The Armenian Bar’s 18th Annual National Meeting will be held near the Santa Monica Pier, April 20-22, 2007. Photo courtesy of Irene Mason

Picturesque California Coast to be Stage for Armenian Bar’s 18th Annual National Meeting

Genocide Scholars, Supreme Court Justices, Judges and High Profile Attorneys to Speak

Beautiful turquoise and orange sunsets over the Pacific ocean, world class dining, sandy beaches, upscale boutiques, surfing, sailing, roller blading, bicycling and beach volleyball are just some of the attractions that await members and friends of the Armenian Bar Association who attend the upcoming 18th Annual National meeting in Santa Monica, California the weekend of April 20-22, 2007.

The meeting will be held at the Le Merigot Hotel, near the Santa Monica pier and the event is expected to draw numerous legal scholars, historians, judges, lawyers, law students and politicians from throughout the United States, Canada, France and Armenia. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos Moreno will be the

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keynote luncheon speaker, and will be introduced by fellow Associate California Supreme Court Justice Marvin Baxter, a founder and Honorary Member of the Armenian Bar.

In addition, the group has established, and will award the first ever “Hrant Dink Freedom of Speech Award,” in honor of the recently slain Armenian journalist from Istanbul. Dink was the guest of honor at the Armenian Bar’s Midyear Meeting in Philadelphia in October of 2006, and was gunned down by a Turkish assassin on January 19, 2007. The recipient of the award will be announced at the meeting.

The conference will be punctuated by legal seminars, a tour of the world-renowned Getty Museum, a golf tournament, receptions, a Saturday evening gala banquet, featuring the John Bilezkijian Band, and a meeting of the Board of Governors at the Le Merigot. The hotel is a stone’s throw away from such legendary Southern California attractions as Malibu, Venice Beach, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Universal Studios, Disneyland and the Hollywood “Walk of Stars.”

Attorneys attending the meeting will receive five MCLE credits for what promises to be an interesting and informative series of lectures. The topics will include “High Profile Criminal Cases,” “The Court System and the Media,” “Political Implications of the Assassination of Armenian Journalist Hrant Dink,” and “The Origin and Evolution of Concept of Crimes Against Humanity as an Integral Part of International Criminal Law.”

Dickran Tevrizian and Larry A. Burns, two of only three Federal U.S. District Judges of Armenian descent in the United States and Honorary Members of the Armenian Bar, will serve as Co-Master of Ceremonies at the Saturday evening banquet. Tevrizian is a decorated federal bench officer who transferred to senior status in 2005. He was the youngest judge ever appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court, has been named “Judge of the Year” on more than one occasion, and has over 30 years of experience as a jurist.

Burns presided over the Randall “Duke” Cunningham political corruption case in California last year, which drew national attention. In that case, Burns handed down the toughest sentence ever given to a member of Congress.

Decorated criminal defense attorneys Mark Geragos and Harland Braun will also be featured on the criminal law panel. Geragos is perhaps the best known attorney in the country, and has been a regular commentator on nationally-televised programs such as Larry King Live CNN’s Burden of Proof and Dateline NBC. He has been lead counsel in several high profile cases including Susan McDougal, Scott Peterson and Winona Rider. He is also one of the lead attorneys in the three historic Genocide reparation claims against New York Life Insurance Company, AXA Insurance and Deutscher Bank.

Braun is also a nationally-recognized attorney and was one of the defense attorneys in the Rodney King case. Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson, who has regularly appeared on network television to offer legal commentary on high profile cases, including the OJ Simpson and Michael Jackson cases, will also be a guest speaker. Federal Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian will moderate the panel.

The media panel will include former Los Angeles District Attorney Robert Philibosian, who has appeared on national television discussing legal cases, including the trial of OJ Simpson. He will be joined by David Kohler, former General Counsel of CNN, Linda Deutsch, a nationally-recognized Associated Press correspondent and 40-year veteran who covered the Charles Manson trial, Greg Krikorian, an award winning journalist from the Los Angeles Times, in addition to Karlene Goller, Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel for the Los Angeles Times.

Renowned Genocide scholar Vahagn Dadrian, the current director of Genocide research at the Zoryan Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will join Taner Akcam to discuss the international legal aspects of the Armenian Genocide, the evolution of the laws defining the term and the political implications of the assassination of Hrant Dink.

Akcarm a visiting professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is one of first historians of Turkish ancestry to acknowledge the truth of the Genocide, and has lectured and published extensively on the subject. His latest text, entitled “A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility” was published in May, 2006.
DINK FEATURED AT ARME NIAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S MID-YEAR MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 28, 2006

By Vicken I. Simonian

PHILADELPHIA - Hrant Dink, an Armenian journalist from Istanbul, Turkey, was a featured guest and joined a number of judges, lawyers, professors and law students at the Armenian Bar Association’s Midyear National Meeting in Philadelphia, on October 28, 2006 at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown hotel.

Dink was assassinated in his native Istanbul on January 19, 2007 by a Turkish national. He was the editor of the Turkish and Armenian language weekly newspaper “Agos.” In 2005, he was convicted of violating Article 301 of Turkey’s penal code for commenting on the Armenian Genocide, and allegedly “insulting the Turkish identity.” The verdict received international attention, since the alleged violation constituted the suppression of free speech by Turkey, a country which is seeking admission to the European Union. Dink received a standing ovation from those in attendance for his principled stand on freedom of speech issues, and the risks he took in Turkey to continue his fight for free speech.

Dink was joined by Gregory Magarian, a Professor of Constitutional Law at Villanova, in presenting a lecture on “Free Speech and the Armenian Genocide.” Magarian is a prominent speaker on First Amendment topics and rights of the media, and is a former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Line Abrahamian, the Associate Editor of Reader’s Digest Magazine of Miami School of Law and Nova University School of Law.

Canada, and the author of the acclaimed article on the Armenian Genocide entitled “My Journey from Hate to Hope,” was the keynote luncheon speaker at the conference. Abrahamian’s article is featured in the October, 2006 issue of Reader’s Digest Canada. She captivated the audience with the story of how she came to write the article. The publication has a circulation of eight million.

The controversial area of changing laws in the immigration field was the topic of another lecture at the meeting. Ira Kurzman, past President and former General Counsel of the American Immigration Lawyers Association was a featured guest. Kurzman has been named by the National Law Journal as one of the top 20 immigration lawyers in the United States. He is an adjunct faculty member in Immigration and Nationality Law at the University of Miami School of Law and Nova University School of Law.

