The Armenian Bar Association Returns to America's Birthplace... Philadelphia For Mid Year National Meeting

by Robert Cannuscio

It is a place where a dream was born long ago. A place where a group of men from diverse locations met in secret to pen a declaration that this land and its people should be free. A place where a set of words were placed on a parchment, words that would constitute the rules to maintain that democracy. A place that, for a while, was the Capital of this great country. A place called the City of Brotherly (and Sisterly) Love. A place called Philadelphia.

The ABA last held its meeting in Philadelphia in 1998. It returns eight years later, on October 27-29, 2006, for its Mid-Year meeting.

Philadelphia is proud to once again host the Armenian Bar Association. The Philadelphia Organizing Committee is actively arranging a weekend of wonderful events. The Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, at 12th and Market Streets in Center City, will be the location of the main meeting. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of $209. Mention the “Armenian Bar Association” in order to get the discount rate. That rate will be held until October 6, 2006, or until the rooms are all reserved. So reserve quickly.

The Marriott Downtown is a short

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WASHINGTON, DC—Springtime in our nation’s capital provided a picturesque backdrop for the 17th Annual National Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar). Over 100 judges, lawyers, politicians, dignitaries and members of the public attended the meeting at the Embassy Row Hilton near Dupont Circle, and were treated to a number of interesting activities, elegant receptions and excellent substantive panel discussions.

As a special treat, Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee, and Armen Karazian, Director of Research and Analysis of the Armenian Assembly of America, were co-guests of honor at the luncheon meeting. Hamparian and Karazian are heads of the two most powerful Armenian lobby groups in the United States, and offered encouraging words about the Armenian community and the Republic of Armenia. Karazian discussed the challenges and opportunities for the Armenian community, and stressed the areas of Genocide recognition and assistance to Armenia, while Hamparian suggested that Armenians overcome their past and become assertive and forceful in their efforts to obtain their goals. Hamparian stressed the importance of activism, especially in topics such as Genocide recognition and prevention.

The schedule of activities started early Friday morning as several members participated in a golf tournament at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club, a Gary Player signature design course in Leesburg, Virginia. The breathtaking and challenging course included very deep sand traps and hazards, and provided a wonderful day for the golfers. Board member Garo Hovannissian won the “closest to the pin” award.

While the golfers were on the course, Dean Shahinian, Counsel on the US Banking Committee, took approximately 20 members and guests on a guided tour of the Capitol building. Some highlights were viewing the Capitol rotunda, former Supreme Court hearing room and historical murals and artwork.

Friday evening, the Board of Directors met to consider matters of importance to ArmenBar, and set the agenda for the coming year. Board members were updated on recent activities by various committees including the Armenian Rights Watch, Student Affairs and Membership committees.

The Board meeting was followed by a welcome reception at the majestic Renaissance Mayflower Hotel. Members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous seafood dinner buffet while renewing old friendships, making new ones and networking with colleagues. Members then dispersed into the Washington, DC metro area to enjoy the world renowned nightlife in the city.

On Saturday, the meeting continued with a full day of informative topics and lectures. Following a general business meeting, presided over by Chairman Gary Moomjian, the membership voted on the appointment of five new Board members. The vote resulted in (Continued on page 4)
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND ON THE MOVE

Aram Peter Kezirian, Jr. (J.D. University of Southern California School of Law) was one of the 2005 American Marshall Memorial Fellows who spent three weeks of intensive public policy work in Europe, examining institutions and exploring economic, political and social issues in Brussels, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Belgrade and Bratislava. The prestigious fellowship is awarded annually to emerging leaders in politics, government, business, media and the nonprofit sector committed to strengthening transatlantic relationships. Mr. Kezirian is Vice President for Corporate Strategy and Business Development at the Cooperative of American Physicians/Mutual Protection Trust (CAP-MPT), a leading writer of medical liability coverage in the United States. Mr. Kezirian can be reached at pkezirian@cap-mpt.com.

In September 2005, Mr. Bruce Janigian was appointed Vice President for Development and Government Relations of AUA. He has an undergraduate degree from University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of Law. Mr. Janigian can be contacted at Law@janigan.com.

The Honorable Larry A. Burns, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California and Honorary Member and Member of the Board of Governors of the Armenian Bar Association will be the Guest of Honor at the AGBU San Diego Chapter Centennial Dinner-Dance. The event will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2006, at The Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130. For additional information & reservations you may contact Ani Kalayjian Lanuza at (619) 989-2877 or email anilanuza@aol.com.

In January 2006, Dr. Thomas Samuelian was appointed Dean of the AUA Law Department. Dr. Samuelian earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of numerous studies in law and public policy. Dr. Samuelian can be reached at tsamuelian@arlex.am.

