



NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
THE ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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Fall 2009

Toronto, Canada to host the Armenian Bar Association's Mid-year Meeting, October 2 - 4



The Armenian Bar National Mid-year Meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada's cultural, educational, financial, high tech, commercial, industrial and entertainment center.

Featuring Vartkes Yeghiayan Keynote Luncheon Speaker

The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) will return to Canada for its Mid-year meeting, on the weekend of October 2-4, 2009 in Toronto. The meeting will be held at the elegant Hilton Hotel, and will mark only the third time in the group's history that it has held a meeting in Canada. Vartkes Yeghiayan, respected attorney, author and the architect of the New York Life and other Genocide reparation cases, will be the keynote luncheon speaker.

"We have a vibrant group of members in Canada who have

made significant contributions to the Armenian legal community and the Armenian Bar Association, so we are thrilled to be returning to visit our neighbors to the north for our Mid-year meeting," said Sonya Nersessian, Chair of ArmenBar. Toronto is Canada's cultural, educational, financial, high tech, commercial, industrial and entertainment center. Its skyline boasts the CN Tower, the tallest structure in North America, and formerly the tallest structure in the world. The meeting headquarters at the Hilton is walking distance from the CN Tower, as well as

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Message from the Chair



Sonya Nersessian

Dear Colleagues:

On October 2-4, 2009, in Toronto, there will be a Midyear Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association at the Toronto Hilton. This is an opportunity to get together and meet with colleagues – this time from Canada – that I hope you will not miss!

The Friday evening Welcoming Reception will be the kickoff event for the weekend. Then, on Saturday, the Toronto Organizing Committee has done a terrific job of creating an interesting and informative program, with dynamic speakers for the sessions and the luncheon.

Saturday evening there will be a dinner at a special location followed by Nuit Blanche, an amazing extravaganza that

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Newsflash: Movsesian Case Amicus Brief

September 22, 2009

Many of you have been concerned about the 9th Circuit's ruling recently in the Movsesian case. Your Armenian Bar Association took action. My thanks to our esteemed member, David Balabanian, and his firm Bingham McCutcheon, specifically David Salmons and Erin Conroy, for

their pro bono assistance in filing an amicus brief yesterday on behalf of the ABA, the ANCA, Zoryan Institute and the International Association of Genocide Scholars, drafted in an extremely short timeframe. All of the Bingham attorneys generously gave their time, valued expertise and energetic efforts in filing the attached brief. We are very grateful.

Thank you to Saro Kerkonian, Chair of the Armenia Rights Watch Committee, assisted by Armen Hovannisian, and with the participation

of Edvin Minassian, for your extraordinary time and efforts.

Lastly, my thanks to everyone behind the scenes who added to the quality of this brief – you know who you are – for your commitment of your time and cooperation, thoughtful and thought-provoking participation, and speedy and generous responses.

-Sonya Nersessian, Chair

Editor's Note: The Amicus Brief with Addendum is posted in its entirety at www.ArmenianBar.org

Mid-year Meeting in Toronto, October 2-4

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other popular attractions, including the Canadian Opera, Rodgers Centre, Air Canada Centre and Eaton Centre.

As is customary, the event will draw numerous legal scholars, law professors, historians, judges, lawyers, law students and politicians from throughout the United States, Canada, France and Armenia. The conference will be punctuated by legal seminars, receptions, and a meeting of the Board of Governors. Attorneys attending the meeting will receive continuing legal education credits for what promises to be an interesting and informative series

of lectures, including "Research on Genocide Reparations."

In addition to Yeghiayan, the list of guest speakers includes attorney and author Michael Bobelian, immigration law specialists Chantal Desloges, Caroline Mouralian and Alice Yardum-Hunter along with law professors Katherine Kessedjian and David Nersessian.