Kurzman was joined on the panel by Alice Yardum-Hunter, another nationally-recognized expert in the immigration field, and a past lecturer for the Armenian Bar Association. Yardum-Hunter is a certified specialist in immigration law, has been practicing law for 26 years, and publishes a periodic newsletter on changing trends in the immigration field.

Chairman Frank Zerunyan presided over the meeting, as the group set its agenda for the coming year. In addition, an update was provided by Van Z. Krikorian on the Massachusetts’ Genocide curriculum case of Griswold v. Driscoll. The Armenian Bar assembled a top-notch team of attorneys and law firms to file an

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amicus brief in support of a motion to dismiss the case. The motion has been heard by the court and the ruling was under submission as of the date of the meeting. Krikorian is the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly. He was present in court for the oral argument on the motion to dismiss, and was able to offer a unique perspective on the case.

The historic city of Philadelphia, referred to as “the Birthplace of America,” offered members a chance to take in such historical sites as the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, Constitutional Hall and the Liberty Bell. Philadelphia claims many world class museums, including the Franklin Institute (one of the world’s greatest science museums), the Academy of Sciences, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Rodin Museum and the Philadelphia Art Museum, with an impressive collection of art and a set of stairs made famous by the Academy Award winning film “Rocky.”

The meeting included a reception 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 including George 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, and provided an excellent venue for the Friday welcome reception.

On Saturday, after the meeting, those in attendance were given a tour of 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. That evening, members enjoyed dinner at the Victor Café in Philadelphia, which is famous for its fine Italian cuisine, and periodic opera pieces sung by the waiters and waitresses, who are all opera students.
Judicial Profile: L.A. County Superior Court Judge Alice Altoon, a Study in Consistency and a Source of Great Pride for the Armenian Legal Community

By Nora Boghossian

The Honorable Alice E. Altoon’s judicial career has had many highlights, but more than anything else, she has proven that Armenian women can play both the traditional role of being a spouse and mother, and at the same time have a fulfilling professional career.

Altoon currently sits as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge in the Central District, Downtown Los Angeles courthouse, hearing primarily civil cases. She is in her 20th year on the bench, and transferred to her current civil assignment in 2005. Prior to that time, she handled criminal matters both in the Central and Van Nuys Districts.

She has received praise from judges who know her and attorneys who have appeared before her in court. “I have known Alice since 1988, and have always viewed her as a tremendous asset to the court,” said J. Stephen Czuleger, the current Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court system. “She is a good friend and colleague who I can always trust and rely on,” said Czuleger.

In terms of the Armenian Bar Association, she has consistently been an active member and involved since the inception of the organization in 1989. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors. In 2006, she became one of the exclusive list of people to be designated as an Honorary Member for her significant contributions to the largest group of lawyers of Armenian descent in the world. She is the 10th person ever to given that distinction. She was presented the award at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and was acknowledged for it at a Los Angeles reception in September, 2006, where she gave an inspiring acceptance speech, encouraging more Armenian women lawyers to seek careers on the bench.

Altoon’s story starts in 1946 in Syria, her birthplace. She was the youngest of four sisters, and, as was the social norm, there was a subtle feeling of ridicule from members of the community. “In my Armenian village, they felt sorry for my father because he had no sons,” said Altoon. “Then, my brother was born right after me, and there was a big celebration.”

Such was her indoctrination as a young girl, where her parents and community expected her to fulfill the traditional role of Armenian women, by getting married and raising a family. She did not disappoint. She met her husband, Ronald Altoon, while both were students at John Marshall High School in Los Angeles. They later married and had two sons, Eric and Ryan.

Then came the shocker. She informed her family that she wanted to attend law school and have a professional career. While her husband fully supported her decision, many in her immediate and extended family had difficulty coming to terms with her decision. Not deterred, she began taking classes at Southwestern University School of Law then transferred to the USC Law Center where she earned a Juris Doctorate degree in 1980.

After graduating from law school, she gave birth to her third child, daughter Emily. While it was a handful starting her first job as a Deputy California State Attorney General and continuing to raise her family, Altoon retained her calm but determined perspective, and continued being a great mother and respected attorney.

In 1987, California Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the Municipal Court, and she became a Superior Court judge when the Superior and Municipal courts unified in 2000. She has often

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Panel Discussion at Loyola Law School

LOS ANGELES—The Armenian Bar Association in conjunction with the Loyola Armenian Law Student Association (LALSA) hosted a panel of Armenian attorneys at Loyola Law School in downtown Los Angeles on November 9, 2006. The panel was attended by over 70 attorneys, and was moderated by the Honorable Zaven Sinanian, a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge sitting in the Burbank, California courthouse of the North Central District.

The panelists were presented in two groups, one dealing with civil practice and the other with criminal litigation. The attorneys participating in the civil panel were Catrina Archuleta, Ara Babaian, Rita Bojalian, Lori Sinanyan and Vicken Simonian. The criminal panel included Natalie Adomian, Mark Geragos, Garo Ghazarian and Garen Nazarian.

The audience included law students from Loyola Law School and other local law schools in Southern California. A contingency of lawyers, mostly Armenian Bar members, also was present.

The attorneys provided advice and spoke about the transition from law student to attorney, how to be a zealous, yet ethical, advocate, the attributes of successful attorneys, and the attorneys’ own experiences and advice. Judge Sinanian, a former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Armenian Bar, served as an excellent moderator for the panel, providing a perspective from the bench and expounded on the comments of the panelists.

The criminal litigation panel started with nationally recognized lawyer Mark Geragos, the managing partner of Geragos and Geragos. Geragos offered anecdotes from the years of his illustrious practice, including the importance of gaining courtroom experience early to help develop the skills of a new lawyer. Natalie Adomian of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office, a veteran prosecutor, provided an excellent discussion of the challenges facing those seeking employment with a government entity.

Garo Ghazarian is the Dean of the Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles, and a nationally recognized motivational speaker. He offered his expert views regarding the elements of criminal defense practice and the risks of substance abuse among attorneys in the high stress field of criminal

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Loyola Law School Panel Discussion

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defense. Nazarian, who works with the public defender’s office, provided equally relevant advice regarding government work, specifically in the field of criminal law. How to deal with clients when they seem to know more about sentencing guidelines than their novice defense attorney was another theme discussed.

The civil litigation panel started with Vicken Simonian, a specialist in real estate and landlord/tenant matters, who provided a unique viewpoint from the eyes of a private practitioner, including the financial and ethical challenges facing law students who want to open up shop on their own. Lori Sinanian, a partner in the firm of Kirkland and Ellis, provided useful information from the perspective of a woman raising a family while achieving partner status at a young age. The

challenges of learning to become very independent and trusting yourself when working in a large firm, balancing work and family, along with the attributes of good lawyers were discussed.