Maria Shakelian, through the ArmenBar Mentorship program, obtained the position of Law Clerk, with the Law Offices of Simonian and Kerkonian. Ms. Shakelian is a 2nd year law student at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. She made Law Review.

Armand Arabian (Retired associate justice, California Supreme Court) received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from the School of Management, at the Boston University School of Management.

Datev Shenian, a member of ArmenBar's Board of Governors, and co-chair of ArmenBar's Membership Development Committee, recently left Leland, Parachini, Steinberg, Matzger & Melnick to launch his own firm, the Shenian Law Firm. Datev will continue to focus his practice on business counseling, litigation and appeals, principally in the areas of real estate, business torts, commercial litigation and employment law. Datev can be reached at the Shenian Law Firm, 500 S. Grand Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071, 213-455-3150, dshenian@shenianlaw.com. Datev and his wife Taline are also very pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Leo Levon Shenian, in May 2006.

An article written by David Balabanian, regarding the role of speech, especially used by attorneys, appeared in the May issue of California Lawyer Magazine. To access the article, please go to www.CaliforniaLawyer Magazine.com, click on May, 2006 to the left, scroll down to “Pro Bono.” David is a partner with Bingham McCutchen in San Francisco and can be reached at david.balabanian@bingham.com.

Nicole Janigian Simonian recently joined the international law firm of Bryan Cave LLP as Counsel. Ms. Simonian specializes in international cross-border transactions. For the second year in a row, Nicole has been included in the Southern California Rising Stars, “The Ultimate Guide to The Best Attorneys in Southern California,” for her international expertise. Nicole can be reached at 120 Broadway, Suite 300, Santa Monica, California, 91401, email: nicole.simonian@bryancave.com, telephone: 310-576-2117.

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Federal Judges and Honorary Life Members Dickran Tevrizian and Larry Burns being elected along with ArmenBar Vice-Chairman and Chairman elect Frank Zerunyan, a City Councilman from Rolling Hills Estates, California and accomplished attorneys Garo Hovannisian and Sonya Nersessian all joining the Board. Tevrizian, Zerunyan and Hovannisian were on the Board and the election installed them into their second terms.

The first lecture of the day was given by Jacob Bournazian, who gave an informative and spirited discussion of the US Energy market and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Bournazian has been a spokesman for the US Department of Energy under both the Clinton and the current Bush administrations. Bournazian discussed the current US energy situation, reliance on foreign producers of oil and other energy related prospects, in addition to future trends and possible alternate energy sources.

Speaking next was Olga Ruda, a legal analyst and Deputy Coordinator of the Judicial Reform Focal Area with the American Bar Association’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI). She is primarily responsible for managing and implementing the Judicial Reform Index, an assessment tool designed to analyze the compliance of a country’s judiciary with fundamental international standards on judicial independence. She spoke of the situation in Armenia, giving constructive criticism and pointing out areas needing
improvement in the Armenian judicial system.

The first afternoon panel was on the topic of the Griswold v. Driscoll case in Massachusetts. In the pending case, plaintiffs challenge the Genocide curriculum in the Massachusetts public school system and seek to force the Board of Education to include references to Armenian Genocide denial materials. In response to the case, ArmenBar assembled a team of attorneys and law firms, including Bingham McCutchen and Wilmer Hale. Former ArmenBar Treasurer and current Armenian Rights Watch Chair Saro Kerkonian was the moderator while Zerunyan gave an overview of ArmenBar’s efforts in opposing the case. Ariel Waldman of the Wilmer Hale firm discussed the research of the cases which went into the filing of an amicus brief by ArmenBar. David Balabanian, the first Chairman of ArmenBar, and a preeminent attorney in California, discussed strategies and considerations in putting together the Amicus brief with Mona Simonian of his firm.

Genocide reparations was the final topic and the panel was moderated by Thomas Samuelian, current Dean of the Law Department of the American University of Armenia (AUA) in Yerevan. Samuelian is also a former Chairman of ArmenBar. He was joined by Manuk Hrgnyan, Executive Director of Vem Sipyur Media Company in Yerevan, and Hakob Marrirosyan, who holds an LLM from AUA. The panel discussed such issues as the return of land to the Armenian community and the Armenian Church, which have evidence in the form of deeds to real property in

(Continued on page 11)
Las Vegas, Nevada—The elegant, five-star Bellagio Hotel and Casino was the venue, as the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) presented an outstanding group of Armenian legal experts on July 29, 2006 for a Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) seminar. Approximately 70 members and friends of ArmenBar made the trip to Las Vegas to participate in the event.