The panel on Genocide Reparations will kick off the Saturday session, and will feature Boston University Law Professor David Nersessian and Katherine Kessedjian, Professor at the University of Paris II, Pantheon-Assas, France. Nersessian and Kessedjian have been involved in extensive research on methods to achieve redress for the Armenian Genocide in international courts and tribunals. The panel will showcase new avenues for the Armenian community in its efforts to achieve retribution from Turkey for a crime which remains unpunished nearly a century after it was perpetrated.

Bobelian, an attorney and journalist, has recently published his latest text entitled "Children of Armenia, a Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice." He will discuss the critically acclaimed book and research which went into its publication. Chronicled in the book is the story of Gourgen Yanikian, who in 1973 murdered the Turkish Consul General and Vice Consul

from Los Angeles. He stated that the purpose of the killings was to demand justice for the Armenian Genocide. The act sparked a wave of attacks against Turkish diplomats throughout the world in the 1970's and 1980's. Yeghiayan's two decade quest to bring the New York Life class action lawsuit to light is also covered in the book.

Desloges, Mouralian and Yardum-Hunter are all experts in the area of immigration law. Desloges is the founder of the immigration and refugee law free advice clinic in Ontario. Mouralian has offices in Quebec and Lebanon, and has assisted hundreds of Armenians in the immigration process. Yardum-Hunter has been an immigration specialist for 30 years. She has written and lectured extensively on the subject, and has been recognized as a "Super Lawyer." The lecture will deal with the hot topic issue of cross border immigration in North America.

The meeting will be presided over by Armenbar Chair Sonya Nersessian from Boston, Massachusetts. "We are proud of our organization, excited about the meeting, and believe it will be an enriching experience for all who attend," said Nersessian.

More information about the event can be obtained on the ArmenBar website at: www.armenianbar.org



Respected Attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan will be the Keynote Speaker at the Mid-year Meeting.

Mass Gathering: Armenian Bar Association's 20th Annual Meeting In Glendale With Governor George Deukmejian and Raffi Hovannisian

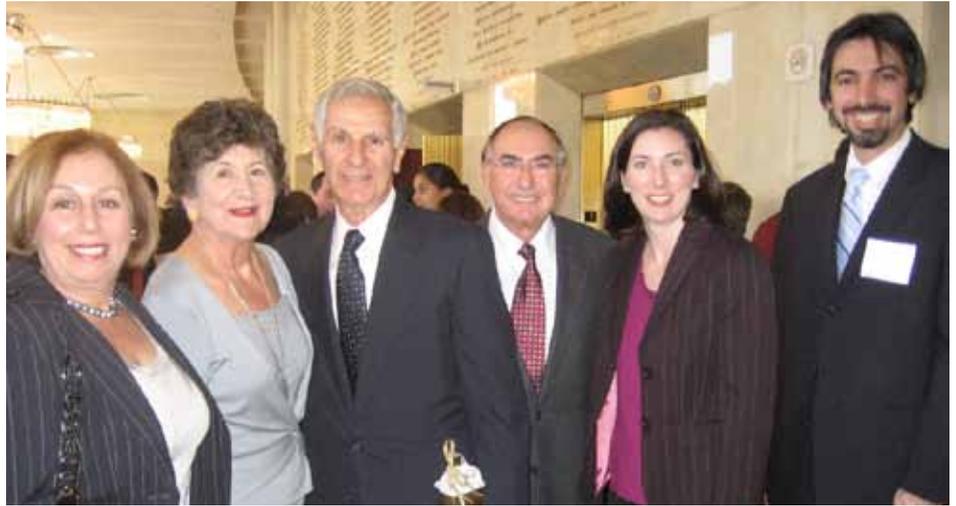
Several hundred legal heavyweights and dignitaries, along with friends and family, celebrated the Armenian Bar Association's (ArmenBar) 20th Anniversary at a gala on May 9, 2009 at the Glendale, Hilton. The banquet culminated a spectacular weekend complete with legal seminars, a pro bono community workshop, a star studded luncheon, and receptions.