Archuleta works for the firm of Meyers, Nave, Riback, Silver & Wilson, handling environmental law and public contracts. She is a graduate of Loyola and offered encouraging remarks while outlining appropriate ethical considerations.

Bojalian, the current Secretary of the Armenian Bar, is a former employee of CBS, a published expert in employment law, and currently in private practice. She offered very meaningful advice to law students including the importance of having a mentor in the early stages of one’s legal career, and ethical concerns which may arise with in-house counsel positions. Babaian is with the firm of Ervin, Cohen & Jessup, LLP handling transactional, as well as business and corporate law matters. He provided the audience with important tips in seeking

employment with mid to large sized firms, and the importance of following the rules of professional conduct.

The event was organized by Armenian Bar Student Affairs Chair Ellin Davtyan along with Loyola law students Taline Kizirian (president of the LALSA) and Maria Shakelian (social chair of the LALSA), ArmenBar’s Executive Director Betty Jambotchian, and her assistant Lisa Boyajian. Wine, beverages and Armenian delicacies were generously provided by ArmenBar’s Treasurer Edvin Minassian, of Tennenhous, Minassian & Adham and the Law Offices of Simonian and Kerkonian.

Lawyers who attended the forum will receive two units of MCLE credits.
ArmenBar Members in D.C. Area Recognize Work of Senator Paul Sarbanes and His Distinguished Career

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On December 20, 2006, ArmenBar members in the Washington, D.C. area made a presentation to Senator Paul Sarbanes on behalf of the Armenian Bar Association. ArmenBar Vice Chair Melineh Verma made the presentation which was composed by Dean Shahinian, Counsel on the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. The presentation is printed below.

Lisa Esayan described the artwork, hand painted by artist Seeroum Yeretzian, which depicts pomegranates signifying good health and long life. Jacob Bournazian described the artist Yeretzian, who has gained notoriety around the United States for her still lifes with an Armenian influence.

Also present was Alex Khachaturian, a law student who attends the University of Connecticut Law School and who is doing an internship in D.C. The group had a chance to visit with the Senator in his office. In April 2006, at the ArmenBar annual meeting in D.C., Senator Sarbanes hosted members on a tour of the Senate and a visit in his office.

"The Armenian Bar Association honors you, Senator Paul Sarbanes, for your distinguished career as an attorney in the United States Senate. We applaud your actions on foreign affairs. You have vigorously advocated the protection of human rights, democratic development and historical integrity as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and on the floor of the Senate. This work has involved issues in which Armenia has been the subject and the beneficiary, for which we are particularly grateful. You have called for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, objected to the blockade of Armenia’s borders and urged the Administration to honor its agreement to provide military assistance to Armenia on a par with Azerbaijan.

We recognize also that you have represented the citizens of Maryland effectively and with dignity for 30 years, the longest tenure of any Senator in Maryland’s history. All Americans have benefited from your work, which includes legislation that addresses accounting and investor protection problems raised by Enron, WorldCom, Merrill Lynch and other companies, and the world renown Sarbanes Oxley Act.

As a token of our respect and appreciation of your good work, the Armenian Bar Association presents you with this artwork, representative of our heritage and the heritage which your efforts have sought to perpetuate. We wish you continued success in your future activities."

Become a member of the Armenian Bar Association. A membership application is on the last page of this newsletter, or apply online at www.armenianbar.org.
Members in the News and On the Move

ArmenBar member Albert Abkarian, 42, of Glendale, has been appointed to the Osteopathic Medical Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. He serves as senior partner for the law firm Albert Abkarian & Associates since 2002, specializing in personal injury and workers compensation law. Abkarian has also served as owner of CoasterCD since 2005 and the OMNI Continental Trading Group since July 2006. Additionally, he is a Glendale Civil Service Commissioner, an advisory member on the Glendale Educational Foundation and volunteer arbitrator/mediator for the Los Angeles and Orange County Superior Courts. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. Abkarian is a Republican. Albert may be reached at abkarian@abkarianlaw.com.

Milenie C. Apanian has joined the Pasadena office of Hunt, Ortman, Blasco, Palfy & Rossell, Inc., a firm recognized throughout California as having significant expertise in virtually all facets of construction law. You can learn more about the firm by visiting www.hobpr.com. Ms. Apanian can be reached at apanian@hobpr.com or 626-440-5200.

H. Nicholas Berberian of Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg (Chicago, IL) was profiled in an article in the August 2006 issue of Chicago Lawyer. The article, “Mega-Frauds and Market Movement: The Ups and Downs of Securities Class Actions,” interviewed him as a defendants’ lawyer in this burgeoning area of litigation.

Sherry Doctorian, a partner at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP, in the Jefferson City, MO office, has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2007, in Government Relations Law. She has also negotiated in multi-million dollar settlement of sales tax issues with the Department of Revenue and was elected to The Missouri Bar Board of Governors. Ms. Doctorian may be reached at sdoctorian@armstrongteasdale.com.

Congratulations to Lori Sinanyan who has become a Partner of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Lori is located in the Los Angeles office and is an expert in restructuring matters. Lisa Esayan of the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis says that Lori is “a joy to work with.” Ms. Esayan further inquires, “Now, can anyone weigh in on the question of whether any law firm has TWO Armenian female partners other than Wilmer Hale and Kirkland & Ellis?” If you know the answer to that question, you may contact Lisa at lesayan@kirkland.com. You may reach Lori at lsinanyan@kirkland.com.

Since early 2003, John Lulejian, Assistant U.S. Attorney, has been working with the DEA to dismantle a large and sophisticated drug-trafficking and money laundering organization based in Sinaloa, Mexico. The organization has distributed drugs (methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin) throughout the United States and in the Western District of Washington. Last year, 36 members of this group were convicted. Three of the original group are fugitives. In December, after six wiretaps, the two-year investigation came to an end, when more members of the organization were arrested. To date, 79 members of this organization have been charged. Mr. Lulejian anticipates charging and convicting more in the future.

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Lori Sinanyan (left) and Lisa Esayan of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.
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Mark L. Movsessian, a professor at Hofstra University School of Law, is a visiting professor at St. John’s University School of Law. He is teaching contracts and international commercial arbitration.