Federal Judge and Honorary Member Dickran Tevrizian joined preeminent attorneys Mark Geragos, Garo Mardirossian, Craig Missakian and Frank Zerunyan for the event. Three topics were presented as part of the program, including criminal trials in the state and federal systems, litigating a catastrophic injury case, and legal ethics. Attorneys attending the seminar received three units of MCLE credit, including one for ethics.

“The quality of the speakers and the content of the lectures equaled or exceeded any MCLE program offered in the legal community. We were extremely proud to have been able to present such a distinguished group of legal scholars to our membership,” said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of ArmenBar.

The criminal trials discussion was moderated by Judge Tevrizian, who gave the view from the bench and questioned the other panelists on the similarities and differences in the state and federal criminal courts. Geragos presented the defense perspective, and Missakian the prosecution perspective. Tevrizian, who sits in the Central District Court in Los Angeles, is a veteran of the federal court system, and was the first person of Armenian heritage to be appointed to the Federal Bench. Included among his many accolades is the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1999, for his commitment to both the United States and his heritage, the Maynard Toll award in 2002 for his assistance to the underprivileged and the Emil Gumpert award in 2005 for his efforts in promoting alternative dispute resolution.

Mark Geragos is perhaps the best known attorney in the country. In addition to being the Managing Partner of the prestigious law firm of Geragos and Geragos, and a regular commentator on national television programs such as Larry King Live and CNN and Dateline’s Burden of Proof, he was the recipient of the 2006 Clay award as a leading attorney in the state of California. Missakian is a veteran attorney with
the US Attorney's office and an accomplished federal prosecutor. He is a current adjunct professor of law at USC School of Law in criminal advocacy and was a former candidate for State Assembly in California.

Garo Mardirossian is the Managing Partner of Mardirossian and Associates, and the Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles' "Trial Lawyer of the Year" in 2000. In 1995, Mardirossian obtained the largest jury verdict in a police brutality case ever recorded in the United States in the case of Dole v. County of Los Angeles. He has obtained numerous multimillion dollar verdicts in catastrophic injury cases, and discussed the topic of litigating a catastrophic injury case, highlighting the use of demonstrative evidence.

Frank Zerunyan, the current Chairman of ArmenBar, is a City Councilman for the City of Rolling Hills Estates. Zerunyan is a principal partner in the real estate development firm of Public Private Community Development, LLC, and a former partner of the Sulmeyer Kuperz law firm, and is a rising star in California politics. He is an expert in the field of legal ethics, and lectured on that topic. California attorneys are required to have one unit of legal ethics every three years as part of their State Bar continuing legal education requirements.

Following the lectures, those in attendance were treated to a delicious array of Armenian mezze and cocktails in the ArmenBar hospitality suite at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. Later, members and friends were spotted enjoying the nightlife and world class entertainment which is the signature of the Las Vegas Strip.
Los Angeles-They executed Armand Arabian's grandfather by firing squad. Then the Turkish soldiers drove his grandmother from her home, forcing her to leave behind one of her sons on the bank of the Euphrates river. In all, more than 1.5 million Armenians died during the 1915 massacre brought by the Turkish government. Men were murdered. Women were raped and sold as slaves. Starvation and butchering became common.

The genocide occurred before Arabian was born, but the events shaped his life: Weaned on the stories of his family's suffering, Arabian who grew up with a hunger to do justice, now works as a mediator and arbitrator. He has fought for women's rights and received more than 50 honors and awards for his work. He is named in the "Who's Who in America." There aren't that many former state Supreme Court justices who now work as a mediator and arbitrator. "There aren't that many former Supreme Court Justices out there doing this," said Century City Attorney Theresa J. Macellaro. "When he gives you his opinion, you listen, and your clients tend to listen."

He's not someone who has to raise his voice, she said, because people understand that they have to respect one another when working with him. Respect for others has always been a guiding philosophy for Arabian, who grew up on New York City's lower east side, the first son of immigrants who moved to the United States after the Turkish genocide.

Arabian later joined the military. Commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant in 1956, he was promoted to first lieutenant, working as a company commander at Fort Benning, Ga. The military, he said, taught him discipline and gave him the ability to stay calm in a crisis.

Then he went to Boston University, where he earned a business degree. In 1961, he earned a law degree from the university's school of law, where he served as president of the Student Bar Association. The following year, he worked as a deputy district attorney in California. A decade later, Gov. Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court. He kept that job for 15 months before Reagan elevated him to the Superior Court.