"Simply put, this was a fabulous meeting," said Armen Hovannisian, past Chairman of ArmenBar, and the meeting organizer. "After 20 years, we reaffirmed our wide relevance, special community role, and dynamic vibrancy. Our report card shows that we continue to make a positive difference for Armenian communities throughout the world," said Hovannisian.

Governor George Deukmejian, one of an elite group of ArmenBar Honorary Members, was the keynote speaker at the gala dinner banquet. He wowed the crowd with the delivery of a true statesman and also with his comical anecdotes from the annals of Nasreddin Hodja. Four hundred enthusiastic supporters were on-hand to witness the recognition and awarding of distinguished ArmenBar members.

Raffi K. Hovannisian received the highly coveted Hrant Dink Freedom Award for his principled stand on Genocide recognition throughout the world. He is the founder of ArmenBar, the First Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the first Armenian from the Diaspora to become a member of the Armenian Parliament.

Professor Ann Lousin, the only three term Chair of ArmenBar, and a professor at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her extensive service and mentoring to lawyers and law students. Vicken Simonian, the longest-serving Board member of ArmenBar, received a Public Service



ArmenBar Honorary Member Governor George Deukmejian, third from left, was the keynote speaker at the Gala Dinner Banquet on May 9. Pictured here from left: ArmenBar Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian, Gloria Deukmejian, Robert Philibosian, Janet Philibosian and Saro Kerkonian.

Award for years of pro bono service to the Armenian community and for his sustained volunteerism in the Los Angeles County court system as a judge pro tem, mediator, arbitrator and settlement officer.

California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin was the main luncheon speaker, and was introduced by fellow California Supreme Court Justice Marvin Baxter, a founding and Honorary Member of the Armenian Bar Association. After drawing parallels between his own family's immigrant past and the experiences of the Armenian community, Chin praised the outreach efforts of ArmenBar and encouraged the group to promote and help preserve impartiality in the judiciary.

A panel on human and civil rights in Armenia, and the role of the courts in protecting such rights, was an important part of the legal seminars. Renowned Armenian civil rights attorney and Member of Parliament Zaruhi Postanjyan was the guest speaker. She was joined by Raffi K. Hovannisian on the panel.

Nicholas Koumjian, a

prosecutor in several international criminal tribunals and currently working at the Hague, was a special guest speaker in a panel focusing on the prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Koumjian is the chief prosecutor in the highly publicized, current trial of Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia. The trial is taking place in The Hague, and Taylor is the first former African head of state to appear before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity.

Phillip Lynch, an Assistant U.S. Attorney who was appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice to be the Rule of Law Coordinator in Baghdad, Iraq in 2007, joined Koumjian on the panel. Lynch has had the unique experience of helping to establish Iraq's legal system following the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime, and shared some of those experiences. He discussed his first-hand involvement relating to the trial of Saddam Hussein, which resulted in a death sentence and execution. The panel was moderated by John Lulejian, an Assistant United

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Members in the News and on the Move



Garo Ghazarian, Armenian Bar Board Member, attorney for Dr. Arnold Klein, was a guest on LarryKingLive on Aug. 20 discussing the latest in the Michael Jackson investigation. <http://www.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/larry.king.live/>

Claire Kedeshian, U.S. Attorney in New York, was recognized on C-SPAN Radio for her role in indictments by the Attorney General with respect to the Mexican Drug Cartel. You can hear the press conference and the mention of Claire at 13.36 minutes of the 33 minute conference at www.c-span.org.

Charles S. Poochigian appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeals. On August 20, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the nomination of Charles S. Poochigian for appointment as an associate justice of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. Poochigian served as an attorney, Assembly Member and Senator of the California State Legislature prior to his appointment. He has been an Honorary Member of the Armenian



Poochigian with Schwarzenegger

Bar Association since 2005.

