SAN DIEGO TO HOST ARMENIAN BAR’S 16TH ANNUAL MEETING

On April 1-3, 2005, the Armenian Bar Association will hold its 16th Annual National meeting in the sunny city of San Diego. It seems like ages since the Armenian Bar has been to this beautiful jewel in southern California, and from early indications it seems that the city has been saving its best times for our meeting.

The Armenian Bar Association has made arrangements for a limited number of rooms at the beautiful Manchester Grand (Continued on page 13)

ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOLDS SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION AT JUDGE ALICE ALTOON’S HOME IN ENCINO, CA

A home worthy of note in Architectural Digest was the venue as ArmenBar Board member Alice E. Altoon, a Los Angeles County Judge, along with her husband Ron Altoon, hosted a dinner reception at their Encino, California residence on February 10, 2005. Over 120 judges, lawyers and law students attended the event, which served as both a social mixer and a fundraising event for the ArmenBar scholarship fund.

“The reception was yet another successful event for our organization, and reinforced our commitment to assisting Armenian law students throughout the world,” said (Continued on page 4)
STATE SENATOR POOCHIGIAN AND FEDERAL JUDGE BURNS TO BE HONORED AT ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION 16TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, APRIL 1-3, 2005

California State Senator Chuck Poochigian and Federal Judge Larry Burns will join several legal scholars, judges and lawyers from throughout the United States, Canada, France and Armenia, as the Armenian Bar Association holds its 16th Annual National meeting at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego the weekend of April 1, 2005.

The conference will be punctuated by legal seminars, a golf tournament, receptions and a meeting of the Board of Governors at the Hyatt, which is the largest waterfront property on the West Coast and is walking distance from the trendy Gas Lamp Quarter and Seaport Village areas near San Diego Bay.

Poochigian is an Honorary Life Member of the ArmenBar, and has announced his candidacy for Attorney General of California. He recently authored California’s revamped worker’s compensation law, and will be a panelist in a legal seminar highlighting the new law, which is considered the most significant reform of the system since its establishment over 90 years ago. Joining Senator Poochigian will be expert practitioners Saro Kerkorian, former Treasurer of the ArmenBar, Edvin Minassian and Harry Samanyan. Poochigian will also be the keynote luncheon speaker at the convention.

The program will also include a panel on “The Survival of the Armenian Church and Community in the Historic Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem” and “The Inclusion of Turkey in the European Union.”

Panelists for the Armenian Quarter discussion will include Bedross Der Matossian, a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University and a resident of Jerusalem, Karnig Kerkorian of Chicago, a Harvard graduate who received a post-doctoral diploma in International Law at Cambridge University, and members from the Armenian Clergy. The panel will focus on the future existence of the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem, which after several centuries in the Holy Land is at risk of being lost. Possible international legal remedies will be explored.

The panel on Turkey’s inclusion to the European Union will be presided over by international legal expert Olivier Roumélian of Paris, France. Among the issues to be discussed is whether Turkey will be required to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide as a precondition to its admittance into the Union.

Judge Burns, whose mother’s maiden name is Momjian and is only 51-years-old, was appointed to the United States District Court, Southern District of California in 2003 after his appointment by President George W. Bush and following unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate. He joins Dickran Tervizian (Los Angeles) and Samuel Der-Yeghiayan (Chicago) as only the third Judge of Armenian descent on the Federal Bench. In a short period of time, Burns has distinguished himself as an excellent jurist and is a rising star in the Federal Court system. He will be honored at a Saturday evening reception that will be open to the public.

“We are proud of the distinguished list of participants and guests for our historic 16th Annual meeting, and invite our members and the community to join us in San Diego,” said Betty Jangotchian, Executive Director of the ArmenBar.

The meeting will be presided over by the ArmenBar Chairman Robert Roomian of Washington, D.C. “We are excited about the convention, and believe it will be an enriching experience for all who attend,” said Roomian.

The ArmenBar is the largest group of attorneys, judges and law students outside of Armenia. The group has promoted the Rule of Law in the Republic of Armenia, provided pro bono legal services to needy members of the Armenian Community, provided legal seminars and continuing legal education seminars and served as a network for the interaction of judges, lawyers and law students of Armenian descent.

To find out more about the organization and the Annual Meeting, visit the group’s website at www.armenianbar.org.

Turkey Says It Will Sign on to the International Criminal Court

In October 2004, during an European Union debate in France, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that Turkey would sign and ratify the Rome statute that created the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC, under the auspices of the United Nations, hears international cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Almost 100 countries have ratified the Rome treaty, which established the court in July 1998, the most notable hold-out being the United States, who vehemently opposes the establishment and operation of the Court. The court, located in The Hague, has been in operation since July 2002.