In 1973, he presided over a sexual assault case in Van Nuys that led to a change in attitude toward rape victims. During that case, Arabian refused to give a jury instruction that state law required. The law said trial judges had to tell juries that rape charges are easy to allege and hard to defend. As a result, the required jury instruction stated, jurors should view with caution the testimony of alleged victims.
But Arabian considered that jury instruction humiliating to women and outdated. He refused to say it. The trial ended, and the defendant appealed his conviction. The 2nd District Court of Appeal found that Arabian had made a mistake by refusing to give the jury instruction, but the State Supreme Court made a different finding.

In a 1975 unanimous decision opinion by Chief Justice Donald R. Wright, the court found that Arabian had made a nonprejudicial error by breaking with the precedent. But the court also found that the instruction was inappropriate. As a result, judges in California no longer tell jurors to discount the testimony of alleged rape victims. People v. Rincon-Pineda, 14 Cal.3d 864 (1975). Five years later, Arabian helped create for the first time in American law a privilege that allows confidential conversations with sexual-assault counselors to stay out of the courtroom. Now, at least 28 states have adopted such a law or precedent.

Arabian also helped draft Penal Code Section 289, which created a new felony: sexual assault with a foreign object. In 1983, Gov. George Deukmejian elevated Arabian to the 2nd District Court of Appeal and, seven years later, to the state Supreme Court. Arabian kept that job for six years, writing 104 majority opinions. He retired in 1996 to become a mediator and arbitrator.

Arabian, 71, typically holds private hearings at a granite table in his Van Nuys office. The room resembles a court: Arabian sits at the head of the table, flanked by two flags. The opposing parties face each other, and the witnesses sit opposite Arabian, with the audience, if there is one, behind them.

But the room has a more relaxed feel to it than a court does. On the wall, next to various awards and certificates, hang an autographed Britney Spears photo and a picture of Jay Leno. The bookshelf contains more than just law review articles and treatises. The room's atmosphere, he said, helps people open up. Lawyers who have used Arabian give him good reviews. "He can arbitrate or mediate any type of case," said Robert L. Shapiro, a partner at Christensen, Glaser, Fink, Jacobs, Weil & Shapiro in Los Angeles. "In my experience, if he can't resolve a case, it can't be resolved. That's how good he is."

Shapiro said Arabian is willing to tell people what he thinks about a case, and when he does, people listen. Arabian said he doesn't keep track of how many cases he has mediated or arbitrated. "More than I can count," he said. Some have been high-profile. For example, he helped resolve the sexual-impropriety allegations brought against Nate Holden of the Los Angeles City Council.

Another case spurred an editorial in the Los Angeles Times with the headline "Make Private Judges Toe the Line." Arabian resigned as a court-appointed referee in a civil lawsuit after the newspaper wrote about his involvement in a lawsuit over construction of a Palmdale office building.

Some ethics experts criticized Arabian for not disclosing ties to an attorney in the case. But, Arabian said, he is an advocate of full disclosure and the judge who appointed him knew of his past ties to the attorney involved. He said he felt "betrayed and abused" by those who questioned his ethics.

Arabian, who prefers mediation to arbitration, has a reputation for being direct and forceful while keeping the atmosphere relaxed, according to people who have worked with him. "You know when he's telling you something, you can believe what he's saying, even when he's saying something you don't want to hear," said Peggy Kolkey, a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Los Angeles. Louis R. "Skip" Miller of Miller Barondess in Century City described Arabian as a quick study and "one of the most outstanding lawyers and judges of our time."

Arabian often begins private hearings by comparing mediation to arbitration. "There are two tables in law: the crap table of the court and the granite one here," Arabian said recently, reciting a speech he often gives at the start of a mediation. "If you resolve your case here, there is no gambling. This is the table of sanctity and surety, not the crap table of the court. As an officer who has sat behind both tables, I'm telling you to resolve your case here."

In his free time, Arabian is working on an autobiography. "I came here from the sidewalks of New York and a family that had nearly nothing," he said. "I want my book to make people ask themselves, 'How far can I go? How can I make a difference?' Don't be a payday soldier. Take risks and make a difference."

Reprinted from The Los Angeles Daily Journal
Los Angeles, California-The Armenian Bar Association, in conjunction with the University of Southern California (USC) Institute of Armenian Studies, hosted an Armenian-American Federal Judges’ Forum on August 13, 2006. The judges’ forum was attended by over 130 attorneys, students, and members of the public.

The judges on the panel were Dickran Teyrjarian (US District Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Samuel Der-Yeghiayan (US District Court, Northern District, Illinois), Jacqueline Chooljian (Magistrate Judge, US District Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Ronald Sohigian (Los Angeles Superior Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Alice Alton (Los Angeles Superior Court, Central District, Los Angeles), and Zaven Sinanian (Los Angeles Superior Court, North Central District, Burbank).

