyear National Meeting in San Francisco, the weekend of September 23, 2005. Baxter is a decorated jurist, and former appointments secretary to California Governor George Deukmejian, who has been on the high court since 1991. He chairs the policy coordination and liason committee of the Judicial Council of California, and is an Honorary Member of Armenian. Those attending the meeting will be treated to a number of activities, including a tour of the Supreme Court building on Macalister Street in San Francisco.

The Practicing Law Institute (PLI), an outstanding meeting facility in the trendy Market Square area of Downtown San Francisco, will be the venue for the Midyear meeting, which will include legal seminars, a meeting of the Board of Governors, receptions with local dignitaries, dinner shows and other interesting activities.

The mere mention of the name San Francisco conjures up images of the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Fisherman's Wharf and Ghiradelli Square, which will all be a stone's throw from the PLI. In addition, the world famous wines of the Napa Valley, historic Alcatraz Island, and the upscale boating community of Sausalito are in close proximity to the meeting facilities for those who would like to plan side trips. Also, the legendary sports teams from the area, including the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders, will be at the beginning of their seasons at the time of the meeting.

“We are delighted to return to the San Francisco Bay Area for our 2005 Midyear Meeting, and we hope to attract numerous Armenian attorneys (Continued on page 2)

Message From the Chair

I am honored to be writing this letter as the incoming Chair of the Armenian Bar Association.

My first taste of the Armenian Bar Association was not so very long ago. Back in 2001, I was a proud Armenian, but with no special Armenian ties. My friend and fellow attorney, Chris Parnagian, provided me with some information relating to the Armenian Bar Association. After doing a little homework, and after receiving some helpful emails from our then Executive Director Lucy Vartanian, I set my sight on Las Vegas (Continued on page 22)
from Northern California, as well as the rest of the world, to participate," said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of Armenbar. "Our goal is to re-energize our constituents in the area, provide an attractive location for all members to travel to, help facilitate the interaction of our members and the exchange of ideas, and honor those at the top of our profession," said Jamgotchian.

Armenbar's last meeting in San Francisco was in 1997, when founding Chairman David Balabanian, a preeminent attorney in California, presided over the gathering. Balabanian and Haig Baghdasarian, of the San Francisco City Attorney's office, have assembled an excellent group of attorneys and judges to coordinate this year's event. That group includes the Honorable Aram Serverian, former Board member, and a retired judge from San Mateo County who is currently engaged in alternative dispute resolution services.

As is customary, the meeting will feature legal seminars offering valuable continuing legal education units. Armenbar is a preferred provider of MCLE credits in California, New York and other states. Topics of discussion will include updates on the Mount Davidson Armenian Cross case, Doing Business in Armenia and Laws for the Modern Family.

The meeting will be presided over by current Chairman Gary Moomjian, a securities law specialist from New York. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Board of Governors to meet, set the agenda of the organization, update the membership on recent activities and accomplishments, and vote on issues of importance to the organization.

More information about the midyear meeting can be found on the Armenbar website at: www.armenianbar.org.

SAVE THESE DATES SEPTEMBER 23-24-25, 2005

The Mid Year Meeting of
The Armenian Bar Association
In San Francisco, California

at
The Argent Hotel
50 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: 415.974.6400
Reservations: 877.222.6699
www.argenthotel.com

The Argent Hotel is a luxurious hotel conveniently located in the heart of the city, 2 blocks from Union Square, with breathtaking views of the beautiful San Francisco City skyline.

Schedule of Events

Friday 1:00 pm - Board Meeting at The State Building
Friday 3:30 pm - Tour of California Supreme Court with Justice Marvin Baxter.
Friday 6:00 pm - Reception at The State Building.
Saturday CLE conference at The Practicing Law Institute (PLI). Topics include:
* The Saga of the Litigation over the Mt. Davidson Armenian Cross
* The Legal Challenges of Doing Business in Armenia
* San Francisco's Role in Developing New Laws for the Modern Family: An Examination of Domestic Partnership, Equal Benefits and Same-Sex Marriage Laws
Saturday Luncheon at The Argent Hotel with Guest Speaker Justice Marvin Baxter
Saturday evening spend a night on the town, optional dinner and show.

Reservations

Make Your Reservations Directly with the Hotel before September 2, 2005. (Mention the Armenian Bar Association). A limited number of rooms have been reserved for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. $179/night single or double occupancy. Book your Airline Reservations Early!

The Conference Registration Form is found at: www.armenianbar.org

More Details to Follow
Ara Babaian has joined the firm of Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP in Beverly Hills, California (www.ecjlaw.com). Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP provides a full range of business-related legal services, and Ara’s practice focuses on business transactional matters, including corporate, securities and commercial transactions. Ara was previously associated with the firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. He can be reached at (310) 273-6333 or at ababaiian@ecjlaw.com.

Robert Cannuscio has been elected to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association. He has also been selected as President of the Benjamin Franklin American Inn of Court. Both associations are directed to intellectual property law issues and are centered in the Philadelphia region. Robert is a partner in the Intellectual Property Group at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and can be reached at 215-988-3303 or at Robert.Cannuscio@dbr.com

The Armenian Bar Association’s Secretary, and Co-chair of the Newsletter, Melineh Verma gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on June 2nd. Zoe Maya Kayane weighed in at 8 lbs, 4 ozs, 21 inches long. Zoe, Melineh and Rich are doing great. The Armenian Bar Association congratulates Melineh and Rich on their beautiful little princess, and wishes little Zoe the best and brightest future possible.

JOSEPH BASRALIAN RECEIVES ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

Joseph L. Basralian, Managing Partner of the Hackensack, New Jersey law firm of Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Kahn, P.C., received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a ceremony taking place on Ellis Island on Saturday, May 14, 2005. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is the only award aside from the Congressional Medal of Honor which is sanctioned by both houses of the United States Congress. Recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.

This award recognizes Mr. Basralian’s longstanding service to his Armenian ancestry, in particular to the global Armenian diaspora, and to his local community. Mr. Basralian serves as Secretary on the Central Board of Trustees of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, is pro bono legal advisor to several Armenian churches and philanthropic organizations, and has been a Trustee and the Secretary of the Armenia Fund USA.

In addition to his contributions to the legal community, including his service as a member of the Board of Governors of the Armenian Bar Association, Mr. Basralian is also actively involved in his local community of Bergen County, New Jersey, is a Trustee of the George and Winifred M. Pitkin Foundation, established to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit education and medical institutions throughout New Jersey, and has served as a Trustee of the American Heart Association, Bergen District.