Ironically, also during the debate, Erdogan stressed Turkey’s continual denial that a genocide had taken place against Ottoman Armenians during World War I. France passed a law in 2001 officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide, causing a temporary rift in French-Turkish relations. Erdogan ended his speech by imploring France to now support Turkey’s bid for EU membership.
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to the Hon. Zaven Sinanian, and the Hon. Gregory Keosian, both Armenian Bar founding members, who were both reelected to continue serving on the bench for the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Judge Sinanian and Judge Keosian were both sworn in by another Armenian Bar member, the Hon. Dickran Tevrezian, Federal Judge, United States District Court, Central District of California.

Christopher Dervishian, has joined the IP boutique law firm of RatnerPrestia in Berywn, PA. Christopher can be reached at RatnerPrestia, 1235 Westlakes Drive, Suite 301, Berwyn, PA 19312, Tel.: 610-993-4234, Fax: 610-407-0701, e-mail: cdervishian@ratnerprestia.com.

Christopher Guzelian, a professor at Northwestern University Law School (Chicago), passed the Colorado bar exam in August, 2004. He is also a member of the California bar.


On Friday evening, November 12, 2004, Gary T. Moomjian, co-Vice Chairman of the Armenian Bar Association, attended a one hour Workshop Presentation of selected scenes from the “Beast on the Moon.” The play tells the story of two young Armenians, married and living in the United States, shortly after the genocide. Both lost their families and an incredibly touching story follows. It is not the story of the Genocide, but arises as a result of it. “Beast on the Moon” has won a multitude of awards worldwide, indicative of its appeal to Armenians and non-Armenians alike. The Armenian community would be well served if the play can reach its goal of making it to Broadway in April 2005. For more information regarding “Beast on the Moon”, you may email David Grillo, the producer of the show, at dgrillo@nyc.rr.com.

Lucy Varpetian was recently named in the Los Angeles Magazine Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Star Edition. She was recognized in the Cities and Municipalities section. Lucy was formerly the Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association.

Michael Tootoian, a partner in Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Rolek, P.C., in Chicago, has won plaudits for his work in Illinois local government law. As Chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Tort Litigation Committee, he was instrumental in getting the Illinois General Assembly to amend the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 2003. The amendment eliminates punitive damages against units of local government. Mike’s article “Five Things Every Lawyer Should Know about Tort Litigation” was published in the April, 2004 Chicago Bar Association Record.
Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian. "We raised over $1,000 for our scholarship fund, which has been established to give two $1,000 donations annually to needy law students," said Jamgotchian.

Judge Altoon sits in the Central District Los Angeles Criminal Court, and has been very active in Armenian Bar. In addition to serving on the Board of Governors, she was on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee for 2003 and is currently on the committee for the upcoming 2005 mid-year meeting in San Diego.

Ron Altoon is the former President of the National Association of Architects, and is on the Board of the International Association of Architects. He is one of the most decorated architects in the country, and was a gracious host.

A delicious array of Armenian and Middle Eastern delicacies was served to the attendees, compliments of Carousel restaurant. The participants enjoyed an evening of fine food and libations, while making and renewing friendships and networking. The changing landscape of the organization was
apparent with the attendance of numerous law students and new attorneys.

Armand Arabian, an Honorary Life Member, and former Justice of the California Supreme Court, was in attendance, and offered words of wisdom to those present. Also present was Judge Zaven Simianian, who sits in the North Central District Court of Los Angeles County. Simianian is a founding member and former Chair of Armenian Bar.

Treasurer Vicken Simonian served as Master of Ceremonies, and updated everyone on the San Diego meeting. Judge Altoon spoke at the event, encouraging the law students present to seek judicial internships and encouraging more women lawyers to aspire to the bench. Inspired by the proceedings, Jamgotchian, Simonian, former Treasurer Saro Kerkorian and Board candi-

date Edvin Minassian all donated $250 to the scholarship fund. Ara Babaian also contributed $300. Jamgotchian presented Judge Altoon with a beautiful lithograph of a church at Lake Sevan in Armenia, as a token of the organization’s appreciation for her efforts.

With a Southern California Regional Committee newly formed, ArmenBar plans on holding more receptions, mixers and other events in the Southern California area this year, which will be announced by e-mail and on the Armenian Bar’s website at www.armenianbar.org.

Legal Registration of Jehovah’s Witnesses
After Years of Debate in Republic of Armenia

After years of debate and denial, Armenian authorities finally allowed for the registration of the Jehovah’s Witnesses in October 2004, thus allowing the religious group to operate in Armenia.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses first came to Armenia in 1988, after the Gyumri earthquake, yet the group has been unable to win registration since Armenia’s independence in 1991. The Council of Europe made registration of the Jehovah’s Witnesses as a main condition for Armenia’s accession to the Council two years ago.