Hrair Dekmejian, a professor of political science at USC and the Director of the Institute of Armenian Studies, opened the forum by welcoming those in attendance and giving some background information about the institute. He was followed by Charles Ghalian, who introduced the speakers.

ArmenBar Chairman Frank Zerunyan, a Councilman for the City of Rolling Hills Estates on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles, spoke on behalf of the organization, praising the judges in attendance for their participation, and updating those in attendance about upcoming events and activities.

Judge Teyrjarian served as moderator for the forum. While the event was billed as a Federal Judges’ Forum, Teyrjarian noticed Judges Alton, Sinanian and Sohigian in attendance, and invited them to participate in the panel. The addition of the three experienced state court judges enhanced the afternoon presentation and proved a welcome (Continued on page 14)
17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING

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Turkey. The panel also looked into the projected monetary losses suffered by the Armenians during the Genocide.

On Saturday evening, ArmenBar held a lavish reception at the Armenian Embassy. Arman Israelyan, Consul General of the Embassy gave words of congratulations and encouragement to those in attendance. Lisa Barsoomian was the hostess for the reception, and Moomjian offered a donation of $1,000.00 to the Embassy, pointing out with pride that the members were technically on Armenian soil while in the Embassy.

Nevart Jamgotchian, ArmenBar Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian’s mother, and Nicholas Simonian, nephew of ArmenBar Treasurer Vicken Simonian, provided musical entertainment with several selections from the grand piano, including the Armenian National Anthem.

On the last day of the meeting, the Board met once again to choose the officers of the corporation. Zerunyan was appointed Chairman, Melineh Verma of the Wilmer Hale firm was appointed Vice-Chair, Rita Bojalian, an employment specialist with CBS, became Secretary and Edvin Minassian, a certified specialist in workers compensation law, became Treasurer.

On Monday, May 1, 2006, several members and guests of ArmenBar attended a session of the US Supreme Court, where nine members were sworn into the court. Dean Shahinian served as the sponsor who presented the qualified Armenian attorneys to the court.

ArmenBar had the largest number of applicants that day. It was a memorable experience for all in attendance, as they were able to see the court in action, with its two newest members, Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito.

ArmenBar will next meet in Philadelphia on October 27-29, 2006 for its Midyear meeting. The Board of Governors resolved to hold its 2007 Annual National meeting in Santa Monica, California in April.

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, has provided pro bono legal services to needy members of the Armenian community, provided legal seminars and continuing legal education seminars and serves 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.
JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION SPONSORED PANEL DISCUSSION AT LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, California-The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar: www.ArmenianBar.org), in conjunction with the Loyola Armenian Law Students Association, hosted a panel of Armenian judges at Loyola Law School in downtown Los Angeles on March 16, 2006. The judges’ panel was attended by over 170 attorneys and law students, making it the best attended substantive seminar ever held by ArmenBar.

The judges on the panel were Dickran Tevrizian (US District Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Jacqueline Chooljian (Magistrate Judge, US District Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Richard Kolostian, Sr. (Los Angeles Superior Court, Northwest District, Van Nuys-Retired), Aurelio Munoz (Los Angeles Superior Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Alice Alton (Los Angeles Superior Court, Central District, Los Angeles), Gregory Keosian (Los Angeles Superior Court, Northwest District, Van Nuys), and Zaven Sinanian (Los Angeles Superior Court, North Central District, Burbank.)

The audience included law students from Loyola Law School and other local law schools, such as UCLA, USC, Southwestern, and Pepperdine. A large contingency of lawyers, mostly ArmenBar members, also were present.

The judges provided advice and spoke about the transition from law student to attorney, the role of attorneys in the courtroom, the attributes of successful attorneys, and the judges’ own experiences. Judge Tevrizian served as an excellent moderator for the panel, providing insightful advice and expounding on the comments of the other judges.

“We are truly fortunate to have such a distinguished group of judges who are so willing to devote their time, energy and wisdom for the benefit of our Armenian law students and attorneys and the interested public,” said Rita Bojalian, an attorney with CBS and a Board member of ArmenBar, who Co-Chairs ArmenBar’s Student Affairs Committee with Annette Ohangganian, an attorney with the Department of Social Services in Los Angeles.

Judge Tevrizian, who sits in the Central District Court in Los Angeles, is a veteran of the Federal Bench, a Board member of ArmenBar, and a nationally recognized jurist. Included among his many accolades is the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded to him for his commitment to both the United States and his heritage.

Judge Chooljian recently was appointed US Magistrate Judge for the US District Court, for the Central District of California, where she will preside over matters in Los
FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA STATE JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN JUDGES’ FORUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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addition for the audience.