Alice Yardum-Hunter has been elected to serve as Second Vice Chair of the Immigration Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association for the term July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Alice may be reached at: alice@yardum-hunter.com

Justice Armand Arabian, was honored by the Western Los Angeles County Council Boy Scouts of America with the 2009 Leaders of Character Award. The recognition reception was held Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Ruggieri residence, in Sherman Oaks, California.

Garo B. Ghazarian, Board member and Pro Bono Chair, and **Arsineh Aghakhani**, Student Committee Representative, were in attendance on behalf of the Armenian Bar Association at the Los Angeles Superior Court's Community Outreach Meeting on 6/16/2009. The ABA was invited to participate in the community outreach meeting hosted by the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. At the meeting, the Teen Court and SHADES (stop hate and delinquency by empowering students) programs were introduced.

Lori Sinanyan has accepted a position with Jones Day establishing the firm's Los Angeles restructuring group. Lori can now be contacted at: Jones Day, 555 South Flower Street, 50th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071, Phone: 213-243-2763, e-mail: lsinanyan@jonesday.com.

Professor Ann Lousin, of The John Marshall School of Law in Chicago, just turned in the last chapter of her treatise on the Illinois Constitution. She also wrote an article about the Caperton case and its effect

upon Illinois, which was published June 19, 2009 in The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

Additionally, Professor Ann Lousin spoke on the Griswold and Movsesian cases on September 10 as part of the Faculty Works in Progress series held at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She spoke in tandem with her colleague Mary Jean Dolan, who spoke on the recently-created doctrine of "government speech," where it appears that once a communication or decision from a government is determined to be "government speech," there can be no Free Speech challenge to it. This is new territory for most attorneys. Professor Ann spoke specifically about Griswold, which carries the "government speech" concept into curriculum guides for public schools. She then covered Movsesian, which built upon AIA v. Garamendi, the SCOTUS case that claimed that California's Holocaust insurance claims statute interfered with the President's power to "speak with one voice" in foreign relations. That case and a surprising number of others led the majority in Movsesian to hold the same re Chuck Poochigian's SB 1915, the 2000 statute that attempted to do the same for Armenians. Professor Lousin can be reached at: 7lousin@jmls.edu.

Robert Philipbosian, who was the district attorney of Los Angeles from 1981 to 1984, was named by City Attorney-elect Carmen Trutanich to lead Trutanich's transition team as a co-chair.



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Philibosian was tapped as co-chair because of “his steady hand and experience.” Trutanich will take office on July 1, 2009.

The Americanism Educational League will present the “American Spirit Award” to **Armand Arabian**, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California



(retired). This award is given annually to an individual who represents the best of the American Spirit in their life and whose life

has served to enrich and uplift the spirits of their fellow Americans. The award will be presented on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, as the Americanism Educational League celebrates its 82nd Anniversary Gala Awards Dinner and celebrates the 200th Year Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s Birth. Members of the Armenian Bar Association may reserve spaces at the Armenian Bar table for \$150 per person. Please RSVP before October 20, 2009 by mailing your check made payable to the Armenian Bar Association to P.O. Box 29111, Los Angeles, CA 90029. For further information email Betty at: Betty@ArmenianBar.org.

Adrienne Krikorian received an appointment from the Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings to serve as an Administrative Law Judge in the Special Education division of the OAH effective September 28, 2009. The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) is a quasi-judicial



tribunal that hears administrative disputes. Established by the California Legislature in 1945, OAH provides independent Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) to conduct hearings for over 150 State and 800 local government agencies. Ms. Krikorian will be in the Special Education division, which provides adjudicatory, mediation and settlement services throughout the state to school districts and parents of special needs children. All OAH ALJs are required to have practiced law for at least five years before being appointed, and typically have more than 10 years’ experience. Ms. Krikorian can be reached at akrikorian@socal.rr.com.