The major issue with Jehovah’s Witnesses registration had been the groups pacifist stance, and hence members’ refusal to serve in the military, which in turn has led to arrests and prison sentences. However, a recent law instituting forms of alternative service has removed this standoff.

The move was heralded by international human rights groups, but many in Armenia are not happy with the change and the Armenian Apostolic Church has continued to call the group anti-Christian and alleges intent to divide Armenia’s society. One requirement for registration of a religious group in Armenia is that the group have at least 200 followers in the nation; estimates place Jehovah's Witnesses in Armenia at more than 4,000. Armenia’s Justice Ministry has stated that Armenian authorities will keep a close watch to ensure the Jehovah’s Witnesses act within the boundaries of Armenian law.
Sinatra had it right. Chicago is definitely the Armenian Bar Association's kind of town. His voice rang through our heads as our planes traveled from different parts of the country descended into Midway and O'Hare - "Chicago is... my kind of town." Even for those of us who had never been to this wonderful city, Frank's words almost magically spilled from our lips. And all who came to Chicago on September 17, 2004 for the Armenian Bar Association's Mid-Year meeting were not disappointed. Chicago has a way of grabbing you and making you feel comfortable, making you feel as if it really is your kind of town.

It had been many years since the Armenian Bar Association had a meeting in Chicago. Too long for many. So to welcome the Armenian Bar Association back, the Chicago Organizing Committee pulled out all the stops. And their efforts were rewarded with a truly successful event. How they managed to turn off the wind in the Windy City and crank up the sunshine all weekend long is a secret they refuse to share.

The weekend formally began on Friday evening with the Armenian Bar's traditional Welcome Reception, which was graciously hosted by successful businessman and noted philanthropist Oscar Isberian at his showroom in downtown Chicago, Oscar Isberian Rugs. There is no better way to spark conversation among Armenians than surround them with beautiful oriental rugs from around the world and fill them with wine and Armenian delicacies. Members, guests and friends from around the country enjoyed a warm evening of camaraderie. Although the reception formally kicked off the weekend, the events actually began a little earlier in the day when members of the Board of Governors and Organizing Committee were invited to Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan's chambers. Judge Der-Yeghiayan, one of only three currently sitting Federal Judges of Armenian descent, graciously hosted the entourage of lawyers and friends as he showed them the touching pictures and other Armenian items scattered throughout his chambers. Even the jury deliberation room had framed Armenian recipes hanging on the wall. It is heartening to know that Judge Der-Yeghiayan wears his Armenian heritage on his sleeve, even when his sleeve is part of a robe.

After the welcoming reception, many of the members and guests strolled to a downtown hotspot to continue the evening festivities, sampling the nightlife that Sinatra must have been referring to as "my kind of razzmatazz."

On Saturday, the Armenian Bar held the formal portion of the Mid-Year meeting at John Marshall Law School. The school provided the perfect setting for the meeting. The attendees were greeted with a delicious breakfast selection and hot eye-opening coffee. Chairman Robert Roomian of Alexandria, Virginia, kicked off the meeting by welcoming everyone and providing an overview of Armenian Bar's activities since its last meeting in Boston. Robert also introduced the various Committee chairs to update the membership on their activities. Robert then introduced the Chicago Organizing Committee, which was chaired by former Armenian Bar Chair, Professor Ann Lousin. On the Committee with Ann were Elizabeth Al-Dajani, Harry Missirlian and Raffi Sarrafian. The attendees gave them a warm round of applause for their efforts.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Robert introduced the panel of speakers leading a discussion on the landmark case of Marootian v. New York Life Insurance Company. The case deals with the payment of life insurance claims to families who lost loved ones in the Armenian Genocide. Brian Kabateck of Los Angeles, one of the lead attorneys in the case, joined panelists Lisa Esayan of Kirkland and Ellis in Chicago and Armen Vartian of Manhattan Beach, California, in presenting various viewpoints about the case.

Brian informed the group that the $20 million dollar settlement had been approved by the judge in the case, Judge Snyder, and that counsel for the plaintiffs in the case were moving toward finalizing the settlement. He discussed the considerations made by the parties and counsel in reaching the settlement.

Armen, an attorney who is an expert in the area of art and collectibles, discussed the individual case of a family member whose claim was partially paid by New York Life, thus excluding the claim from the class action lawsuit, which was limited to unpaid policies. Brian indicated that Vartian could file a separate action to recover the remainder of funds due under the policy. Lisa Esayan, a past Chair of ArmenBar and a current Board member of the Armenian Assembly, discussed a collateral proceeding filed in New York against New York Life dealing with unpaid policies.