The panelists discussed various issues of interest to the Armenian community, including immigration, organized crime, gangs, social security, retirement, housing, health care and elder abuse issues. The judges also gave tips to prospective law students and attorneys based upon their own experiences and diverse backgrounds. The panel discussion was followed by several questions from the audience.

Panel Moderator U.S. District Court Judge Dickran Terzian

Following the panel discussion, the Dean of the College of Letters and Science at USC offered words of praise and encouragement for the Institute and its director. All in attendance were treated to complimentary refreshments at a reception following the forum at the Davidson Conference Center on the USC campus, which also served as the meeting room for the event.

Helping with the organization of the event was Lucy Varpetian, a graduate of USC, and the former Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association.

Lawyers who attended the forum will receive two units of MCLE.
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Betty A. Jamgotchian, Esq.
Glendale, California
Welcome Reception on Friday evening for attendees and guests at the Powel House, a 1765 Georgian home originally owned by Samuel Powel, one of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia and the first mayor of the city after the Revolutionary War. The Powels entertained many famous dignitaries at the Powel House, including George and Martha Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and the Marquis de Lafayette. The house is a treasure set in the middle of Society Hill - the historic part of Philadelphia. A trolley will shuttle guests between the hotel and the Powel House.

Saturday will start off with a continental breakfast, followed by the Armenian Bar Association's mid-year conference. As part of the conference there will be at least two CLE panel presentations. One panel being assembled will discuss "Free Speech and the Armenian Genocide" and feature Hrant Dink from Istanbul, Turkey, a Turkish citizen of Armenian descent who is the editor of the Turkish and Armenian language weekly paper "Agos." Mr. Dink has been charged and convicted of making statements relating to the Armenian Genocide that apparently violates Article 301 of Turkey's penal code which makes it a criminal offense to make statements that are harmful to Turkish identity.

Constitutional Law Professor Gregory Magarian from Villanova School of Law has also agreed to be part of the panel. Professor Magarian was a law clerk to the Honorable John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court. Professor Magarian is a prominent speaker on First Amendment topics and the rights of the media. The Organizing Committee is in contact with additional prominent individuals who will be added to this panel.

The second panel presentation will be a panel on Immigration Law and,
in particular, the current political issues involving changes to these laws. Several individuals specializing in immigration law have been contacted to participate on this panel. More details will be provided shortly.

A delicious luncheon is being arranged at that Marriott, featuring a special keynote speaker.

The afternoon session will include an update on the status of the Griswold v. Driscoll case in Massachusetts. In the pending case, a group of teachers is challenging the Genocide curriculum in the Massachusetts public school system and is seeking to force the Board of Education to include references to Armenian Genocide denial materials. The Armenian Bar Association assembled a team of attorneys and law firms, including Bingham McCutchen and Wilmer Hale, to file an amicus brief in support of a motion to dismiss. A hearing is scheduled for mid-September.

The Organizing Committee will also be arranging some optional afternoon activities including a tour of the National Constitution Center and a trolley ride around Philadelphia, including a stop at the statue of Young Mher on the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The statue was a gift from the Armenian-American community to its adopted land in 1976 in honor of the Bicentennial. Plus, recommendations will be provided for where to get Philly’s finest cheese steaks!

An evening reception is scheduled at the Independence Ballroom located above the Independence Visitor Center in the heart of America’s most historic square mile. The Independence Ballroom offers spectacular views of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Pavilion.

More details will be posted on the website - www.ArmenianBar.org - as the event draws closer.

 **ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATES IN SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL “BAR ASSOCIATION FAIR”**

Los Angeles, California-Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association, along with Board members Datev Shenian and Vicken Simonian, were on hand to meet, greet and encourage law students at Southwestern University School of Law to become members at the school’s annual “Bar Association Fair” on February 14, 2006.

Approximately twenty bar associations participated in the event on a beautiful, sunny Southern California day. brainchild of Lucy Varpetian, former Executive Director of ArmenBar. Varpetian is a graduate of the prestigious law school, and persuaded the university to initiate the annual event in 1997 while a student there.

Southwestern Law School has an Armenian student population of 30, and several attended the event. Students signing up for membership were given a tote bag and T-shirt with the ArmenBar logo, as well as a membership directory and other goodies.

“We were very pleased with the turnout at our table at the fair,” said Jamgotchian. “The law students we met were bright and engaging, and we were happy that all were willing to join our organization. We don’t like to brag, but the Armenian Bar table seemed to have the most to offer,” said Jamgotchian.