Calendar of Events

September 23-24-25, 2005
Armenian Bar Association Mid Year Meeting.
San Francisco, CA.

Spring, 2006
Armenian Bar Association
17th National Meeting.
Washington, DC

See www.armenianbar.org for more details

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

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Editors
Armenian Bar Association
ARMENIAN BAR HOSTS
SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO

The weather was perfect. The sun was shining all weekend long. The temperature was ideal. And the atmosphere was electric as members and friends of the Armenian Bar Association descended on this heavenly Southern California town for the 16th National Meeting. By all accounts the meeting was a complete success.

The weekend began once again with a Friday morning golf outing. This year's golf outing took place at the Riverwalk Golf Course. The outing was organized by Mark Horoupian. A group of members from both the East and West Coast's hit the links for a couple of hours of enjoyment. It was a fun filled day on a beautiful course.

Following the outing, the formal events of the meeting began with a welcome cocktail reception at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel which was the host location for this year's National Meeting. The food was fabulous and abundant, but the camaraderie was even better as friends from all over the country gathered to start the weekend off. The reception lasted until well past 10 pm, after which a large contingent of attendees headed to the top of the Hyatt for drinks and the best view of the San Diego harbor.

Saturday morning started with a continental breakfast for attendees, after which the Organizing Committee Chair, Frank Zerunyan, welcomed everyone and gave a special thanks to this year's sponsors. [The list of sponsors is included separately in the Newsletter.] Frank then introduced the Armenian Bar Association's Chair, Robert Roomian. Robert thanked the Organizing Committee for arranging a wonderful locale and fabulous weekend of events. Robert informed the attendees of all the events that were scheduled for the weekend.

Robert started the business meeting which included a review of the year's events, as well as the decisions that were made at the Board meeting held earlier in the day. Robert then introduced the following Committee Chairs who were in attendance and had them present their annual committee reports to the attendees: Ann Louisin (Genocide Project Committee), Christine Engustian (Grants Committee), Datev Shenian (Membership Committee), Robert Cannuscio (Newsletter Committee), Gary Moomjian (Website Committee) and Vicken Simonian (Treasury).

Next the Nominating Committee, represented by Co-chair Saro Kerkonian, presented the slate of nominees for the open positions on the Board. Each of the nominees stood up in turn and introduced themselves. The ballots were passed out for the membership to cast their votes. The following individuals were nominated onto the Board of Governors:

   Honorable Alice A. Altoon
   Rita M. Bojalian
   Mark S. Horoupian
   Edwin E. Minassian
   Gary T. Moomjian

At the conclusion of the nominations, the panel presentations began. Robert introduced Saro Kerkonian, the moderator of the first panel on Trends in Workers Compensation Law. Saro started off with a brief history of California's Worker's Compensation Act. Saro then introduced Senator Charles Poochigian who spoke about the loss of insur-
ance carriers prompting legislative action. Next, Edvin Minassian presented the employer's perspective as to how the reform in the law affected businesses. Saro then presented the employee's/applicant's perspective on the law, and how the law can sometimes adversely affect injured workers. At the conclusion of the presentations, the panel answered numerous questions from the audience.

The luncheon was held in an adjoining room and was open to guests as well as attendees. The luncheon started off with Frank Zerunyan thanking the organizing committee and the sponsors. He then recognized all the judges and past chairs that were in attendance.

Next, Vicken Simonian and Robert Cannuscio presented Lucy Varpetian with an award from the Board of Governors in thanks for her many years of dedication and service to the Armenian Bar Association. They each took a turn telling the attendees antithetical stories about Lucy. Lucy accepted the award and thanked the Board and Vicken and Robert for the award.

Vicken then presented an Honorary membership award from the Board of Governors to retired Justice Armand Arabian for his many years of support. Justice Arabian thanked the Board for the award.

Next Gary Moomjian presented Robert Roomian with a painting and thanked him for his year of service to the Board and the Armenian Bar.

Frank welcomed the luncheon speaker, Senator Chuck Poochigian. Senator Poochigian, who is a leading candidate for the upcoming Attorney General's race in California, and who is a star in the
California political landscape, was the keynote speaker at the convention luncheon. Both the introduction and speech by Poochigian were inspirational and poignant. Zerunyan presented Poochigian with an Honorary Member plaque, in recognition of his great service to his community, the State, and the legal profession.

After the delicious lunch, the attendees returned for the afternoon session. The first panel presentation was on the Survival of the Armenian Church in Jerusalem. Vicken introduced Bedross Der Matossian. Bedross spoke about the organization of Armenian communities in the Ottoman Empire, and the Armenian communities of the 20th century. He described the impact of societal changes on the community, and the difficulties and challenges in preserving the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem, including limited housing.

Vicken then introduced Karnig Kerkonian. Karnig spoke about the 1500 year presence of Armenians in Jerusalem, and the changes that have occurred over that time. He discussed how the Jewish authorities are preventing development and construction in the Armenian Quarter. Jewish authorities want to condemn property in order to take over the land. Patriarchy has transferred and leased land to Jewish authorities in order to preserve the Armenian Quarter. Karnig mentioned that there has been little fighting by Armenians over the situation in Jerusalem, and much land has been taken. Karnig noted that the future looks bleak since there has been too much inaction by Armenian authorities.

During a question and answer session, Bedross mentioned that there are currently about 800 Armenians living in the Armenian Quarter. In 1948 there were 7000. Also if you marry a person from outside the Armenian Quarter you are not permitted to bring them in to live. Young Armenians do not want to stay because of the housing issues. Karnig also mentioned that the Jewish authorities will not let Armenian-Iranian people come into the Armenian Quarter, but allow Jewish-Iranian people into the Jewish Quarter.

In between the panel presentations, the attendees observed a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Pope John Paul II.

The final presentation of the day was on the Inclusion of Turkey in the European Union. Olivier Roumelian, from Paris, France, presented the topic. Olivier started off by formally noting that President Bush is a supporter of Turkey entering the EU, primarily since Turkey is an ally of the United States. Olivier explained what the EU is and what it is not. He mentioned that they still do not have a common language nor a common currency (the Euro is only used exclusively in 12 states.) The European Council decided in December 2004 that Turkey is part of Europe, opening up the door to discussions about enlargement. Before Turkey can be admitted, certain conditions must be met, including the protection of rights of minorities. Other conditions include the recognition of Cyprus by Turkey (Cyprus is currently in the EU.) While the EU has not formally requested that Turkey recognize the Armenian Genocide, France and Netherlands have expressed the position that Turkey must recognize the Armenian Genocide before entry. The EU has, however, requested that Turkey have good relations with its neighbors, and that Turkey open its borders with Armenia. Turkey has said no until the Karabagh issue is addressed.