Following the panel discussion, the members and guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon. At the end of the luncheon, Robert Roomian introduced Amy Hoogasian, Assistant Chief Counsel at the United States Department of Homeland Security, as the guest luncheon speaker. Amy gave an informative presentation dealing with recent trends in immigration law. The speech (Continued on page 12)
POOCHIGIAN LEGISLATION WOULD PERMANENTLY DESIGNATE APRIL 24 ‘DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE’

SACRAMENTO – Senator Chuck Poochigian (R-Fresno) has introduced SB 424 which would permanently designate April 24 as “Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide” on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of that dark period in history.

“While the California Legislature has recognized April 24 as the Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide for many years, this is the first proposal to permanently commemorate this day in statute,” said Senator Poochigian. “This is an important step toward assuring families of those who perished or were tortured and driven from their historic homeland by the regime in control of the Turkish Ottoman Empire that the tragedy that befell them will never be forgotten.”

April 24 is the date on which Armenians around the world hold solemn observances of the Genocide in recognition of the day in 1915 when a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested and killed. SB 424 will also designate the period from the Sunday before April 24 through the Sunday following as the “Days of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.”

The Armenian Genocide became the world’s standard of atrocity until World War II. That is when Adolph Hitler gave reassurance to his followers about his Holocaust plans, saying, “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” For decades, California has recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 when nearly 1.5 million men, women, and children were systematically tortured and murdered or taken on death marches in the Syrian desert.

“While the Genocide took place long ago and far away, the lives of so many living Californians have been touched by it. The issue of the Armenian Genocide’s commemoration is more important today than ever,” said Senator Poochigian. “With growing attempts to revise the historical record of this period, it’s vitally important that false depictions of the tragedies of the Genocide are rejected. The continued recognition of this crime against humanity is crucial to ensuring against the recurrence of genocide and educating people about such despicable acts.”

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Senator Poochigian is Candidate for California Attorney General

California State Senator Charles “Chuck” Poochigian of the 14th District of California has entered the race for California Attorney General. Senator Poochigian is an Honorary Life Member of Armenian Bar, and is well respected throughout the State for his leadership and advocacy.

Senator Poochigian has been a speaker at many of the Armenian Bar Association meetings, and will not only be part of a panel presentation at the upcoming San Diego Annual National meeting, but will also be the keynote speaker at lunch.

Senator Poochigian held a fundraising dinner at the Sheraton Universal on January 13, 2005 which was very well attended. If you would like to find out more about the Senator's candidacy for Attorney General, you should contact Poochigian for Attorney General, P.O. Box 8446, Fresno, CA 93747, Tel: 559-255-1699.
ARMENBAR HOSTS FALL 2004 MIXER IN NEW YORK
By Anahid M. Ugurlayan

On September 29, 2004, the members of the Armenian Bar Association and other attorneys in the NY/NJ metro area gathered at the Remedy Bar & Grill in New York City to welcome the fall season. Aside from the usual mingling and networking, this mixer featured a guest speaker, Chris Filip, Esq., President of the Success Group, a marketing and consulting firm that helps lawyers and other professionals market themselves and their firms. She discussed ways in which attorneys, regardless of their level of practice, can maximize their rainmaking opportunities and gain more visibility through speaking engagements or publishing articles. All in attendance found Ms. Filip’s marketing expertise to be very useful, as attorneys’ busy schedules often do not afford ample time or resources to focus on finding new ways to promote their practice. Each mixer brings new faces and increased interest in the Armenian Bar Association. Many thanks, as always, to Gary Moomjian, Betty Jangotchian, Lisa Boyadjian and Diana Demirdjian for their help in making this event a success.

ARMENBAR TO SUPPORT ARMENIA TEAM IN JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Armenian Bar Association will support the winning team from Armenia competing in the International Rounds of the Forty-Sixth Annual Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Presently, teams from fifteen schools are competing in Armenia in the National Rounds. The winner of the National Rounds will travel to Washington DC to compete in the International Rounds held from late March through early April 2005. The Armenian Bar Association will provide $2,000.00 to help pay for the travel expenses of the winning team from Armenia.

The prestigious Jessup Competition was founded in 1959 by a group of international law students from Harvard University, Columbia University and the University of Virginia who sought to organize cooperative activities to promote international legal education at their schools. These activities include an international law moot in which oral and written pleadings are argued concerning international law issues in hypothetical cases before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Jessup Competition involves over 350 schools from over 60 countries.
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The Armenian Bar Association, on behalf of its members, wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions and continued support that has helped ensure the success of our organization.