Also in attendance was Anahid Garakhanian, a professor at Southwestern, and the former chairman of the student affairs committee.
JUDGES HONORED BY
THE ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AT RECEPTION IN PASADENA
FOR THEIR RETIREMENT AND APPOINTMENTS

Pasadena, California—Over 150 judges, attorneys, law students and guests joined the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) in honoring five outstanding judges on their accomplishments, retirements and appointments, at an evening reception on April 12, 2006, at the Rococo Room of Santorini Restaurant in Old Town Pasadena, California.

The honorees were Federal Judge Dickran Tervizian, Federal Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Choojjian, and Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Richard Kolostian, Sr., Ruth Esseghian and Maral Injeikian.

“We are extremely proud of the bench officers in our organization, as they serve as tremendous role models and continue to encourage and educate those of us in the legal profession,” said Vicken Simonian, past Chairman and Treasurer of the Armenian Bar Association. “We are very happy to have had the opportunity to share their achievements with our members and colleagues in the legal community,” said Simonian.

Judge Zaven Sinanian, a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge currently sitting in the North Central District Court in Burbank, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Sinanian, an accomplished jurist and former Deputy Attorney General in California who co-authored an opinion of the Attorney General supporting California’s Genocide Act, was introduced by ArmenBar Board member Rita Bojalian, an attorney with CBS, who served as the hostess for the reception.

Several non-Armenian judges were in attendance at the event, including Stephen Czuleger, the current Assistant Presiding Judge of the entire Los Angeles County Court system, Malcolm Mackey, a former Presiding Judge for Los Angeles County, and Aurelio Munoz, currently the senior judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court system.

Tervizian is a veteran Federal Court judge sitting in the Central District of the United States District Court. He is a nationally recognized jurist who in 1986 became the first person of Armenian heritage to be appointed to the federal bench. Tervizian, who is a current Board member of ArmenBar, was honored for his distinguished career in public service, and upon his change to senior status on the court. He was introduced by his brother-in-law, Robert Kalunian, one of the top lawyers in the public defender’s office.

Judge Choojjian was recently appointed a Magistrate Judge for the US District Court, Central District of California. Prior to her appointment, she served as an Assistant US Attorney and Special Counsel to the US Attorney for the Central District of California.
She is the first woman of Armenian descent to be appointed to the federal bench. She was introduced by Craig Missakian, an attorney with the US Attorney’s office, and a former candidate for State Assembly in California.

Judges Kolostian and Essegian have recently retired from the bench, both having served at the Northwest District, Van Nuys Courthouse. Kolostian was appointed to the superior court bench in 1980 by Governor Jerry Brown, and retired this year after having served 32 years. At the time of his retirement, he was the most senior judge in the country. He was introduced by his son, Richard Kolostian, Jr., of the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office.

Judge Essegian was appointed in 1989 by Governor George Deukmejian. Prior to her appointment, she served as a Deputy City Attorney in Pasadena, and served as a Deputy Attorney General, handling professional licensing cases. She was introduced by Gregory Keosian, also a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge.

Judge Injejikian was appointed in 1985 by Governor Deukmejian, and has primarily handled criminal cases. She was recognized for her elevation as the Supervising Judge of the East Los Angeles Branch Court of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Central District. She was introduced by Armand Arabian, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court (retired).

“The remarks of the presenters and the honorees were insightful, interesting, warmhearted, humorous, and poignant,” said Simonian of the speakers at the event. “Our organization will continue to have functions like this honoring the best and brightest that our profession and community have to offer,” he said.

The guests enjoyed Armenian delicacies from the kitchen of the award winning Café Santorini Mediterranean Restaurant. For more information about the event and the organization, visit the Armenian Bar Association website at www.armenianbar.org.
JACQUELINE CHOOLJIAN
INDUCTED AS FEDERAL MAGISTRATE

by Saro Kerkonian

Over 300 federal judges, magistrates, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, members of the bar, family, friends and various civic leaders packed two courtrooms of the U.S. District Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles on February 24, 2006 to witness the induction ceremony of Jacqueline Chooljian as United States Magistrate.

The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Alicemarie H. Stotler, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court, Central District of California, who recalled with fond memories how she first met Ms. Chooljian when she was her law clerk and the excellence with which she performed her duties. Chief Judge Stotler recalled the outstanding academic record of Ms. Chooljian having graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Los Angeles and then going on to receive her J.D. degree from the University of Southern California Law Center where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.