Olivier then discussed whether the entry of Turkey in the EU would be
good or not. If Turkey becomes a
member, that would introduce 100
million Muslims into the EU. One
benefit of letting Turkey into the EU
is that it would require that there be
permitted free movement and own-
ership in Turkey. The negative is
that entry of Turkey into the EU
would likely end the Armenian
lobby in Europe.

After a question and answer ses-
sion, Robert Roomian concluded
the CLE program by thanking
everyone for attending.

A wonderful and extravagant
Saturday evening reception was
hosted by the Armenian Bar
Association and the Southern
California American-Armenian
Community honoring Judge Larry
A. Burns. Judge Burns is a United
States District Court Judge for the
Southern District of California.
Over 200 lawyers, judges, politi-
cians, dignitaries and members of
the public attended the gala
Saturday evening reception at the
Hyatt. The reception room was pic-
turesque, with a vista of the San
Diego harbor including the historic
World War II battleship “Midway”,
which now serves as a floating muse-
um. The room provided a perfect
backdrop for the evening festivities.
Musicians played soothing music
which set the tone for the night. A
dellectable assortment of food was
provided for everyone to savor.

Frank Zerunyan took the podium
once more to introduce Judge
Burns. Frank spoke about Judge
Burns background and his ascension
to the Bench. He then presented
Judge Burns with a Lifetime
Honorary Membership Award on
behalf of the Board of Governors.

Judge Burns, who was appointed
to the Federal Bench at the young
age of 48 by President George W.
ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO

Bush, gave a moving acceptance speech. He was joined by his parents, wife and youngest son, and read a letter written to him by his father, detailing the survival of his grandparents during the Armenian Genocide. The speech nearly drove everyone in attendance to tears. [Judge Burns’ speech is reprinted in its entirety in this Newsletter.] Judge Burns was also presented with a proclamation from the State of California by Senator Poochigian.

“The warmth and pride in our Armenian heritage generated at this meeting equaled or surpassed any event we have ever held,” said Vicken Simonian, former Chairman of Armenbar.

“We are thankful to Senator Poochigian and Judge Burns for their participation, and we will continue to honor the best our community and profession have to offer,” said Simonian.

The guest list, which read like a judicial and political who’s who, included Poochigian, Joe Kellegian, Mayor of the City of Solana Beach, San Diego Federal Judges Burns, Frank Brown, Dana Sabraw, and Thomas Whelan, all of the Southern District, Dickran Tevrizian, a Federal Judge in the Central District in Los Angeles, Armand Arabian, Justice of the California Supreme Court (retired), San Diego County Superior Court Judge Louis Hanoian, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Alice Alton and Zaven Sinanian, Aram Servian, San Mateo County Judge (retired), Pat O’Toole, interim U.S. Attorney in San Diego, and Robert Philibosian, former Los Angeles District Attorney.

Also in attendance were Raffi Hovannisian, founder of Armenbar, and the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Bob Barsam, past Grand Commander of the Knights of Vartan, and past Armenbar Chairpersons David Balabanian, Robert Cannuscio, Armen Hovannisian, Ann Lousin, Robert Roomian, Vicken Simonian, and Ara Tramblian.

Judge Tevrizian, another Honorary Member of the organization was presented with a plaque acknowledging his service to the judiciary, legal community and to his heritage. He gave words of praise to his friend and colleague Judge Burns. Joe Kellegian, who is the Mayor of the beautiful north San Diego county city of Solana Beach, presented Judge Burns with a proclamation from the San Diego County Supervisors’ office.

The office of Dick Murphy, Mayor of San Diego, also presented a proclamation, officially designating April 1-3, 2005 “Armenian Bar Association Weekend in the City San Diego”. In recognition of Judge Burns’ contribution to his local Armenian Community, Bob Barsam presented an award to the judge from the Knights of Vartan. Several members of the local lodge were in attendance to support their comrade.

At the conclusion of the evening reception, about 30 members and guests headed to the Gaslight District for an evening of camaraderie.

On Sunday morning, the new Board of Governors met for its first meeting of the year. During the meeting, elections were held for the Executive Committee. The following are the results of the election:

Chair - Gary Moomjian
Vice Chair - Frank Zerunyan
Secretary - Melineh Verma
Treasurer - Vicken Simonian
Ex Officio - Robert Roomian

Once again, the Armenian Bar Association has done a stellar job in providing its members with a successful meeting. The Board of Governors wishes to thank the San Diego Organizing Committee headed by Frank Zerunyan (Chair) and Vicken Simonian (Vice Chair). The committee included: Tim Agajanian, Honorable Alice E. Altoon, Armand Avazian, Michael Babikian, Sara Bedirian, Rita Bojalian, Lisa Boyadjian, V. Gourjian, Mark Horoupian, Garo Hovannisian, Betty Jambachian, Sharon Kalemkarian, Eliza Karapetian, Saro Kerkonian, Shaun Khoyayan, Annette Ohanganian, Dickran Semerdjian, Datev Shenian, Armen Vartian, and David Yeremian. The meeting would not have been even close to successful without their generous support. Thank you.
April 21, 2005 SACRAMENTO - Senator Chuck Poochigian's (R-Fresno) SB 424, which permanently designates April 24 as "Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide," was signed into law today by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. SB 424's adoption is particularly significant this year since 2005 is the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. Poochigian's measure also designates the period commencing the Sunday before April 24 and concluding the following Sunday as the "Days of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide."

"We must never forget the 1.5 million innocent Armenian victims who perished and others who were tortured and driven from their historic homeland by the regime in control of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The continued recognition of this crime against humanity is crucial to ensuring against the recurrence of genocide and educating people about such despicable acts," said Senator Poochigian. "With growing attempts to revise the historical record of this period and denial of truth by the Turkish government, it's vitally important that false depictions of the tragedies of the Genocide are rejected. SB 424 will help ensure that generations to come in California will continue to understand and recognize April 24th as the Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide."