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Persecution of Armenian clergy in Jerusalem Continues

Disturbing incidents have been occurring in Jerusalem over the past few months, where ultra-Orthodox Jews have purportedly been spitting on and assaulting Armenian clergy and priests. Tensions came to a head in late 2004, when a Jewish seminary student allegedly spat at an Armenian archbishop during a procession from the city's Armenian Quarter to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and burial.

Israeli police arrested the seminary student, but Armenian and other Christian clergy living in Jerusalem's Old City say such assaults by ultra-Orthodox Jews are a frequent occurrence. One Armenian Bishop has said such attacks occur at least once a week. Apparently it is customary for ultra-Orthodox Jews to turn their backs upon seeing a cross, but the more aggressive sect members, many times younger students, spit on the sacred Christian symbol.

In the recent incident, a cross was ripped from the archbishop's neck when a scuffle broke out after the Jewish seminary student spat at the cleric. The seminary student later told police he had done it because he saw the religious procession as idolatry. Police said the man had been temporarily banned from visiting the Old City and that he had been placed on bail pending an indictment.

Armenian bishops say spitting against Christian clergyman had been going on for years and that the assailants many times are even children, showing that it is a result of a religious education that most likely needs to be changed to become more tolerant. Apparently the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian relations is now documenting accounts of spitting incidents so it can confront rabbis and demand that they instruct their followers to stop such attacks.

Israeli police say that when they are informed of such incidents they immediately arrest the attacker, but that for whatever reason, few Christians file complaints with police about such assaults. Israeli newspaper editorials have denounced the assaults, pointing out the apparent double-standard that if such actions were perpetrated by Christians against Jews anywhere in the world, there would be widespread vocal and vehement denunciations from Jewish organizations.

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Norma Karian: First Armenian-American Female Attorney Passes Away

The Armenian Bar Association is sad to announce, that Norma M. Karian, the first Armenian-American female attorney in the United States, died January 16, 2005, at her home in Watertown, Massachusetts. Mrs. Karian, an honorary Armenian Bar member, was 100.

A respected, lawyer, advocate, wife, and mother, Mrs. Karian started her lengthy legal career as a title examiner after graduating from Boston University Law School in 1925. She spent a good portion of her legal career at the Boston-based firm Gaston & Snow and was highly regarded for her legal work in real estate even in a time period when there was established gender bias towards female attorneys.

According to family and friends, Mrs. Karian was born Yaghnor Maksoodian in Providence in 1904, and began working in her father's store at age 8. She graduated from Boston University Law School at the age of 20 and, although she wished to become a litigator, women were banned from trial practice at the time. Mrs. Karian excelled as a real estate attorney from 1926 to 1941, when she retired and had three children. Her husband Leo J. Karian, a chemist, died in 1951. Mrs. Karian then began performing contract work for the firm of Hoag & Sullivan. She ended her career back at Gaston & Snow, where she practiced from 1972 to 1991.

Throughout her life, and especially during retirement, Mrs. Karian was involved with various legal projects and was honored with a number of awards. In 1954, Mrs. Karian served a year as president of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers.

Mrs. Karian leaves her son, John, of Watertown, Mass., and two daughters, Lenore of Waltham, Mass., and Marilyn Hollisian, also of Watertown. Funeral services were held at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown. The Armenian Bar is proud to pay tribute to the long life and numerous achievements of the first Armenian-American female attorney.

Renew Your Membership!

It is time to renew your membership in the Armenian Bar Association and help to continue the worthwhile efforts of this organization. Remember that non-members only receive the Armenian Bar Newsletter once during the year. Members receive the Newsletter throughout the year. So sign-up now so that you do not miss any editions of our wonderful Newsletter.
Senator Reid Comes to the Aid of Armenian Girls Facing Deportation

Over the last few weeks, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), a long-time supporter of Armenian causes, has come to the aid of two Las Vegas Armenian teenagers who were detained and facing deportation to the Republic of Armenia.

Sen. Reid asked U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, who now oversees immigration issues, to intervene on behalf of Emma Sarkisian, 18, and Mariam Sarkisian, 17, who were being held in a Los Angeles federal holding center awaiting deportation to Armenia. Apparently, the phone call from Reid prompted Secretary Ridge, in a somewhat unusual move, to personally intervene on behalf of the girls, and on January 28 they were released and returned to Las Vegas where their father, family and friends joyously welcomed them back home.