US Ambassador to Armenia, her Excellency Marie Yovanovitch, met with representatives of the Armenian Bar Association on her recent visit to the Southland. The intimate meeting was presided over by Armenian Bar Association Vice-Chair, Edvin Minassian and covered many topics of mutual interest.

Pictured L to R: John Lulejian, Hovanes Margarian, Joseph Kanimian, Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, Edvin Minassian, US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Garo B. Ghazarian, Betty Jamgotchian and Lisa Boyadjian.

Frank V. Zerunyan, past Chair of the Armenian Bar Association, was a speaker at the California State Bar Conference held in San Diego in September 2009. He spoke on the subject of “Public-Private Partnerships for California’s Infrastructure Needs.” The topic covered “California and its political subdivisions during a difficult recessionary period. The



program focused on contractual agreements with private entities which allow for renovation of infrastructure and development of green technology by shifting risk and reward to the private sector in exchange for access to capital and lower costs.” Frank can be reached at: fzerunyan@publicprivatecd.com.

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

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Federal appeals court rejects Armenian Genocide case

Descendants of victims can't sue foreign insurance companies for unpaid claims because the U.S. government doesn't legally recognize the Genocide, a three-judge 9th Circuit panel rules.

Article originally appeared in the Los Angeles Times, August 21, 2009

By Carol J. Williams

Armenian Americans descended from victims of the 1915-18 massacre by Ottoman Turks can't sue foreign insurance companies for unpaid claims because the U.S. government doesn't legally recognize that an Armenian Genocide occurred, a federal appeals court ruled Thursday.

A Glendale priest and thousands of other Armenians whose relatives were among the 1.2 million killed had won a partial victory two years ago. U.S. District Judge Christina A. Snyder said then that a 2000 law passed by the California Legislature gave the descendants standing to sue three German insurance companies.

But a divided three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that ruling, saying the California law attempted to undercut the president's diplomatic authority and had to be preempted by the federal policy against acknowledging the Genocide.

Congress has considered resolutions three times in the last decade that would have provided official recognition of the Genocide. Each time, the White House has stepped in to urge that the bills be scuttled, out of fear that passage would damage relations with Turkey, whose government denies that a genocide took place.

"I think the decision is outrageous. If taken to its logical extension, what this decision means is that all 40 states that have recognized the Armenian Genocide have to set



Attorneys Mark Geragos, Brian Kabateck, Vartkes Yeghiayan and CA State Treasurer Phil Angelides announce a class action lawsuit on behalf of descendants of Armenian Genocide victims against Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank on May 11, 2006. Damian Dovarganes / AP

aside that recognition," said Brian S. Kabateck, a Los Angeles lawyer representing the plaintiffs whose own maternal grandparents died in the Genocide.

"This is a sad day for Armenian Americans," he said, adding that the decision would make recovery of victims' bank accounts, insurance proceeds and other property impossible. He vowed to appeal for rehearing by a larger panel of judges.

Vartkes Yeghiayan, the lawyer for lead plaintiff Father Vazken Movsesian of St. Peter Armenian Church, described the ruling as "devastating."

The attorney representing the German insurers, Neil M. Soltman, called the decision "a straight-down-the-middle determination that in the area of foreign affairs, federal power has to prevail."

Judge Harry Pregerson dissented from the majority opinion by Judges David R. Thompson and Dorothy W. Nelson. Pregerson wrote that the District Court had correctly judged the California statute as "within the state's traditional area of competence" in

regulating the insurance industry.

The plaintiffs sought settlement of claims under policies issued by German insurers Victoria Versicherung and Ergo Versicherungsgruppe, as well as their parent company, Munchener Ruckversicherungsgesellschaft.

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takes place throughout the City of Toronto from dusk until dawn. Billed as a "free all-night contemporary art thing," you can check it out using keywords "Nuit Blanche Toronto." We are so fortunate that we will be there to participate!

We look forward to a wonderful fall weekend in Canada! See you there!