Prior to Poochigian's SB 424, no statute in California law recognized the Armenian Genocide. Every year since 1994 either the Senate or the Assembly has done a resolution commemorating the Genocide, though in prior years the passage of this resolution was sporadic and inconsistent. For example, in 1979 and 1980 the California Assembly did a concurrent resolution, though from 1983-1987 nothing was passed in the Legislature to remember the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. SB 424 ensures that April 24 and the week surrounding it will always be commemorated.

The State Legislature recognized the momentous occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the Genocide today in numerous ways. Armenian Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, led the California Senate in prayer and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, led the Assembly in prayer during each house's general session. A rally to commemorate the event was also held on the Capitol's South Steps, attended by 500-700 supporters from across California. The rally featured 15 Armenians who finished a 20-day, 210 mile "March for Humanity" from Fresno to Sacramento.

The day concluded with Governor Schwarzenegger hosting a small ceremony to sign Senator Poochigian's SB 424. The two Archbishops from the Armenian Church, Senator Jackie Speier, Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian, descendants of survivors of the Genocide, and other Armenian representatives joined Senator Poochigian and Governor Schwarzenegger at the event.

The Capitol also hosted a photo exhibit illustrating Genocide monuments from around the world that serve to memorialize the innocent victims of this First Genocide of the 20th century. They help to teach that understanding the Armenian Genocide is an important step toward preventing similar tragedies in the future, and remind us that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.
Remarks given by: U.S. District Judge Larry Alan Burns
16th Annual National Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association

I am honored tonight to be recognized by the Armenian Bar Association. I am also very proud to be an Armenian, if only by half.

I hasten to add this qualification because after my confirmation by the United States Senate in 2003, and that of Sam Der-Yeghiayan the same year, the Honorable Dick Tervrizian was heard to quip: “We now have 2 1/2 Armenians on the federal bench.”

As most of you know, Dick has announced that he will be taking Senior Status this summer—a designation that permits a federal judge who has reached a certain age and tenure to maintain only a 1/4 case load. Dick, I hope your new designation as Senior Judge doesn’t mean our Armenian representation on the federal bench will shrivel to 1 3/4.

But being even part Armenian, I share with many of you here tonight the pride, the culture, and the warm camaraderie of a gallant people who—throughout our difficult history—and despite the utmost adversity—have accomplished much.

And the reason we Armenians have accomplished much is because we have persevered.

Compared with other cultural and ethnic groups, there aren’t many Armenian Americans in San Diego. So, when I discover someone who shares my Armenian heritage, the encounter is invariably warm and familiar—practically familial. Our discussion quickly and eagerly turns to the customs we share—often expressed in tidbits of the Armenian language—and of course to the food we know and love. Anyone who has experienced the aroma of warm baregs wafting from his mother’s kitchen—or has sunk a fork into a steaming dolma—or has sneaked a smidgeon of chokfse while it is being rolled—has walked a mile in my shoes and is immediately okay by me.

But greeting another Armenian with “Ench bez-ses,” (which means “How are you?”) or comparing notes on the best Armenian food is not what forms the strongest connection between us. Instead, the real bond comes from two painful truths:

First, that our ancestors were victimized by one of the great atrocities of the 20th century—an atrocity that for most of the people of our generation remains invisible; and

Second, that in spite of such a terrible shared history, we have persevered.

In fact, in a peculiar way, it is the great tragedy of our shared history that has allowed Armenian Americans to flourish as we do today.

The Armenian-Americans that I encounter are invariably proud. They are proud because to be Armenian means that you are a survivor—that somewhere along the way—someone in your direct lineage—a relative of yours—persevered. Someone displayed a will to survive and to prosper—despite having all the odds stacked against him.

My good friend, Judge Frank Brown, who sits on the San Diego Superior Court and is here tonight, has a saying: “That which does not kill you makes you stronger.” Armenians are living proof.

In recent years, the world’s gaze has focused on atrocities committed in places like Iraq, and Bosnia, and Rwanda. But seared deeply in the consciousness of every American of Armenian descent is a tragic—but in the end, inspirational—story.

A story of survival. A story of perseverance.

Earlier this week, my dad wrote me a letter. I want to share it with you. It begins:

Dear Son,
Your mother and I feel deeply honored to be attending this gathering to honor you. The honor is well deserved.

I thought I would list a few facts concerning your ancestral background. You might want to use some of these facts in your speech to the group. Your grandfather, Hagop Momjian was born in Aintab, Turkey. Your grandmother, Arousiaq Eskejian, was born in Taurus, Turkey (home of the Apostle Paul).

During World War I, the Turks came to the Momjian’s door, and told them that all Armenians in the town were to be evacuated from Aintab. They were to gather in the town square early the next morning. The only thing they would be allowed to bring with them was what they could carry on their backs. Your grandfather’s family knew to take the instructions seriously—Hagop’s father had already been poisoned by the Turks.

The next morning, along with many other Armenian families, Hagop’s family gathered in the town square as they had been instructed. His family at the time consisted of his mother, a brother, and two sisters. The youngest sister was only three years old. They were told they would be marched through the desert to Syria. Several days into the forced march, Hagop’s three year-old sister became ill.

But the Turks would not permit the march to stop.

Fatigued and unable to keep pace, she grew sicker and died. The heartbroken family had to bury her along the roadside.

Hagop’s mother had hidden the family savings on her person. At some point, she took a chance and offered the money as a bribe to a Turkish officer to let her family go. The officer took the money, and under the cover of darkness, released the family. The next day, the rest of the Armenians were marched farther into the Syrian desert—never to be heard from again.
Hagop's family eventually made their way to Aleppo, Syria. Nor long after arriving in Aleppo, the British army routed the Turks, and Hagop got a job with the British army as a wagon builder. In time, he earned enough money to pay the family's passage to America.

The rest of the story, you know.

As is apparent from the passion with which my dad recounts the story of my mother's side of the family -- although he is an odar (or "outsider") -- he is Armenian in spirit.

But I would be remiss if I didn't tell you how he finishes the letter. It goes on:

As for your father, he is of Scottish descent. His ancestors arrived in America some six generations ago. You might want to mention that 24 of the 43 U.S. Presidents were either Scottish, or had Scottish blood.

Love,

Dad

I have never been to the village where my grandfather was born.