Dick Semerdjian (JD, University of San Diego, 1985) was recently named by the San Diego Daily Transcript as one of the Top 10 Attorneys in San Diego. In 2006, Mr. Semerdjian was elected by the American Bar Association (ABA) to the Trial Tort and Insurance Practice Section Council (Board of Directors) for a three year term and is the Vice Chairman of the ABA Business Litigation Committee. He is on the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Bar Association and a Master of the William B. Enright Inn of Court. Mr. Semerdjian is the incoming Chairman (2007) of the San Diego International Sports Council – an organization consisting of top San Diego business executives that promotes sporting activities (such as the NFL Super Bowl, Major League All Star Game, World Baseball Classic, Action Sport and X-Games) to the San Diego and Tijuana region to promote economic development through sports. Mr. Semerdjian is a founding partner of the law firm of Schwartz Semerdjian Haile Ballard & Cauley LLP with offices in San Diego and Los Angeles. He can be reached at das@sshbclaw.com.

Harry Missirlian and Siva Martin, were honored as past presidents of the Chicago Chapter at the AGBU Centennial Celebration in Chicago on October 21, 2006.

Governor George Deukmejian was honored and commended by the Los Angeles County Lincoln Club as a 2006 Spirit of Lincoln Award winner. “The Spirit of Lincoln award honors those Republican leaders who emulate Abraham Lincoln’s creative spirit, indomitable will and overriding love for the United States of America.” On September 9, 2006 at The Jonathan Club, Gov. Deukmejian, along with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, was presented with an exquisite bronze bust of Lincoln. Deukmejian was Governor of California from 1983-1991, and served as Attorney General and as a state legislator. Gov. Deukmejian is an honorary member of the Armenian Bar Association.
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From left: Dr. Armen Sevag, James Kzirian and Antranig David Kzirian, who is the new Executive Director of ANCA West.

Antranig David Kzirian, Esq. became the new Executive Director of The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) in the Glendale, CA office. Antranig is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He received his law degree from Villanova University in 2005. During law school, he served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Dickran Tevrizian of the United States District Court, Central District of California. Antranig is also musically talented, as those who attended the Philadelphia Mid Year Meeting in October 2006 will remember. Antranig may be reached at antranig.kzirian@gmail.com.

Members Attend Southwestern Law School Alumni Networking Event

LOS ANGELES – ArmenBar Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian, along with Board members Garo Kovannisian, the Honorable Alice Altoo, and Rita Bojalian, attended a networking event for law students at Southwestern Law School in November.

Law students representing the various Southern California law schools attended and had the opportunity to mingle with and ask questions from experienced practitioners. Many of the students continue to stay in touch with the attorneys they met at the event.

“We were very pleased with the turnout at the Southwestern networking event that was meant to bridge the gap between the students and alumni of the Armenian Law Students Association” said Jamgotchian.

“The attorneys who attended also took advantage of the opportunity to meet and get to know those practicing in other areas of the law. It was a positive experience for all of those who attended.”

ArmenBar members attended a Southwestern Law School alumni networking event. From left: Southwestern Law School Professor Anahid Garakhanian and ArmenBar Secretary Rita Bojalian.

Also in attendance was Anahid Garakhanian, a professor at Southwestern, and the former Chair of the Student Affairs Committee.
science have always progressed due to individuals like Tom. He is one of the brightest and best representatives of our people.” Mr. Hambardzumian also expressed his gratitude to His Holiness for recognizing individuals within the spheres of science, culture and the arts in such a high manner.

As the Hover Chamber Choir sang the church hymn “Echmiadzin,” the Pontifical Encyclical of the Catholicos of All Armenians was brought into the hall and read by Bishop Adamian. In the encyclical, His Holiness Karekin II highly commends the manifold and multifaceted works of Dr. Samuelian, who for decades has willingly brought his service to the parishes of the United States, taught Armenian language classes in Philadelphia, Boston and New Jersey, and actively participated in the progress of national and ecclesiastical life of the Armenian American communities.

The encyclical states in part, “...your readiness to contribute your abilities to the strengthening and progress of our homeland, and your kind motivation to always see the national and church life of our people bright and prosperous, directed your paths to Armenia, where you continue to enrich your nation-helping and church-building legacy under the blessings of our Lord. Happiness envelops our Pontifical soul, that your fidelity to our national values and traditions is manifested in your achievements and accomplishments, in service to our Christ-loving people, homeland and Holy Apostolic Mother Church.”

“We reflect with pleasure on your academic, literary and creative labors. Due to your years of diligent work, your scholarly essays, books, dictionaries, textbooks and translations are available for the reader. These have truly earned you the recognition and title of ‘intellectual’. Through your translations, non-Armenians and English-speaking Armenians now have the opportunity to know literary monuments such as the ‘Book of Lamentations’ by St. Gregory of Narek, ‘Refutation of the Sects’ by Yeznik of Kolb, and others…”

Following the reading of the Encyclical, His Holiness Karekin II decorated Dr. Samuelian with the Medal of St. Sahak – St. Mesrop. Dr. Samuelian, in his remarks, expressed his deep gratitude to the Pontiff of All Armenians for honoring him in this manner.

The event concluded with the message of His Holiness Karekin II. Recalling the words of Catholicos of All Armenians Vasken I of blessed memory, His Holiness stated, “‘On the path of searching for God, I found Holy Echmiadzin and my Homeland...’ Searching for God has been the way of life for our nation and people. Our parents, holding the hands of their children in their palms, have always led them to church, so that the child, from the earliest of years, would learn to walk on the road that leads to God, to search for God and to find God through His unending mercy. For they realized and recognized the great sacred mystery that the guarantor of Armenian identity, existence and being is found within God.” His Holiness noted that this was the same in Tom Samuelian’s case as well, who on his path of searching for God found Armenia and became a worthy child of our nation.

His Holiness extended his blessings to all assembled, thanked the Hover Chamber Choir for their musical presentations throughout the evening and once more commended the dedication, love and faithfulness of Tom Samuelian to the Armenian Church and Nation.
Tom Samuelian Awarded the Order of “St. Sahak and St. Mesrop”

First published as a press release by the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Information Services

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, has decorated Tom Samuelian with the Order of “St. Sahak and St. Mesrop.” The award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the head of the Armenian Church on faithful sons and daughters who have greatly contributed to the literary, scholastic and cultural life of the Armenian Nation.

The event took place on August 30 in the Pontifical Residence on the grounds of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and began with welcoming remarks by Rev. Fr. Ktrij Devejian of the Catholicosate of All Armenians. His Grace Bishop Sion Adamian, Primate of the Diocese of Arnavir, presented the biography and works of Dr. Samuelian, noting that his creative efforts have accompanied his life from a very early age.