Best,

Sonya Nersessian

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Justice Souter retiring from high court

ABC7Chicago.com - *Chicago, IL, USA*
Ann Lousin is, as she put it, “Seventy to 90 percent” convinced Obama will nominate a female jurist. “He’d be hard put to say, ‘I couldn’t find a really ...

Ann Lousin was on TV twice April 30, 2009. This is the long version, which appeared at 5 p.m. At 10 p.m., they ran only the quote “He would be hard put to say he couldn’t find an outstanding woman lawyer between the ages of 40 and 60.” (I was glad that Charles Thomas didn’t point out to the TV audience that I am 66 and therefore over the hill for a SCOTUS appointment.)

As David Souter departs the court, let me say something else about court selection and specifically him. While I agree with my colleague Tim O’Neill that it is not a good idea to choose ALL of the justices from the Circuit Courts of Appeal, I think that Presidents do that because they think that that “training ground” gives them some idea of how a justice might act, not just vote, on the highest court in the land.

Much is made of this desire to know how the justice will act and vote and also of the “blooper” George H.W. Bush thought he made when he nominated Souter as the “stealth candidate.” I think that Presidents are surprised by their nominees because they don’t ask the right questions. It’s not a question of “liberal” v. “conservative”, “strict constructionist” v. “activist”, or what.

If I were advising President Obama, I would ask two questions about each potential candidate for a justiceship:

1) How has he/she approached his/her professional tasks, including the most recent jobs and the jobs most like

that on the Supreme Court? Souter’s most recent job, apart from literally only weeks as a First Circuit justice, was his over a dozen years as a justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

When he was nominated the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois asked me to read some of his cases regarding women, especially rape cases, and report to their Judicial Committee on what I thought his views were and how I thought he would approach “women’s cases”, especially abortion issues, on the Court.

I discovered that his opinions were right down the mainstream of New Hampshire. He followed settled law pretty consistently. Of course, the docket in New Hampshire does not contain as many exciting cases as those before SCOTUS. In the rape case most of the women lawyers were concerned about, he was following the “rape shield” cases in New Hampshire; I would probably have done the same. I predicted then that he would pretty much follow the settled law of SCOTUS, including the abortion rights issues, and not strike out to create new theories. I said he would uphold the core principles of *Roe v. Wade*. I think that has happened. (As an aside, I notice that he has appointed quite a few women clerks since the mid-1990’s, including one term when three of his four clerks were women; I doubt that even the two women on the Court have matched, let alone exceeded, that record.)

So the first question I would ask is what a candidate’s approach to “jobs” would be, especially jobs held most recently and jobs similar to that of a judge. Compare Souter’s approach to that of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whom I also admire. Her previous jobs included years as an advocate for gender rights, and I think her record on SCOTUS reflects that previous approach.

2) How does he/she function in group decision-making, such as committees? While justices seem to operate on their own, each running his/her own chambers independently of the eight others, they have to vote in a group,



en banc. That means they have to adjust to each other’s views and try to persuade the others, remembering that “compromise” is not a swear word. Justice Brennan was famous at trying to achieve a consensus, and Chief Justice Warren’s skills as a politician were no more evident than when he “organized” the Court opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*. “Loners” and ideologues who just won’t work and play well with others have a hard time in any group setting.

Souter clearly has been able to organize majorities in recent years because he possessed those skills at persuasion and compromise. He is reportedly unfazed by Justice Scalia’s often-acerbic comments about other justices’ opinions (which make me cringe when I read them). He is unfailingly courteous in his dissents and when he, writing for the majority, refers to a dissent. I wish some other judges on various levels of the judiciary would do the same.

Those are the two questions I would ask. Not “ideology” or “judicial philosophy”, whatever those are.