Except for a few familiar Armenian words -- for example, I can direct a fellow Hyestan to the place where we can "cheesh." -- I cannot speak the language of my ancestors. Nor, having been born and raised in a protestant, Nazarene home, do I practice the Armenian Apostolic faith.

More to the point, I have not known hunger, nor pain, nor the forced relocation from my home and my city, nor the unmerciful death of loved ones as my grandfather did.

But what I know is this: I am the beneficiary of my grandfather's perseverance. Like all the Armenian survivors of his generation, that which did not kill him made him stronger.

And, in turn, it has made me stronger.

In my life, I have tried to emulate my grandfather's fierce determination. I have inherited his will to persevere, to succeed, and to try to make the most of myself -- whatever the odds.

In this significant and distinctive respect -- like many who are here tonight with similar stories of miraculous survival -- I claim the right to call myself Armenian.

I leave you with this. William Saroyan, an Armenian-American -- and one of the accomplished writers and playwrights of last century, summed up the spirit of the Armenian people -- their determination and perseverance and, ultimately, their sense of optimism for the future.

He wrote:

"I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all been fought -- and lost, whose structures have all crumbled, whose literature is unread, whose music is unheard, and whose prayers are no more answered. Go ahead -- destroy Armenia -- see if you can do it. Send them to the desert without food or water. Burn their houses and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, and sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

Thank you, again, for honoring me this evening.

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**POSITION AVAILABLE**

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA (AUA)**

**YEREVAN, ARMENIA**

(Affiliate of the University of California)

**Dean of Law Department**

The AUA is seeking applicants for the position of Dean of the Law Department.

Responsibilities: Provide academic leadership in all aspects of the Department, including strategic planning, curricular leadership, program growth and development, hiring and evaluation of faculty, fiscal management and outcome assessment, and fundraising.

Qualifications: Candidates must be lawyers with a strong academic background. The position requires: legal knowledge encompassing some area of international or comparative law; experience in generating and supporting development of external funding from a variety of sources; familiarity with current education policy issues and quality assurance practices; proven competency in strategic planning and resource management.

Position Starting Date: Fall 2005

The applicant's curriculum vitae, letter of application, and two references should be sent to: American University of Armenia Corporation; 300 Lakeside Drive, 4th Floor; Oakland, CA 94612; Attn: Gaiane Khachatrian; Recruitment Coordinator; e-mail: Gaiane@auac.net; Fax: 510-208-3576
Speech By Armenian Bar Vice Chair and Rolling Hills Estate Councilman Frank Zerunyan to Rolling Hills Estates City Council Chamber

Thank you Mr. Mayor
My colleagues on the council, distinguished guests, friends and neighbors and ladies and gentlemen and in particular young Americans who are in our council chambers and watching at home today. Welcome, as we once again proclaim April 24, as a day of remembrance for the fallen victims of the first genocide of the 20th century. 1.5 million peaceful Armenians including my great grandfather and great uncle were brutally slaughtered in the deserts of south east turkey by the leaders of The Committee of Union of Progress or “Ittihad” party.

One of the Leaders of this party, Talat Pasha, unhappy with the progress of the mass deportations, in a telegram sent to the eastern front on September 16, 1915 wrote:

“Instructions to the government of Aleppo: It was first communicated to you that by order of the Jemiyet, the Ittihad Committee had decided to destroy all Armenians living in Turkey. Those who oppose this order and decision cannot remain on the official staff of the Empire. An end must be put to their existence however criminal the measures taken may be, and no regard must be paid to either age or sex or to conscientious scruples.”

The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau wrote that the English language was not sufficient to truly describe the events of 1915. He Said:

“I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The greatest massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said:

“it is sadly true what a cynic has said, that we learn from history that we do not learn from history. And yet it is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed by the ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the 20th century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were being given before Hitler’s madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world.”

Indeed Hitler himself in 1939, before the invasion of Poland reminded his commanding officers in a passionate speech “who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?”

Perpetrators of genocide have learned from their own “study” of genocide that they can commit the crime under cover of war, in the name of self defense, will receive impunity, can deny that they committed genocide, and the world will forget.

Professor Stanley Cohen of Hebrew University once said that

“the nearest successful example of collective denial in the modern era is the years of official denial by successive Turkish governments of the 1915 genocide against the Armenians.”

He continued: “This denial has been sustained by deliberate propaganda, lying, and cover-ups, forging documents, suppression of archives, and bribing scholars.”

Interestingly, the systematic annihilation of Armenians in 1915 was recognized by ottoman courts martial shortly after World War I, which sentenced some of the Turkish perpetrators to death. In the Treaty of Sevres (articles 142, 144 and 230) the Allies and the Sultan acknowledged the atrocities committed to the Armenians. The world’s indifference allowed Turks to attempt to revise history.

To deniers of genocide: we will never forget! we will remain vigilant! we will teach our sons and daughters some of whom are represented here today to remain vigilant and care for all human life without regard to race, gender, or faith.

If you want to honor the memory of my ancestors, if you want millions of our Jewish, Cambodian, Bosnian, Rwandan brothers and sisters to rest in peace, then I say, do something to stop the slaughter in Darfur, Sudan today.

In closing Mr. Mayor, it has been said that “it is entirely natural to care the most deeply about one’s self and one’s own people, and to care more intensely for some other peoples with whom one feels a more immediate kinship, but ultimately the challenge of human development, both for the benefit of individual mental health and happiness and for the benefit of humanity, is for more people to care about all human life.”

Thank you and may God bless the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide and all other victims of genocide throughout the world.

April 12, 2005
ARMENIAN BAR HOSTS
RECEPTION FOR
CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II
AT DIOCESE
IN BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

Over 50 members, judges and dignitaries met with Catholicos Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church based in Etchmiadzin, on June 8, 2005, during his historic visit to Los Angeles. The reception was held at the Primate Hampar meeting room at the Diocese Church in Burbank.

Frank Zerunyan, ArmenBar Vice-Chairman, and a City Councilman from Rolling Hills Estates, served as the master of ceremonies. His Holiness Karekin II was joined at the head table by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese. Zerunyan praised the Catholicos, confirmed the group’s commitment to the church and thanked him for taking time during his busy schedule to meet with ArmenBar members.

In honor of Karekin II’s visit to Los Angeles, and in line with ArmenBar’s commitment to legal education, Zerunyan presented His Holiness with a $1,000.00 check as an initial donation toward the legal education of clergymen in Armenia currently attending law school.