His Excellency John Evans, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia, thanked His Holiness for paying such a tribute and honoring an exemplary citizen of the United States and a true son of Armenia. The ambassador stated that “Tom is a man within whom the worlds of knowledge and practical life are unified.”

Academician Rafael Hambardzumian presented his thoughts, highly evaluating the virtues and dedication of Dr. Samuelian, noting that “Our literature, culture and
science have always progressed due to individuals like Tom. He is one of the brightest and best representatives of our people.” Mr. Hambardzumian also expressed his gratitude to His Holiness for recognizing individuals within the spheres of science, culture and the arts in such a high manner.

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“We reflect with pleasure on your academic, literary and creative labors. Due to your years of diligent work, your scholarly essays, books, dictionaries, textbooks and translations are available for the reader. These have truly earned you the recognition and title of ‘intellectual’. Through your translations, non-Armenians and English-speaking Armenians now have the opportunity to know literary monuments such as the ‘Book of Lamentations’ by St. Gregory of Narek, ‘Refutation of the Sects’ by Yeznik of Kolb, and others…”

Following the reading of the Encyclical, His Holiness Karekin II decorated Dr. Samuelian with the Medal of St. Sahak – St. Mesrop. Dr. Samuelian, in his remarks, expressed his deep gratitude to the Pontiff of All Armenians for honoring him in this manner.

The event concluded with the message of His Holiness Karekin II. Recalling the words of Catholicos of All Armenians Vasken I of blessed memory, His Holiness stated, “‘On the path of searching for God, I found Holy Etchmiadzin and my Homeland...’ Searching for God has been the way of life for our nation and people. Our parents, holding the hands of their children in their palms, have always led them to church, so that the child, from the earliest of years, would learn to walk on the road that leads to God, to search for God and to find God through His unending mercy. For they realized and recognized the great sacred mystery that the guarantor of Armenian identity, existence and being is found within God.” His Holiness noted that this was the same in Tom Samuelian’s case as well, who on his path of searching for God found Armenia and became a worthy child of our nation.

His Holiness extended his blessings to all assembled, thanked the Hover Chamber Choir for their musical presentations throughout the evening and once more commended the dedication, love and faithfulness of Tom Samuelian to the Armenian Church and Nation.
Local Official Appointed to State Medical Board


By Chris Boyd  •  Peninsula Staff Writer

Rolling Hills Estates, CA- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger yesterday announced the appointment of Rolling Hills Estates City Councilman Frank Zerunyan to the Medical Board of California. The board licenses medical doctors, investigates complaints, conducts physician evaluations and disciplines those who violate the law.

Zerunyan, 47, an attorney and former planning commissioner who's held many leadership positions with the city of RHE, as well as the California Contract Cities Association, the Southern California Association of Governments and the League of California Cities, thanked Schwarzenegger.

"I'm honored that the governor has appointed me to a very important statewide board," he said. "I am looking forward to serving the people of the state of California."

Among its responsibilities, the board controls medical schools and licenses and regulates all hospitals in the state. More than 300 people work for the board, which falls under the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Zerunyan is one of only five public members who serve on the 19-member board.

"I need to come up to speed as to what's going on," he said. "The skill sets of being a lawyer and being a public officer familiar with the public process I believe will certainly help me in my new role."

"He clearly has a lot of expertise in governmental matters in general. He's had an outstanding political career," said RHE Mayor Steve Zuckerman. "I'm sure that the Medical Board will benefit greatly from his participation."

His responsibilities to the state will not diminish his efforts as a city councilman, Zerunyan said. Medical Board members meet four times yearly in three-day sessions.

"It's a different league obviously. You're talking statewide appointment rather than local," he said. "I value a great deal my elected office. My love for local government cannot be replaced just because I am now an appointee of the governor."

Receiving a statewide appointment fulfills a lifelong dream for Zerunyan, whose great-grandfather and great-uncle were public officials in Turkey. Neither man finished his term in office because the two were slaughtered during the Armenian genocide of 1915 to 1923, an atrocity perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks that claimed 1.5 million lives.

"It's very appropriate and very rewarding to me personally that my family's background in public service has made a full circle almost a century later, more than 15,000 miles away from where it started," Zerunyan said. "I have felt always that I will one day serve out their term of office, even if symbolically, and bring our family back into public service. Public service for me has a lot more meaning than just being a public official."

"I want to serve the public. That's in my blood. I can feel it. I know I will make a difference."

Zerunyan also credited his parents with helping him realize his political goals. "During their lifetime, they left everything they had to provide me with this opportunity. They left behind their family, their friends ... just to give me an opportunity to be educated and live in a free society."

Asked if the recent appointment was a stepping stone to higher office, Zerunyan said, "I would be honored and humbled to serve in a higher office, but I'm not presuming anything. I will take it as it comes, and I will do my best to earn it. I certainly don't rule it out."

Finally, Zerunyan thanked local residents and fellow council members. "I'm indebted to my community and my colleagues on the council because my visibility statewide and to the government is made possible by the community I serve," he said.
 Conservative Anchor Pulls Abstract Ideas Down to Earth


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By Itir Yakar • Daily Journal Staff Writer

SANFRANCISCO - State Supreme Court Justice Marvin R. Baxter’s fascination with cars dates to his childhood.

Baxter’s turquoise 1958 Corvette is a vestige from when his family owned a Chevrolet dealership in his hometown of Fowler, just south of Fresno. He remembers tinkering with cars growing up.

He still enjoys a Sunday drive in his ‘58. He often takes his wife, Jane Pippert Baxter, and four young grandchildren along for the ride.

In line with his love of antique cars, Baxter has maintained old-fashioned values. He hasn’t forgotten his small-town roots, friends say.

The second-longest-serving justice on the state’s top court, Baxter completed his 16th year last month. Appointed by Republican Gov. George Deukmejian, Baxter remains one of the court’s conservative anchors. He is described as gracious, low-key and humble.

For the complete article, please visit www.armenianbar.org.

Justice Armand Arabian Receives Fernando Award


By Tina Bay • MNE Staff Writer

LOSANGELES - Former California Supreme Court Justice Armand Arabian has been named recipient of the 2006 Fernando Award, given annually to a San Fernando Valley resident for volunteer efforts on behalf of the community.

L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced Arabian’s selection at the 48th Annual Fernando Award Finalists’ Recognition Dinner, after secret ballots cast by members of the Fernando Award Foundation placed him above four other finalists.

Arabian, 71, told The MetNews receiving the recognition was a “very touching experience.”