Here’s an example of why the latter won’t predict how justices will vote. Read *AIA v. Garamendi*, decided about 2003. The U.S. had set up a Holocaust Commission to deal with foreign countries and their nations on issues relating to the economic effects of the Holocaust, such as insurance policies issued in Europe. When Bill Clinton

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dawdled on naming the U.S. members for two years, California passed a statute requiring its insurance commissioner, Garamendi, to refuse to issue licenses to sell insurance in CA unless the insurance company DISCLOSED whether it had sold insurance policies in Europe in the relevant time period. AIA claimed this interfered with the President's power "to conduct foreign relations", while CA claimed that its statute was valid under a state's rights theory of federalism (insurance is a state issue, not a federal one).

To my dismay, the Supreme Court sided with AIA, 5-4. In one of the few instances where I think Justice Souter was dead wrong, he wrote the majority opinion. The president's power to conduct foreign relations essentially triumphed over federalism. (I know that the case is more complicated than that and that Souter offered Congress an "out" in the last paragraphs, but this is

still a pretty accurate summary.)

If you were looking at ideology, judicial philosophy, "liberalism" v. "conservatism", etc., which four justices would you expect joined Souter and which four would you think were in the minority? To save you looking it up: the four dissenters were the two most "liberal" members of the Court, Justices Stevens and Ginsburg, and the two most "conservative" members of the Court, Justices Scalia and Thomas. Is there any other SCOTUS opinion where those two pairs are in dissents? I don't know of any. Justices Breyer, Rehnquist, O'Connor, and Kennedy joined Souter. Could anyone have predicted that?

When people tell me that justices' personal backgrounds make a difference, I point out that case.

As to Justice Souter himself, I regret his departure and hope he will continue to be active as an extra justice sitting with various Courts of Appeal around the country. He never misrepresented himself or his views

during his confirmation hearings, nor has he been as reticent in disclosing his views as some observers think. His recent address to the Academy of Arts and Sciences got press because of his "intellectual lobotomy" remark in answer to a question. Few have listened to his short talk on the use of history in deciding court cases. It is short, but very perceptive. Whether one agrees with him or not, he was disclosing how he used history (and said his colleagues did not use history) in making their decisions.

He was his own independent Yankee self all the time. His ancestors who helped elect Abraham Lincoln and fought in the Union Army would have been proud of his career.

I hope he comes to Chicago some day so that I can shake his hand.

-Ann Lousin

Professor Lousin can be reached at 7lousin@jmls.edu.

Armenian Bar reaches out to Australian constituents

Sydney, AUSTRALIA: Armenian Bar Association Executive Director, Betty Jamgotchian, met with Senior Solicitor Hagop Jake Boghossian at Sydney's bustling business district on September 8, 2009. The two met to discuss the possibility of encouraging Sydney's approximately 40 Solicitors and Barristers of Armenian heritage to participate in ArmenBar's future legal conferences and to connect with other attorneys of Armenian heritage globally. From time to time, the Armenian Bar will feature biographic summaries of attorneys of Armenian heritage throughout the world.

Jake Boghossian is a popular attorney specializing in Unfair Employment Practices. While in Sydney,



you'll see his familiar advertisement for Unfair Employment Dismissal in the Daily Telegraph, Sydney's daily business newspaper. Jake received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics and his LLB from MacQuarie University. Jake's parents immigrated to Australia from Lebanon and Iran. Jake was born

in Australia and is actively involved in the Armenian community in Sydney. He is married and has 3 children.

Sydney's Armenian lawyers may be small in number, but they are all highly respected and practice the highest level of responsibility and ethics. Jake is enthusiastic to meet other ArmenBar members who practice in the areas of Business and Commercial Law. The formation of a Business and Economic Development Committee for ArmenBar is in the planning stages. Jake can be reached at jake@boghossian.com.au

Annual Meeting '09

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Attorney, who prosecutes violent and organized crime, and Board Member of ArmenBar.