A show of force was present from the Los Angeles County Judiciary, as Judges Gregory Keosian, Richard Kolostian, Zaven Sinanian and Ronald Sohigian all attended the event. Former Los Angeles District Attorney Robert Philibossian was also in attendance.

The Catholicos welcomed those in attendance, and extended the invitation of the Holy See to the Armenian Bar Association to hold a meeting in Armenia. His Holiness spoke of an historic Armenian legal text written by Mekhitar Gosh, which remains as one of the most important Armenian legal texts. His Holiness remarked “you are the heirs of Mekhitar Gosh; who better than you to comment on, and be proud of his writings?” His Holiness then graciously offered “Goshavank” (the monastery of Gosh) as the inspirational venue for such a symposium.

The meeting with the Catholicos marks the second occasion ArmenBar members have met with the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church. The group met with Karekin I during his visit to Los Angeles in 1995. John Babikian, formerly of the Metropolitan News Press, planned the 1995 reception, and was in attendance to meet Karekin II.

“We are happy to have had the opportunity to meet with the leader of the Armenian Church, and be able to exchange ideas with the Catholicos,” said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of ArmenBar. “We should take His Holiness up on his offer to come to Armenia, and continue to promote the line of communication between our organization and the church,” she said. ArmenBar has held three previous meetings in Yerevan.
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Meaning and Armenia

By Brian S. Kabateck

[This article first appeared in the March 2005 issue of California Lawyer. Reprinted with permission.]

My grandfather was in his early 20s during World War I when his entire family was killed in rural Armenia, then part of the Ottoman Empire. He was a divinity student at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland when he received the sad news. My grandmother was less fortunate; her family, including her first husband and their children, were killed in front of her. My ancestors were victims of what has come to be known as the Armenian Genocide.

My grandfather’s dream to return to his family and homeland was ruined. Instead, he traveled through England raising money for Armenian Relief. He eventually came to the United States as an immigrant, meeting and marrying my grandmother, who had also found her way to America. By the time my mother was born, some 70 years ago in Chicago, the genocide was not discussed at home; it was, I believe, too painful. My mother married an odar (a non-Armenian). I did not grow up attending Armenian schools, participating in Armenian youth organizations, or even attending the Armenian church, which is odd considering my grandfather had become a priest at the largest Armenian church in Fresno.

My parents settled in Glendale, which today holds the largest Armenian population outside Armenia. But in the 1960s only about six Armenian families lived there. As a child I only vaguely thought about being Armenian. My grandparents died before I was born, so I had little connection with the culture. I grew up, went to college and law school, and eventually became a plaintiffs’ attorney specializing in representing consumers victimized by corporate America in insurance bad faith and class actions, all with no thought of my Armenian heritage.

One day a case was referred to my office involving insurance claims against New York Life Insurance Company arising from the Armenian Genocide. New York Life had sold around 9,000 life insurance policies to Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire prior to the genocide. During the genocide many policy holders were killed or had to leave their homes so quickly that important papers, including life insurance policies, were lost or destroyed. Many of the beneficiaries were unable to apply for, or did not know they might be entitled to, benefits. Although New York Life was able to find and pay many beneficiaries, the company acknowledged that an estimated 2,300 policies sold to Armenians prior to the genocide remained unpaid.

I eagerly joined the plaintiffs’ team. The case soon taught me about the lives of Armenians before 1915 in what is now Turkey–how they were oppressed and subjugated. I learned that insurers sold policies to Armenians who were terrified by the smaller, more focused Armenian massacres that began at the end of the 19th century. The policyholders simply wanted to protect their families in case more killings occurred. I began to imagine what my grandparents and their families went through.

The case wore on for more than four years, and I came to understand the anger of Armenian-Americans over the failure of the United States to acknowledge the genocide despite overwhelming contemporaneous evidence. I read original documents and learned from scholars and victims. I met dedicated Armenians such as Vartkes Yeghiayan, the Armenian lawyer who started the New York Life case. I developed a friendship and working relationship with Armenian-American lawyers and co-counsel Mark and Matt Geragos. When we settled for $20 million, it became the first recorded case addressing issues involving the genocide. Moreover, it became the oldest resolved case in U.S. history—some 90 years had passed between the original events and the settlement. Although the settlement brings closure to many Armenian families, equally important is that the case has finally brought international recognition to the genocide.

This case was an unexpected, life-altering experience. It became a journey of discovery about my grandparents and the millions of Armenians who lived and died in that turbulent and violent time and place nearly a century ago. Working on the case became my opportunity to reach back in time and claim a part of my ancestral history.

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Trying Hard to Get it Right

In the Winter edition of the Newsletter, we mentioned the passing of Norma Kararian. In the article we stated that Norma was the first female American attorney of Armenian descent. However, Paulette Janian of Selma, California brought to our attention that her role model, Mrs. Stella Ajemian Edwarde, who practiced law in Piedmont, California, an area close to Oakland, CA was admitted on August 11, 1922. Stella’s husband was Levon, also Armenian. They had one daughter, Marina. While raising Marina, Stella practiced law out of her home. She emphasized probate and estate planning, and was a graduate of U. C. Berkeley.
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Five members of the Armenian Bar Association participated in a practitioner panel at Southwestern University School of Law on March 8, 2005 in Los Angeles, California. The panel, which discussed the transition from law student to practicing lawyer, was moderated by Honorable Judge Sinanian from the Los Angeles Superior Court. The panelists were Ara Babaian (corporate/securities attorney with the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP), Rita Bojalian (employment and entertainment lawyer with CBS Broadcasting Inc.), Shahen Hairapetian (business and tax lawyer with the law firm of Hairapetian & Hairapetian), Lucy Varpetian (assistant city attorney for the City of Glendale, California), and David Yeremian (business and litigation associate with the law firm of Palmer, Lombardi & Donohue, LLP).

Over 30 Southwestern law students and others attended the panel presentation, which was sponsored by the School’s Armenian Law Students Association (ALSA) (www.alsa.us). Each of the panelists gave their insights on how to prepare for a career in the law, focusing on practical tips such as preparatory course work and clinical experience and also on what the practice of law really is like. Ara Babaian spoke about working at a large firm and suggested the possibility of working in Armenia either as a lawyer or as a rule of law advocate; Rita Bojalian emphasized the importance of striving to get the experience and ultimately the job that you truly want; Shahen Hairapetian talked about being a solo practitioner and working in a small firm; Lucy Varpetian spoke about the benefits of working in a government position and how you can use that position to better the lives of people; and finally, David Yeremian talked about how to succeed in a small firm setting, stressing the importance of opportunities that may arise.