Judge Stotler's remarks were followed by equally warm and witty recollections of two colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's office: Maurice Suh, who currently serves at the Deputy Mayor for the Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety for the City of Los Angeles and Daniel Goodman, Asst. U.S. Attorney, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division. Each recalled how when they entered the U.S. Attorney's office Ms. Chooljian had already quickly established herself as one of the top Asst. U.S. Attorneys. They mentioned how her impeccable character, intellect and ability to relate well with her colleagues quickly lead to her being appointed chief of the criminal division and chief training counsel for the new assistant United States Attorneys. Their remarks were followed by the Honorable Nora M. Manella, U.S. District Judge. Judge Manella eloquently described how everyone she spoke to about Ms. Chooljian described her as one with an exceptional character and ability. She described how while she was at the U.S. Attorney's office that she and two other colleagues unanimously decided that Ms. Chooljian would be chosen as the chief training counsel for the next generation of U.S. Attorneys.

Jacqueline Chooljian then followed with a very grateful response to the speakers and all those who attended. In a heartfelt, emotional moment, she acknowledged the sacrifices of her parents and all that they had done for her in her life by setting a great example to live by. She recalled how they emphasized to her that education was first and Ms. Chooljian was grateful for their having guided her in the right path in life.

The ceremony was concluded with the investiture of the robe presided over by Chief Judge Stotler, Ms. Chooljian’s parents Mr. & Mrs. Jack Chooljian and Dr. Diana Chooljian. A delicious reception followed immediately.

Ms. Chooljian has been a long-time, active member of the Armenian Bar Association. The Association sends its warm congratulations to Judge Chooljian on the occasion of this great achievement.
Constitution Day Panel Discussion at AUA: The Legacy of Mkhitar Gosh and the Rule of Law

Yerevan- 7 July. The AUA Department of Law, on the occasion of Constitution Day of Armenia, hosted a panel discussion celebrating Mkhitar Gosh and his Legacy of Law in Armenia, entitled “Lessons from Mkhitar Gosh: 800 Years of Legal Tradition.”

Panel participants included Armenian Bar member, Tom Samuelian J.D., Ph.D., (Dean, AUA Law Department), who presented Mkhitar Gosh as a legal pragmatist. Bruce Janigan, Esq., J.D., LL.M., also a member of the Armenian Bar, formerly held the position of Law Department Dean and is currently AUA’s VP for Development and Government Relations.

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(Continued from page 1)

General of the state of California), local elected city council members, school board members (one soon to become a member of the California Assembly), dozens of appellate justices and trial judges, federal prosecutors, district attorneys, city attorneys, national television commentators, managing partners of top 100 firms, and distinguished practitioners throughout the world. As an international association, we have had and continue to have members from four different continents in the world. Need I say more about the caliber of our organization?

In the seventeen year history of our Association, we have established a tradition of trust and camaraderie among our brothers and sisters. We have focused on the rule of law and democratization of the independent Republic of Armenia. We have created a forum in which attorneys with different backgrounds and at different stages of their careers share their expertise and insight. Such an exchange of experience and knowledge forms the backbone of the Association's dual goals of professional growth and community advancement.

These efforts also take the form of pro bono assistance and legal education seminars geared toward raising community awareness of rights and responsibilities. Through our prominent Armenian Rights Watch Committee, we have been instrumental in shaping law, policy and education regarding the first Genocide of the 20th Century. The recognition of the Armenian Genocide as a cause of international justice remains a primary focus of our Armenian Rights Watch Committee.

My dear brothers and sisters, my colleagues on our very able Board of Governors and I need your assistance to preserve our tradition and expand on our achievements. While your financial support of the Association is always appreciated, there is no support better than your personal involvement and sense of pride in your Association. I am therefore asking each and every one of you to come to Philadelphia in October 2006 and to Santa Monica, California in April of 2007 to bring renewed energy and dedication to your proud Armenian Bar Association. As your Chair, I have established the following goals for myself and the Association for the upcoming year: 1) Double or better our membership in the United States and abroad (all I ask is for each member to bring in at least two new members this year); 2) Expand our outreach by translating our website to French and Armenian to bring our brothers and sisters in Europe and Armenia closer to the Association; 3) Organize events in Europe and Armenia in conjunction with our events here in the United States; and 4) Expand the list of our annual sponsors and increase our fundraising activities. These are aggressive goals, but very attainable with hard work and dedication. I am confident that with your help we will achieve them all. Remember: THINK BIG!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the dedication and expertise of our staff, who day in and day out help us implement our goals for our beloved Association. Our Executive Director, Betty Jamgochian and her assistant Lisa Boyadjian are here to assist you with any questions that you may have regarding membership, fund raising, committee assignments and upcoming events. Feel free to call or email them with your inquiries. Please keep in touch and keep me informed of your progress. See you all in Philadelphia! God bless you all!

Frank Vram Zerunyan
Chairman

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AIMS AND STRUCTURE

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS

Some of the Association’s operations include:

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

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