For the complete article, please visit www.armenianbar.org.
More Than $3,000 Raised at Scholarship Fundraiser


By Vicken I. Simonian

HANCOCK PARK, CA—The stately home of Gary and Arsine Phillips served as the location for a dinner reception under the stars on a beautiful fall evening on September 15, 2006. The reception served as both a social mixer and a fundraising event for the Armenian Bar Association’s Scholarship Fund. Over 100 judges, attorneys, law students and guests attended the reception, where more than $3,000 was raised.

“The reception was yet another successfulevent for our organization, and reinforced our commitment to assisting Armenian law students in the U.S. and Armenia,” said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association. “We are very happy to once again provide an avenue for our colleagues in the legal community to meet, exchange ideas, and become educated about our goals,” said Jamgotchian.

Gary Phillips is the managing partner of the prestigious law firm of Astor and Phillips, and Arsine Phillips is a partner with the law firm of Parker, Milliken, Clark, O’Hara and Samuelian. In addition to being the generous hosts of the reception, each was responsible for a $1,000 donation on behalf of their firms to the Armenian Bar.

“We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of the Phillips family,” said Jamgotchian.

Several judges from the Los Angeles County court system were in attendance, including former Presiding Judge Malcolm Mackey, Ronald Sohigian, Alice Altoo and Zaven Sinanian. Sohigian, Altoo and Sinanian have unselfishly lent their time to participate in lectures organized by the Armenian Bar on several occasions over the years. Sinanian is a former Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Altoo is a current Board member.

Altoon, who was named an Honorary Life Member of the Armenian Bar at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in April, 2006, was presented with a handsome plaque recognizing her induction into the elite group of Honorary Members. Frank Zerunyan, a City Councilman from the City of Rolling Hills Estates and the current Chairman of the Board of Governors, gave a moving introduction of Judge Altoon, after updating those in attendance about upcoming activities, and encouraging donations to the organization. Altoon followed with an inspirational acceptance speech in which she thanked the Armenian Bar, and stressed the importance of the student scholarship fund.

Former Chairman Vicken I. Simonian served as master of ceremonies and gave a heartwarming introduction of the Phillips family, including their daughters, Christina and Ashley, both of whom are outstanding students and long distance runners at Marlborough School, one of the top college preparatory schools in the country. Gary Phillips’ father, George, Sr. is the founding partner of Astor and Phillips. He has received many honors over the years, including being named the AGBU’s “Man of the Year” in 2005.

Those in attendance were treated to a delicious array of Armenian and Middle Eastern delicacies provided by La Fogata. Participants enjoyed an evening of fine food and libations while making and renewing friendships. The event also provided an excellent opportunity for networking.
Altoon Profile
continued from pg. 5

acknowledged Armand Arabian, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of California (retired), for his support of her campaign to become a judge, and her appreciation for his role as a mentor. Arabian is also an Honorary Member of the Armenian Bar Association.

Her background as a state prosecutor gave her a unique perspective in the arena of criminal law.

After only three months on the bench, Altoon was elevated to Supervising Judge of the Central Arraignment Court, which, at the time, handled up to 200 arraignments daily. Being a pragmatic perfectionist, she quickly realized the system needed something to educate the thousands of criminal defendants who came before the court.

In 1989, she helped produce a videotape of instructions for defendants. The videotape is still in use in Los Angeles and other counties, and serves as her legacy of her time in the criminal courts. The videotape was no surprise to those who knew Altoon. She was a former high school art teacher, and as an undergraduate at UCLA placed first in a group art show. At the time, she told the Los Angeles Daily Journal, “Being a visual person, I decided we needed to update the arraignment tapes.” The instructional videotape replaced an archaic and outdated predecessor.

Altoon’s family is a tremendous source of pride for her. Her husband Ronald Altoon is one of the most decorated architects in the world. He is a partner in the prestigious firm of Altoon + Porter, and has served as the President of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the International Association of Architects. As a matter of coincidence, her husband’s firm was hired to revitalize the former Bullocks Wilshire to its current position as part of the Southwestern Law School campus.

Eldest son Eric is a real estate transaction attorney working at the firm of Buchalter, Nemer in Los Angeles. Son Ryan is a real estate developer with Anderson Pacific. Daughter Emily is a student at USC in her senior year, studying fine arts. She has two grandchildren from her eldest son, four year old Jamie and one year old Andre. Ryan is married to Laurice Avazian, daughter of friend and fellow Armenian attorney Arthur Avazian.

Altoon confesses that handling civil cases after 17 years in the criminal court system took a little getting used to. “The main battles in criminal cases are done orally on the record and require rapid rulings, whereas in civil, all motions are in writing and I have considerably more time to read, research and consider my rulings. The majority of the issues in criminal deals with individual constitutional rights and requires the court to be governed by statutes that are not as flexible as in the civil arena. In civil the main battles are fought on paper. Statutory deadlines can be stipulated away, and this gives more control over the calendar,” she said.

“I like solving problems. So whether it is a criminal or civil case, I like to see everyone reach common ground and resolve the dispute. When the parties come together in good faith in the settlement process, they all have a stake in the outcome,” said Altoon. Although in comparing the two systems, she says “I have noticed that in civil cases, attorneys tend to be less courteous with their opponents.”

In addition to her impact in the criminal courts with the instructional videotape, she served three years as chair of the Driving Under the Influence Committee of the Municipal Court Judges Association, and has taught at the Californian Judicial Education and Research College at UC Berkeley. While on the DUI committee, she helped start a program to send 18 to 20 year olds, convicted of drunk driving, to the coroner’s office and hospital emergency rooms to observe close up the horrific and tragic results of offenses like theirs.

Altoon has many recreational interests, including sewing, needlecraft, drawing, painting, movies and travel. While attending a recent Board meeting of the Armenian Bar Association, she was spotted doing needlework during discussion and debate. Fellow members of the Board quickly realized that the hobby in no way affected her ability to listen or participate.

“I thought Judge Altoon may not have been paying attention,” said past Chairman Vicken Simonian. “Then, when one of the officers made a factually incorrect comment, Judge Altoon looked up from her needlepoint and corrected the error. I think that’s a sign of a great judge. Being able to listen intently, regardless of any other distraction,” said Simonian. “All of my colleagues agree that Alice Altoon is an invaluable member of
ArmenBar Co-sponsors Book Signing and Lecture on *The Case Of Misak Torlakian* by Vartkes Yeghiayan at the Glendale Public Library

By Vicken I. Simonian

**GLENDALE, CA -** *The Case of Misak Torlakian*, a book by Vartkes Yeghiayan, was the subject of the Glendale Public Library’s free lecture series on January 17, 2007. A capacity crowd of over 200 people packed the lecture hall to hear the author describe the book and the extensive research that went into writing the text. The event was co-sponsored by the Armenian Bar and Glendale Bar Associations.