"The Armenian Bar Association is very happy to have co-sponsored this event with the Armenian Law Students," said Executive Director Betty Jambotchian. "We are looking forward to participating in more events with the Armenian Law Students," said Jambotchian.

Annette Ohanganian, Chairperson of the Armenian Bar Association Student Affairs Committee welcomed the students and thanked Lina Meldonian and Arpineh Babakanian, Co-Chairs of the ALSA for preparing the program materials and organizing the lovely evening reception held in the Salle Moderne of the Bullocks Wilshire Building annex at Southwestern Law School. Ms. Ohanganian also thanked Professor Anahid Gharakhanian, an Armenian Bar Association member and the Southwestern faculty advisor to the Armenian Law Students Association.
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ARMENIAN BAR HOSTS RECEPTION AT "SIDEBAR" IN GLENDALE FOR MAYOR AND NEWLY ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glendale, California - Raffi Manoukian, the Mayor of Glendale, California, along with newly elected City Council members Ara Najarian and Frank Quintero, joined a large gathering of members of the Armenian Bar Association for a reception in their honor on May 26, 2005. The event was held at Sidebar in Glendale, which, appropriately enough, is owned by the Mayor’s brother Nigel Manoukian, an active Armenbar member and past Pro-Bono Committee Chairman.

The City of Glendale has the distinction of having the largest concentration of Armenian residents of any city in the world outside of Armenia. The recent elections in Glendale resulted in Quintero being re-elected to the Council along with fellow incumbents Bob Yousefian, the former Mayor, and Dave Weaver. Najarian, one of the founding members of ArmenBar, was the only non-incumbent to be elected, and garnered the most votes of any candidate.

“We are pleased at the large turnout to meet and greet the local politicians in Glendale, and the effort of our organization to raise funds to support Armenian law students worldwide,” said Betty Jamgochian, Executive Director of ArmenBar.

Over $800 was raised at the event for the ArmenBar scholarship fund. This was due in part to the generosity of Nigel Manoukian, who donated food and refreshments for the evening, as well as the Baklava Factory, which donated the deserts.

Also in attendance that evening were Glendale City Attorney Scott Howard, along with Deputy City Attorneys Michael Garcia and Lucy Varpetian, Michael Amerian, a Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney, Robert Phillipson, former Los Angeles District Attorney, Zaven Sinanian, Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, North Central District, and Professor Levon Marashlian of Glendale City College.

ArmenBar Treasurer Vicken Simonian served as master of ceremonies, and introduced Ara Babaian and David Yeremian co-chairs of the Southern California Regional Committee. Babaian and Yeremian, along with their committee, have been responsible for a number of recent events. The articulate attorneys updated the attendees on upcoming social events and meetings. Some of those events include a picnic, golf tournament and the midyear meeting in San Francisco in September.

Mayor Manoukian, who is serving his second term, along with Najarian and Quintero, addressed the crowd, and encouraged ArmenBar to continue its work on behalf of the community. Nigel Manoukian gave a moving speech stressing the importance of joining ArmenBar and donating to the scholarship fund.
Armenian Bar Association Hosts Summer Mixer in New York City

by Anahid M. Ughrulayan

The sunny and warm summer weather was no deterrent for the capacity crowd at the Armenian Bar Association's mixer on June 21, 2005 at Metroloft in New York. Over 50 attorneys and non-attorneys networked and mingled. Many in attendance were pleased with the variety of professions represented. The mixer garnered new interest in the Armenian Bar Association as well as future social events. Many thanks to Gary Moomjian, Diana Demirdjan, Betty Jamgotchian and Lisa Boyadjian for their support and assistance in organizing this event.
Here is the Truth in the Black Covered Book

By Murat Bardakci

Prime Minister Talaat Pasha had carefully recorded the post 1915 population movements and statistics in a 10x15 cm size notebook, kept with care to this day by his wife Hayriye and Talaat’s granddaughter Aysegul Bafraji.

According to Talaat Pasha’s notes, the number of Armenians subjected to mandatory deportations in accordance with the “Temporary Deportation Law” issued on 27 May 1915 is 924,158. The city where the exile was enforced the most extensively was Sivas with 141,592 people, while the province of Konya was the least with 4,381 people.

The figures about the Armenian deportations make up the third section of Talaat Pasha’s black covered notebook. The Pasha first notes the number of Armenians that were subjected to mandatory deportations on the pages devoted to the deportations. Then, he provides a list of how many Armenians and the provinces of the Empire against which the Law of Deportations were enforced.

Later in the notebook, the breakdown of Armenian orphans not deported is given per province, followed by a summary of the buildings, real estate, farms, mines and franchises left behind by or expropriated from Armenians.

However, it can be seen that the Pasha shows 270 fewer deportees in one of the provinces.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT OF THE DEPORTATIONS

Being a primary document on the Armenian deportations, the above list appears in the black covered book of Prime Minister Talaat Pasha as shown.

After this page comes a breakdown of the orphans and a summary of the buildings, real estate, farms, mines and franchises left behind by the Armenians.

Talaat Pasha Joins the Debate 90 Years Later

The Prime Minister “the Minister of the Interior and the architect of the Deportations” Talaat Pasha, is speaking today for the first time since the events of 1915 exactly 90 years ago and taking part in the deportation discussions with documents in his private archive that haven’t been published up to now!

Yesterday, I had written the following on my page in my introduction of the article series as well. The deportation numbers and other information found in this series are based upon a 10x15 cm size notebook I took with the intention of publishing from Talaat Pasha’s wife Hayriye and Talaat’s granddaughter Aysegul Bafraji that belonged to the Pasha and other documents of his that have been with me for years. The black covered book in which the Pasha had the post 1915 population movements and statistics recorded has three parts: the Muslim refugees, the Armenian deportees, those Greeks and Arabs that likewise have been deported for anti-state activities and the real-estate that was left behind by the non-Muslims.

At the very start of the series, I must draw your attention to one matter:

Due to the lack of essential, realistic studies on these subjects up to now, the numbers in the black covered notebook of Talaat Pasha and his other documents may sound very strange or even high to some of us. However, with every single one of them being a primary source, these numbers are like defense exhibits against the “genocide” accusations full of exaggerated figures.