Ironically, although both girls were born in Armenia, they never held Armenian citizenship and at this point barely speak the language. The girls’ father, Rouben Sarkisian, a pizza shop owner, is a legal resident of the United States, as are three younger daughters who were born U.S. citizens. The two oldest sisters emigrated with their father from Armenia in 1991, shortly before the Soviet Union collapsed. The girls and their father believed that they were all legal U.S. residents because of a 1997 letter from the U.S. Department of Justice showing acceptance of the girls’ applications for residency. However, immigration officials said that the girls had been ordered deported since 1993 and that the acceptance was invalidated by Sarkisian’s divorce from his former American wife, but this is a fact that Sarkisian said he was never notified of.

Apparently Reid, the Senate’s new Democratic Leader, had been confident that Ridge would find a way to keep the girls in the U.S. A media release for Reid said “I asked Secretary Ridge for his personal attention in this terrible situation, there are extenuating circumstances in the case of these young girls, and I stressed to him that we need to make sure there is a fair outcome.” Reid said the Secretary was receptive and had told him he would look into the case.

Jeremiah Wolf-Stuchiner, a Las Vegas attorney, assisted Mariam and Emma during their detention. According to Wolf-Stuchiner, the action taken by Reid has rarely, if ever, occurred to stop an order of deportation, which serves as the final legal step in the immigration process. According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a collective decision had been reached to defer action on the case, which means Emma and Mariam still have no legal status and will have their case reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The Armenian Bar Association commend Senator Harry Reid for his quick action and support of this Armenian-American family as they go through their stressful ordeal.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of David E. Manoogian. Mr. Manoogian passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2004. Mr. Manoogian was an accomplished lawyer and litigator, a widely published author and a frequent lecturer. Most recently, Mr. Manoogian was a partner in the law firm of Bonner, Khannan, Trebach & Crociata in Washington, D.C., where he specialized almost exclusively in the practice of health-related issues, including the defense of medical malpractice cases. In addition to his career accomplishments, Mr. Manoogian is fondly remembered for his contributions to the Montgomery County legal community.

Mr. Manoogian leaves behind his beloved wife of twenty-eight years, Mary K. Manoogian, his son, David Charles Manoogian, his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Manoogian, his son-in-law Tim Cheeung, and his grandson, Griffith Cheeung. Mr. Manoogian is also survived by his brother, Vincent Manoogian and his sister, Phyllis Manoogian.

The family has asked that donations be made in lieu of flowers to the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Cemetery Fund - St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 or to the AGBU (Armenian General Benevolent Union) orphans fund - AGBU, 55 East 59th Street, New York, New York 10022.

CHICAGO

(Continued from page 6)

drew numerous questions from the membership, many dealing with post 9/11 immigration issues.

At the conclusion of Amy’s speech, Robert adjourned the meeting. The attendees spent the afternoon enjoying the various activities that Chicago had to offer, including the Magnificent Mile, which was a short walk from the school.

The Armenian Bar’s Saturday evening activities were held on the 44th floor of the John Hancock Center. Not only were guests treated to fine food and drink, but also to a majestic view of Chicago. The night was organized in honor of Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan. Those in attendance included lawyers, law professors, legal scholars, clergy and members of the Armenian Community. Ann Lousin announced at the event that the Board of Governors had voted Judge Der-Yeghiayan as an “Honorary Life Member” of the Armenian Bar.

Prior to being elevated to the Federal bench in 2003, Judge Der-Yeghiayan had already established a remarkable legal career. He was appointed in 1978 as a trial attorney for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Chicago. In 1982, he was promoted to the position of District Counsel for the INS Chicago District, with jurisdiction over the States of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. From 1982 to 2000, he managed one of the largest INS legal proceeding programs in the nation. Judge Der-Yeghiayan is the first immigrant to serve on the Federal Bench. Thus, he is not only a role model for those in the legal profession, but is also an example of what this wonderful country has to offer those who decide to immigrate here.

At the conclusion of the evening event, the attendees went out on the town to enjoy another evening of Chicago’s nightlife. As everyone left on Sunday to head back to their homes, Sinatra permeated their thoughts once again “Chicago is one town that won’t let you down, it’s my kind of town.”

The Armenian Bar will next meet in San Diego, California the weekend of April 1, 2005 for its Annual meeting. I wonder if San Diego has a song?
SAN DIEGO TO HOST
ARMENIAN BAR’S 16TH ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

Hyatt San Diego, a five-star hotel with four tennis courts, outdoor lap pool and whirlpool, bicycling trails, golf course and full service fitness center. The hotel boasts the largest waterfront property on the West Coast. The hotel offers spectacular views overlooking San Diego Bay, Coronado Island, the USS Midway Museum and, of course, the Pacific Ocean. The hotel is also in walking distance to the trendy Gas Lamp Quarter and Seaport Village, providing guests with plenty of options for entertainment. More information about the hotel can be found at www.manchestergrandhyatt.com or by calling 619-232-1234 or (800) 233-1234.