Torlakian’s case remains one of the unique trials in criminal justice history. In 1921, the young Armenian Genocide survivor shot dead Bihbud Khan Jivanshir outside the Pera Palace Hotel in Istanbul. Jivanshir had ordered the killing of thousands of Armenians in Baku, Azerbaijan, and Torlakian, who lost his entire family in that massacre, assassinated the Azeri official.

The result of his trial by a British military court resulted in a verdict of not guilty. Torlakian later moved to the U.S. and lived in Montebello, California. Dr. Zaven Guiragossian, a noted community leader, and Professor Osheen Keshishian, editor of the *Armenian Observer* newspaper, knew Torlakian and offered comments about the subject of the book.

Yeghiayan went into detail about collecting data for the book, and seeking out Torlakian. The book goes into detail about Torlakian’s life, the assassination, the subsequent trial and his life after the trial. Part of the trial transcript is revealed in the text. The book provides an examination of the legal process of the British military court after the Armenian Genocide. History, theology, philosophy, psychology and politics were used by the attorneys during the trial.

Similarities to the case of Soghomon Tehlirian, who assassinated Taalat Pasha in Germany after World War I, but was also acquitted, were also examined by Yeghiayan. The public was able to meet the author and obtain an autographed copy of the book after the lecture.

Yeghiayan is one of the lead attorneys in the Genocide reparations case, notably the case of *Marootian v. NY Life*, a case which resulted in a $20 million settlement for descendants of the Armenian Genocide. He has spoken on several occasions to the Armenian Bar about that case.

**From left:** ArmenBar Chairman Frank Zerunyan, writer Vartkes Yeghiayan and past Executive Director Lucy Varpetian at the author’s book signing in Glendale.
Hrand and Manoushak Simonian Renew $1,000 Donation on Behalf of ArmenBar to the Catholicos

Hrand and Manoushak Simonian, parents of former Chairman Vicken Simonian, have renewed an annual $1,000 donation to Catholicos Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church based in Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

On June 8, 2005, during his historic visit to L.A., ArmenBar held a reception at the Armen Hampar meeting room at the Diocese Church in Burbank, California to meet with the Catholicos. In honor of Karekin II’s visit, and in line with ArmenBar’s commitment to legal education, His Holiness was presented with a $1,000 check as an initial donation toward the legal education of clergymen in Armenia currently attending law school. The funds were donated by the Simonians.

The Catholicos extended an invitation from the Holy See to the Armenian Bar Association to hold a meeting in Armenia. His Holiness spoke of an historic Armenian legal text written by Mekhitar Gosh, then graciously offered “Goshavank” (the monastery of Gosh) as the inspirational venue for such a symposium. That meeting will take place this October, as ArmenBar will travel to Armenia for its Midyear meeting.

To further the commitment to the cause of legal education for members of the clergy, Hrand Simonian recently met with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Srpazan Yeprem Tabakian in L.A. and presented them with another check for $1,000 on behalf of the Armenian Bar.

“We are extremely thankful to Hrand and Manoushak Simonian for their thoughtful and meaningful donation on behalf of our organization,” said Armenian Bar Association Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian.

“We hope to continue our support of legal education within the clergy, and plan on meeting with the Catholicos while in Armenia this Fall,” said Jamgotchian, who also happens to be the niece of the Simonians.

Attorney Finds Her Armenian Heritage in America


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By Anne Marie Ruff • Daily Journal Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: The United States is a nation of immigrants. More than one in four California residents came here from foreign lands, and 13 percent of the state’s lawyers - 19,000 attorneys - are immigrants. In this occasional series, we look at some of those attorneys and their pursuit of the American Dream.

Betty Jamgotchian is an attorney at the law office of Saro K. Kerkonian, in Glendale, the heart of Los Angeles’ sizable Armenian community. She came to the U.S. from Jordan as a child with her parents. It was the latest step in a generations-long family journey from Turkey.

Her life in America has been a world away. She lived in New York and Boston before coming to Glendale in 1958. She studied at the University of Southern California and received her law degree from Southwestern University School of Law.

For the complete article, please visit www.armenianbar.org.

From left: Hrand Simonian and Manoushak Simonian receive a pastoral letter of appreciation, or “Gontag” from the Catholicos, presented by Derhayr Mesrob Tashjian.
ArmenBar Judges and Leaders Participate in Los Angeles Superior Court Diversity Summit

A group of leading judges and attorneys recently participated in a summit organized by the Los Angeles Superior Court to address the issue of diversity on the bench. The summit attracted about 250 leaders from the various ethnic, racial and other local bar associations and was attended by a number of judges who currently sit on the bench in Los Angeles County. The event was held at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

In attendance on behalf of the Armenian Bar Association were Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian and Vicken Simonian, past chair of the Association, and Garo Ghazarian, attorney and Dean of Peoples College of Law. Superior Court Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, vice-chair of the court’s Diversity Committee, Judges Alice Alton and Gregory Keosian were also present.

To have a diverse bench here in Los Angeles would mean to have judges appointed who are representative of the community they serve in, said Judge Peter Espinoza, who chairs the Diversity Committee and was the master of ceremonies that morning.

Organized by the diversity subcommittee of the court’s outreach committee, the half-day event featured two panels. The first panel consisted of the Deans of Loyola, Southwestern, UCLA and USC law schools. They addressed what the role of law school is in fostering a diverse applicant pool. The second panel consisted of former Governor Gray Davis, Judge Burt Pines, appointments secretary in the Davis administration, Timothy Simon, appointments secretary for Governor Schwarzenegger, John Davies, appointments advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger, and Sheldon Sloan, State Bar president. Among the issues they addressed was the judicial appointments process.

Recently, Armenian Bar Chair, Frank V. Zerunyan, was appointed to the state Medical Board on the recommendation of Timothy Simon, who spoke highly of Mr. Zerunyan in conversations with Armenian Bar members in attendance.

“I think it is important for the Armenian community to be represented on the bench especially in jurisdictions where there is a large Armenian American presence, such as Los Angeles County,” said Judge Sinanian. Not many people know the fact that the second most requested interpreter service in the courts of Los Angeles, after Spanish, is Armenian. “Educating our members about the qualification and application process should be an important goal of the Armenian Bar Association and I urge the Board to make efforts in that regard. The number of Armenian American judges in our county has diminished in the recent years, and more has to be done on our part to reverse the trend,” said Judge Alton.