Let the willingly ignorant among us who say, “We not only slaughtered the Armenians but the Kurds too. Let us apologize for the genocide we perpetrated and let the issue be settled” cast no shadow and let our academics lay the shallow “we didn’t kill them; they killed us” aside and take a learned approach.

Let Leylegian rest assured. We turned Talaat Pasha’s tomb into a dump.

You must have seen it in the newspapers: the president of the organization-based in Brussels called “European Armenian Federation”, Laurent Leylegian, made some strange demands last week from the Turkish government.

Evidenced by his demands that betray a complete harmony between his name and his mindset, Mr. Leylegian wanted the demolition of the mausoleum of Talaat Pasha in Istanbul, and a change to street names named after “Talaat” and “Enver”, and the closing of the museums showing the Armenian crimes against the Turks; and the laws banning the mention of the “genocide”.

After reading Leylegian’s drive, I remembered an old Iranian saying, ‘Diváne rafí kalem nist’, in other words, “the fool will not be charged for sinning” and laughed. However, what I saw in the vicinity of Sisli turned my smile into a bitter grimace and I thought we had already carried out some of Leylegian’s demands on our own.

Yesterday morning I went to photograph the tomb of Talaat Pasha on the Hill of Eternal Liberty at Sisli for the purpose of using the pictures in the series and instead of a tomb, I came across a dump! As if a new revolt had taken place at the site where the mausoleums of Talaat, Enver, Mahmut Sevket, and Midhat Pashas along with
the martyred soldiers in the revolt of March 31 are found. The lock of the mausoleum below the monument was broken and the tomb downstairs had now become the destination for drunkards. The tombs in the park were being used as beer cases. In short, everything was heart rending.

The same place was in the same shape days before the reinterment of Enver Pasha’s ashes from Tajikistan. After I had brought the situation to light, it was hastily cleaned up but following the funeral of the Pasha, all had returned to the same routine.

Let the president of European Armenian Federation, Laurent Leyegian, rest assured and not go through the trouble of making such demands of the Turkish government. As long as the Metropolitan Municipality which is in charge of the Hill of Eternal Liberty maintains its indifference, there will not remain any evidence of the tombs “not only Talaat Pasha” but also those martyrs who are in their eternal sleep here, unless the site is turned over to the Military!

He was a Postal Clerk but Became a Prime Minister You must surely know of Talaat Pasha, for whom we have been naming boulevards, streets, neighborhoods and schools, but let me briefly remind you anyway.

His full name being Mehmed Talaat, Talaat Pasha was born in Edirne on 20 August 1874. He lost his father at a young age and entered the Postal and Telegraphic service to feed his family. He became a founder of Ittihad & Terakki. He was arrested for his activities against the regime of Abdul Hamid and was jailed for 25 months and then was exiled to Salonica.

Employed as a mailman here, Mehmed Talaat was elected to Parliament from Edirne after the proclamation of the Second Constitution in 1908. He was made Interior Minister in the cabinet of Hussein Hilmi Pasha, and Minister of Postal and Telegraph Service in the cabinet of Kucuk Said Pasha. Talaat was one of the planners of the raid on the Sublime Porte on 23 January 1913, and one of the three top leaders of the Ittihad & Terakki Party together with Enver and Jemal Pashas. He became the Interior Minister once again in the cabinet of Said Halim Pasha created on June 13, and personally oversaw the Armenian deportations in 1915. He was made prime minister on 4 February 1917 and received the title “pasha”.

Having resigned on 8 October 1918, upon our defeat in WWI, Talaat Pasha left Turkey with the other Ittihad & Terakki leaders during the night of 2 November on a German submarine. He first went to Russia, then to Germany.

Talaat Pasha was declared as the “greatest enemy” by Diaspora Armenians because of the measures he took in the Armenian events in Anatolia during the war years, and was murdered in Berlin in the morning of 15 March 1921, by an Armenian partisan called Sogomon Tehlierian with a bullet to his neck.

Tehlierian was acquitted in the German court where he was tried. The ashes of the Pasha were brought to Istanbul from Berlin on 25 February 1944, 24 years after the murder and were interned at the Hill of Eternal Liberty with great military ceremony.

From a series appearing in the Istanbul daily Hurriyet, 25 April 2005
Translated by The Genocide Archive Project
Message From the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Whatever anxiety that I had over making that trip was promptly dispelled. On entering the Friday night kickoff cocktail reception, a series of people came over to me to make conversation and befriend me. I had found a home. In succession, I went from Board member, Secretary, Vice Chair to Chair.

The Armenian Bar Association can be for you whatever you want it to be. There are the Mid-Year and Annual Meetings in exciting locations. During these weekends, you can network, make friends, learn, gain CLE credits and have a weekend away. Should it suit your taste, there are several Committees that you can join to do good. These include the Armenian Programs, Armenian Rights Watch, Continuing Legal Education, Genocide Project, Grants and Scholarships, Membership Development, Newsletters, Pro Bono, Student Affairs and Website Committees.

A movement is now in place to hold an increased number of local ArmenBar events, led by our esteemed Membership Development Committee Chairman, Datev Shenian. Currently, mixers and other get-togethers are being held in New York City and Los Angeles. I personally attended a highly successful mixer in New York City on June 21st, where over 50 Armenian lawyers and non-lawyers attended. Watch out for the expansion of these fun get-togethers to more cities.

You may be wondering what's next on the Armenian Bar Association agenda. Our Mid-Year meeting in 2005 will be held in San Francisco, the weekend of September 23-25. Please watch our Website, www.armenianbar.org, for more information. So that the East coast is not neglected, the next Annual Meeting, in the Spring of 2006, will be held in Washington D.C. If you have not had the experience, you are encouraged to attend one of these Meetings and see if our organization is for you. No guarantees, but I'm hopeful that the fit will be right.

I will take this opportunity to give a plug to the ArmenBar Website (again, it is www.armenianbar.org). Please visit it. Generally, on the home page there will be information as to upcoming events. More information can be obtained by checking the relevant link. Once the event is over, under Events, you will typically see photos taken of the festivities. For news as to our Members, such as achievements, job changes, births and marriages, you are directed to MemberNews. For employment opportunities, go to the Employment link. Information is also available as to Board and Executive Committee Members, the various Committees available for you to join and other organizational information.

Finally, a special thanks to Olivier Roumelian for treating me to lunch when I was in Paris this past May.

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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.

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