The weekend will begin a little earlier this year with the Armenian Bar hosting a golf outing on Friday morning at the Riverwalk Golf Club for those hackers in our membership. The Board of Governors will then hold its formal annual meeting at the hotel at 4 pm. As has become customary, the Armenian Bar Association will be hosting a Welcome Cocktail Reception beginning at 7 pm at the Grand Hyatt.

Saturday morning will start off with a Continental Breakfast, followed by the Armenian Bar’s Business Meeting, during which elections for the Board of Governors will be held. A series of CLE panel presentations are scheduled throughout the day following the Business Meeting, including:

- Trends in Workers Compensation Law, featuring California State Senator Charles Poochigian, Sario K. Kerkonian, Edwin Minassian, and Harry Samargachian. Senator Poochigian, who recently authored California’s revamped worker’s compensation law, will lead the panel highlighting the new law, which is considered the most significant reform of the system since its establishment over 90 years ago.
- Survival of the Armenian Church and community in the Historic Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem, featuring Karnig Kerkonian and Bedross Der Matossian. The panel will focus on the future existence of the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem, which after several centuries in the Holy Land is at risk of being lost.
- The Inclusion of Turkey in the European Union, featuring Olivier Roumelian, Advocate at the Paris Bar, France. Among the issues to be discussed is whether Turkey will be required to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide as a precondition to its admittance into the Union.

The Luncheon Keynote Speaker for the meeting will be California State Senator Charles “Chuck” Poochigian of the 14th District of California. Senator Poochigian is an Honorary Life Member of Armenian Bar, and has announced his candidacy for Attorney General of California.

The Armenian Bar has organized a very special event for Saturday evening — a reception held jointly with the Southern California American-Armenian Community honoring Larry A. Burns. Judge Burns, whose mother’s maiden name is Momjian, was appointed to the United States District Court, Southern District of California in 2003 after his appointment by President George W. Bush and following unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate. He joins Dickran Tevzian (Los Angeles) and Samuel Der-Yeghiyan (Chicago) as only the third Judge of Armenian descent on the Federal Bench. Judge Burns will be honored at a Saturday evening reception, which will be open to the public.

Sunday has been left open for attendees and guests to enjoy the surrounding area and array of activities that San Diego has to offer.

The 16th Annual meeting program has been approved by the California and the New York State Bar for Continuing Legal Education credit. If you have special CLE requirements, please contact the Armenian Bar Association for assistance at 323-666-6288.

After March 20, 2005 the meeting registration fee increases to $200.00 for members in good standing (non-member rate is $300) and includes the Friday evening welcome reception, the Saturday breakfast and luncheon and the CLE credits. There is a separate $40.00 charge for the Saturday evening reception on April 2. To register, please mail the registration fee to the Armenian Bar Association, P.O. Box 29111, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

More information about the event can be found on the Armenian Bar’s website at www.armenianbar.org.

IPA Lobbies for Amendment to Turkish Penal Code

In October 2004, the International Publishers’ Association (IPA) sent a letter to the Dutch Presidency of the European Union (EU) and to the President of the EU Commission, Mr. Romano Prodi as well as incoming President José-Manuel Barroso, seeking their assistance in calling upon the Turkish Authorities to abandon the criminalization of speaking or writing about the Armenian Genocide, a legal measure which codifies the intent to limit freedom of expression and freedom to publish in Turkey.

According to Article 306 of the new Turkish Penal Code adopted in September, 2004, a citizen who demands the withdrawal of Turkish soldiers from Cyprus or declares that the Armenian genocide actually took place during the First World War can be investigated and criminally prosecuted under Article 306. Almost unbelievably, prison sentences can range from three to ten years for simply uttering such political opinions.

The IPA Freedom to Publish Committee has stated: “The criminalization of the expression of the Armenian Genocide amounts to an unjustified limitation of ‘freedom of expression’, a fundamental right which is guaranteed under numerous international instruments to which Turkey is a party”. The IPA maintains that while many reform packages have been adopted through amendments to Turkish legislation, to improve Turkey’s freedom of expression, obviously Article 306 must be properly amended to end the possibility of such unacceptable limitation on free speech.
Message From the Chair

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wonderful reception hosted jointly with the local Armenian community in honor of Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. I wish to extend my special thanks to Professor Ann Louise and all the members of her local organizing committee for the fine job they did in graciously hosting the meeting. You can read about the meeting in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

In addition to our meetings, ArmenBar hosted two mixers in New York City, as well as a golf outing and mixer in Los Angeles. Special thanks to Gary Moomjian, Datev Shenian and Frank Zerunyan for organizing these events.