The conference was concluded by J. Stephen Czuleger, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, who stated that people thought he was Armenian when he was appointed to the bench by Governor George Deukmejian in 1988, but whose background is Hungarian. Perhaps another example of the diversity we celebrate in Los Angeles County.
Chair’s Message
continued from pg. 1

will be very special as we invited
two good friends of our late brother
Hrant Dink. Professors Taner Akcam
and Vahakn Dadrian will close the
educational portion of our program.
For our gala banquet, we invited
California constitutional officers
(yes the Governor is invited) as well
as legislators, county supervisors,
mayors, council members, judges,
prosecutors and other prominent
members of the community. Please
come to meet and greet them all.

I also write to solicit your help
on behalf of the largest and oldest
organized international bar associa-
tion of Armenian origin in the world
today. I am humbled and honored to
have been elected to lead this very
high quality group of professionals
who continue to give selflessly to
their fellow man. I am proud of the
caliber of our organization which
directly correlates to the caliber of
our members. Aside from having
former governors, congressmen,
elected public officials, federal
judges, State Supreme Court and ap-
peellate justices, judges, law profes-
sors, prosecutors, public defenders,
managing partners and partners of
top one hundred law firms and small
firms, we have prominent members,
friends and supporters like you. We
are indeed proud!

As you know, in the 18-year his-
tory of our Association, we have es-
stablished a tradition of trust and ca-
maraderie among our brothers and
sisters. We have focused on the rule
of law and democratization of the in-
dependent Republic of Armenia. We
have created a forum in which attor-
neys 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 commu-
ity advancement. These efforts also
take the form of pro bono assistance
and legal education seminars geared
toward raising community aware-
ness 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 one of the primary
focuses of our Committee.

All of our accomplishments in
law, justice and public service have
been funded by our members and
the generous financial contributions
of our friends and sponsors. In re-
turn, we have the best and the most
value conscious marketing program
available in professional organiza-
tions. Please ask for our Sponsor-
ship Brochure and more importantly
PLEASE SUPPORT your Bar As-
ociation.

As always, should you have any
questions or comments please do not
hesitate to call me. We look forward
to a fantastic and historic response.
More importantly, we look forward
to seeing you in Santa Monica, Cal-
ifornia in April and then in Paris and
Yerevan.

Sincerely,
Frank Vram Zerunyan, Chairman

Altoon
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the Armenian Bar.”

Deputy District Attorney James
Bozajian called Altoon “a wonderful
judge with a broad knowledge of the
law.” He said she is not a judicial
activist and is impartial in every
sense of the word. “You get a fair
trial in her court,” he said.

“She is an excellent trial judge,”
said Steven Glickman, former
President of the Consumer Attorneys
Association of Los Angeles and
member of the American Board of
Trial Advocates. “In a recent civil
jury trial that included complicated
issues, she streamlined the case and
kept the parties and counsel focused.
She always keeps her eye on the
ball, and respects the jurors’ time.
Her courtroom staff is outstanding,”
said Glickman.

The praise from members of the
Bar and the legal community is
extensive, and includes this writer,
who extends a heartfelt “thank
you” to Judge Altoon for her will
and dedication to her profession,
as well as being an inspirational
and exemplary person not only to
Armenian women but for all women
from diverse backgrounds.”

Nora Boghossian is a paralegal
with the firm of Rutter Hobbs and
Davidoff in Century City. She has
been a member of the Armenian
Bar Association since 2003 and
a member of the Los Angeles
Paralegal Association since 1999.
ArmenBar Newsletter Editor Vicken
I. Simonian assisted in writing this
article. Portions of this article were
re-written from the L.A. Daily Journal
profile of Alice Altoon, originally
published on Sept. 27, 1990 by Susan
McRae and updated on Feb. 27, 1998
by Chuck Welch.
Santa Monica
continued from pg. 2

Akcam was a correspondent and writer for Agos in Istanbul, a periodical published by the heroic Dink. His lecture about the political implications of the murder will be quite poignant given its proximity to Dink’s assassination and his close ties to the slain journalist. In 1999, Akcam was featured in the documentary film “A Wall of Silence,” which dealt with his relationship with Dadrian and Akcam’s efforts to emulate Dadrian’s teachings on the Genocide, despite threats from the Turkish government.

Dadrian has received many honors during his career, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 from the International Association of Genocide Scholars. He has published extensively on the subject of Genocide, and his most recent texts include “Warrant for Genocide: The Key Elements of the Turko-Armenian Conflict” and “Key Elements of the Turkish Denial of the Armenian Genocide.”

“We are very excited to have such a distinguished group of judges, scholars and guests for our historic annual meeting, and invite our members and the community to join us,” said Betty Jamgotchian, Executive Director of ArmenBar.

The meeting will be presided over by ArmenBar Chairman Frank Zerunyan, a City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Rolling Hills Estates. “We are proud of our organization, excited about the convention, and believe it will be an enriching experience for all who attend,” said Zerunyan.

Regarding the Hrant Dink award, the government of Turkey has received sharp criticism from world leaders and the press for failing to protect Dink, and passing laws restricting the right of free speech. Dink’s principled stand, in calling the mass murder of 1.5 million Armenians during World War I Genocide, resulted in his prosecution in Turkey, and ultimately cost him his life. The Armenian Bar has resolved to keep Dink’s name alive with the annual award, acknowledging those courageous enough to speak the truth about the Genocide in the face of personal attacks and threats.

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Shahen Derderian, CPA, CFE

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AD HOC Committees
Chair - Professor Ann M. Lousin
Chicago, IL, 312-987-1434
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Website Committee
Chair - Gary T. Moomjian
Jericho, NY, 516-937-5900 ext 47
gmoomjian@mwcllp.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ________________________________
Firm __________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________
Fax ____________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________
Law School ________________________________
Year of Graduation ____________________________
Admitted to Bar (Jurisdiction/Year) ____________________________
Areas of Practice (List no more than three) ____________________________

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

Enclosed please find my check for:
☐ $1,000 2007 Annual Sponsor
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☐ $50 Attorneys/Out of Law School less than 2 years
☐ $25 Law Student
☐ Auxiliary Member (all non-U.S. citizens), please contact Armenian Bar Executive Director for dues info.

Signature ____________________________________________
Date ____________________________________________

Please detach this application and send with your check to:

Armenian Bar Association
P.O. Box 29111, Los Angeles, CA 90029
(323) 666-6288, info@armenianbar.org

[Signature]
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 Submission on Issues of Community Interest
- Topical and Regional Practice Groups
- Cooperation with other bar associations and lawyers’ societies

COMMITTED TO SERVE

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