Garó Ghazarian, Dean of the People's College of Law, lead a panel discussion on "Crime and Justice in the Armenian Community." The panel included Steven Lubell a Commissioner in the City of Burbank, Thomas Lorenz and Tigran Topadzhikyan, both Seargents with the Glendale Police Department and Fred Mesropi, a Deputy District Attorney with the County of Los Angeles. The topics included the perception of Armenians within the local communities, helping the community with rulings from the bench and certain types of crimes including those related to traffic, alcohol, identity

theft and health and welfare fraud.

On Friday, May 8, 2009, ArmenBar held a pro bono workshop for the community at the St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Glendale. The workshop featured a number of outstanding local attorneys giving practical, and where possible, one-on-one advice to community members on issues of interest such as immigration, domestic violence, landlord/tenant disputes and criminal matters. The panelists included Alice Yardum-Hunter, Lucy Avedissian, Hagop Tashjian, Betty Jamgotchian, Victor Hairapetian, Raymond Hovsepian, Raymond Zakari, Vicken Simonian, Varoujan Agemian, Sarkis Babachanian, Theresa Gibbons, Azniv Ksachikian, Nigol Manoukian, Garó Ghazarian and Dorine Martirosian.

The meeting was presided over by Armenbar Chair Sonya Nersessian

from Boston, Massachusetts.

All of the Officers of the organization were installed to a second term, including Nersessian as Chair, Edvin Minassian from Glendale as Vice-Chair, Sara Bedirian from Beverly Hills as Treasurer and Christine Engustian from Providence, Rhode Island as Secretary.

"The strength and vitality of the Armenian Bar Association during this celebratory weekend is a springboard for the future growth and continued success of this organization," said Nersessian.

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Join the Armenian Bar Association today!

For more information, please visit www.armenianbar.org.

Opinion

Councilman reminds us of Genocide's horrors

Article originally appeared in The Peninsula News

Frank Zerunyan, in keeping with a position he's held since joining the Rolling Hills Estates City Council, will recognize April 24 at next week's council meeting as the Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923, as well as a day of vigilance against all other genocides. Zerunyan, an Armenian-American, notes that the atrocity claimed 1.5 million lives, including those of his great-grandfather and great-uncle. They were among the victims of the 20th century's first genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks. This year marks the 94-year anniversary of the bloody crime against humanity that even today tears at the hearts of Zerunyan and his kinsmen.

The News again praises the councilman for his continued efforts to ensure that we always remember a tragedy that often is forgotten in the annals of history. Though April 24 is recognized worldwide as the day the Genocide began nearly a century ago, the Turkish government tragically still refuses to acknowledge it.

Masterminded by the Young Turks, a political group that gained control of the Ottoman Empire and believed in an oppressive form of nationalism, the Genocide resulted in the deaths of men, women and children. On April 24, 1915, the Turks rounded up, deported and killed hundreds of Armenian leaders, writers, thinkers and professionals in Constantinople, thereby ripping much of the intellectual heart out of the country. So many potential world leaders in fields like science and politics were lost on that day. Fortunately, surviving relatives like Zerunyan are here to remind us of

such senseless acts of violence.

If we don't learn from history, we're doomed to repeat it. Take a moment to reflect on the more than 1 million souls who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide. Think about the millions of Jews who were exterminated under Adolf Hitler's brutal reign and the million who perished in the Rwandan Genocide.

We as a people have much to learn. But Zerunyan and those who follow in his footsteps take the necessary steps to try to prevent similar crimes against humanity. Their constant vigil is an inspiration and a reminder of the power of the individual to create positive change in a world that often is full of hate. Without them, we may as well toss our history books into the fire.

Note: As promised in 2007, the News plans to run this editorial, which first appeared in April 2005, every year until the Turkish government recognizes the atrocity.

Memorable Scenes from the 20th Annual Meeting in Glendale

continued from pg. 9



See Additional Scenes from the Annual Meeting '09, pg. 11

Additional Scenes from the 20th Annual Meeting in Glendale

continued from pg. 10



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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.

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