This year also marked a transition in the administration of ArmenBar with a new Executive Director, Betty Jamgotchian, and the addition of an Administrative Assistant, Lisa Boyajian. I am pleased to report that both Betty and Lisa are doing an excellent job in attending to the day to day business of the Association. I wish to thank our prior Executive Director, Lucy Vartanian, for her many years of past service and the administrative protocols that she established, many of which we are still following and building upon today.

The ArmenBar website has improved dramatically. It features timely and topical information about past and coming events, member news, employment opportunities and more. You need not take my word for it. Visit www.armenianbar.org to see for yourself. Again, special thanks are due to the Chair of the website committee, Gary Moomjian, and to the members of his committee including our new webmaster, Adiss Elshamal.

The ArmenBar Newsletter continues to shine thanks to the indefatigable efforts of its editors, Melineh Verma, Robert Cannuscio and John Shamsey. Many of our members have commented that the ArmenBar Newsletter is the best of any bar association newsletter that they receive. By the way, issues of the Newsletter are now available in PDF format on the ArmenBar website.

The Scholarship Program appears to be on the verge of becoming a reality with the creation of a Scholarship Committee under the capable leadership of Christine Engustian and Ara Babaian. Guidelines for implementation of the program are in place and a fund raising effort will soon be underway. Special thanks to Lisa Esyanian for her earlier work in setting up this worthy program, which will assist law students both in the United States and Armenia.

I am especially gratified about the contacts and cooperation between ArmenBar and the Armenian Lawyers Association (AYLA). The AYLA is a non-governmental organization comprised of dedicated lawyers working to promote the establishment of the rule of law and democracy in Armenia. The AYLA is also the administrator of the Armenia Rounds of the prestigious Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. As in the past, ArmenBar is working with the AYLA to support the winning Armenia Team as it competes in the International Rounds in Washington in late March. It is only fitting that ArmenBar, an organization of Armenian attorneys outside Armenia, should closely cooperate with a like organization inside Armenia. You may read more in detail about the AYLA and the support of the Armenia Team by ArmenBar elsewhere in this issue.

As I look ahead and beyond, I see tremendous opportunity for continued growth and development of our Association. ArmenBar has a well-deserved fine reputation thanks to the outstanding work and dedication of its members. I have never been involved in any other professional organization in which the members give of themselves as ArmenBar members do.

Without asking, members volunteer to participate in activities and continually make helpful suggestions. The challenge for us going forward is to build on that goodwill. To reach out to new and existing members and involve them in worthwhile activities that will strengthen the bonds between us.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the members of the Board of Governors, the Committee Chairs and especially my fellow members of the Executive Committee for their unfailing support this past year.

Most cordially,
Robert G. Roomian Chair

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S POSITION IN ARMENIA

The American University of Armenia in Yerevan is seeking applicants for the position of Associate Dean in the Department of Law, with full-time teaching and administrative responsibilities. Candidates must be lawyers with a strong academic background, some knowledge of international or comparative law and preferably some teaching experience. Although the language of AUA is English, knowledge of Armenian and/or Russian is helpful. The Associate Dean is resident at AUA and responsible for the full-time administration of the Law Department, under supervision by the dean. The Associate Dean also carries full-time teaching responsibilities as a ladder-rank professor. The position requires residence in Yerevan for approximately nine months of the year, along with a commitment of at least two years.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Benefits include housing and round-trip travel. The starting date for the position is January 1, 2006 or earlier. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2005.

Applicants should send their c.v.s, letters of application and two references to Dean Stephen Barnett at barnets@law.berkeley.edu or at American University of Armenia Corporation, 300 Lakeside Dr., 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. Questions can be directed to Professor Barnett by phone at (510) 654-5394.
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ____________________________
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Address ____________________________
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E-mail ____________________________
Law School ____________________________
Year of Graduation ____________________________
Admitted to Bar (Jurisdiction/Year) ____________________________
Areas of Practice (Please list no more than three) ____________________________

Interest in Committees
☐ Armenia Programs
☐ Armenian Rights Watch
☐ Newsletter
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☐ Pro Bono
☐ Legal Education
☐ Student Affairs
☐ Membership
☐ Genocide Project

Enclosed please find my check for:
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Please contact
ArmenBar Executive Director for dues info.

Signature ____________________________ Date __________

Please detach this application and send with your check to:

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AIMS AND STRUCTURE

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS

Some of the Association's operations include:

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

COMMITTED TO SERVE

The Armenian Bar Association Newsletter is published quarterly by the Armenian Bar Association. Members and friends of the Association receive a subscription to the Newsletter as part of their membership. Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors of the articles and/or the editors of the Newsletter and do not necessarily represent the views of the Armenian Bar Association.

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