



NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
THE ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Volume 21, Number 1

Spring 2009

Armenian Bar Association's 20th Annual National Meeting in Glendale, CA, May 8-10



The Armenian Bar National Meeting will be held in Glendale, CA- home to the largest population of Armenians outside of Armenia. Above, the latest shopping and dining destination in Glendale, the Americana at Brand.

Featuring Governor George Deukmejian, Supreme Court Justices, and Top-Flight Attorneys

In a city which boasts the highest concentration of Armenians of any city outside of the Republic of Armenia, the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) will roll out the red carpet at its historic 20th Annual National Meeting in Glendale, California the weekend of May 8-10, 2009.

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel and, as is customary, the event is expected to draw numerous legal scholars, professors, judges, lawyers, students and politicians from throughout the U.S., Canada, France

and Armenia.

Governor George Deukmejian, one of an elite group of ArmenBar Honorary Members, will be the keynote speaker at the Gala Dinner Banquet on May 9, 2009.

California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin will be the main luncheon speaker, and introductory comments will be offered by fellow California Supreme Court Justice Marvin Baxter, a founding and Honorary Member of the Armenian Bar Association.

The third installation of the organization's "Hrant Dink Freedom Award" will be made in honor of the slain Armenian journalist and human

See Annual National Meeting in Glendale, pg. 2

Message from the Chair



Sonya Nersessian

Dear Colleagues:

On May 8-10, 2009 in Glendale, CA, we will be meeting at the Glendale Hilton Hotel for the 20th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association. Such a milestone in this organization's existence calls for celebration - I look forward to seeing you there!

Over the past 20 years, this organization has provided networking opportunities for Armenian attorneys from every location, national and international, and representing every legal specialty or concentration, to meet, share, and develop what we have in common.

For those who are members and have participated over the years, connecting with other Armenian attorneys has been very

See Message from the Chair, pg. 11

IN THIS ISSUE

National Meeting in Glendale cont'd.....	2
Gar0 Mardirossian CAALA Installation.....	3
Members in the News.....	4
Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas.....	6
Q&A with Professor Ann Lousin.....	8
Photos from the Mid-Year Meeting.....	10
Judge Sinanian Appointment.....	12
Sushi and Fine Wine in Montreal.....	14

Annual National Meeting in Glendale

continued from pg. 1

rights activist. In 2007, ArmenBar presented the award to Genocide scholars Vahakn Dadrian and Taner Akcam. John Marshall Evans, the former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia who used the word Genocide to describe what happened to the Armenian population in Turkey during and after World War I, received the Dink Award in 2008.

The recipient of the 2009 Hrant Dink award will be Raffi K. Hovannisian, the founder of ArmenBar, the Republic of Armenia's first Foreign Minister and a current member of Armenia's Parliament as the leader of the Heritage Party.

Ann Lousin, a three term Chair of ArmenBar and a Professor at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, will receive a "Lifetime Achievement Award," Vicken Simonian, the longest serving Board member of ArmenBar, who has spearheaded pro bono activities for 20 years, will receive a "Public Service Award."

"This goes far beyond a mere gathering of lawyers. How ordinary

would that would be! Our 20th anniversary meeting will truly be extra-ordinary! Issues of broad and contemporary interest will be highlighted, including a free legal clinic for the community, and conference sessions on the rule of law and the role of the courts in Armenia, prosecuting Genocide perpetrators in international courts, and even a look into a difficult subject: crime and criminals in our own community," said former ArmenBar Chairman, and member of the organizing committee Armen K. Hovannisian.

"The weekend will have something for everyone interested in the law as it relates to the Armenian community, and promises to be a fun and fulfilling conference," said Hovannisian.

A panel on human and civil rights in Armenia, and the role of the courts in protecting such rights, will kick off the Saturday session, and will feature renowned Armenian civil rights attorney and Member of Parliament Zaruhi Postanjyan. Also participating will be the Human Rights Defender in the Republic of Armenia, Armen Harutyunyan.

The Ombudsman is appointed by Parliament for the purpose of



California Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming Chin, left, will be the main luncheon speaker, pictured here with Justice Armand Arabian.

protecting the rights of Armenia's citizens. Among the discussion points will be the civil unrest and killings following last year's presidential elections.

Nicholas Koumjian, a prosecutor in several international criminal tribunals and currently working at The Hague, will be the 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, will join 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 will share some of those experiences. He will also discuss his first-hand involvement relating to the trial of Saddam Hussein, which resulted in a

See Annual National Meeting in Glendale, pg. 3



ArmenBar Honorary Member Governor George Deukmejian, third from left, will be 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.

Annual National Meeting in Glendale

continued from pg. 3

a death sentence and execution.

ArmenBar Board member Garo Ghazarian will lead a panel discussion on "Crime and Justice in the Armenian Community." The subject may be considered uncomfortable by some, and better left untouched by others, however it remains a problem for the Armenian community requiring attention. Ghazarian is the Dean of the People's College of Law in Los Angeles, and is a widely respected criminal defense attorney. He has been a regular speaker at seminars sponsored by ArmenBar, and will offer the defense perspective.

Joining the panel will be Sergeant Thomas R. Lorenz, Glendale Police Department Police Chief's Adjutant, Fred Mesropi, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney and Sergeant Tigran Topadzhikyan, Glendale Police Department

On Friday, May 8, ArmenBar will hold a pro bono workshop for the community which will take place in the reception hall of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Glendale.

The workshop will feature a number of attorneys giving practical, and where possible, one-on-one, advice to community members on issues of interest such as immigration, domestic violence, wills and trusts and probate, landlord/tenant disputes and small claims matters.

The meeting will be presided over by Armenbar Chair Sonya Nersessian from Boston, Massachusetts. "We are proud of our organization, excited about the convention, 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.

Don't miss the 20th Annual National Meeting in Glendale, CA, May 8 - 10

Featuring:

- Governor George Deukmejian
- First Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Raffi K. Hovannisian
- ArmenBar Members and more!

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

Garo Mardirossian Installed as President-Elect of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles at Gala Awards Banquet

BEVERLY HILLS - Decorated trial attorney Garo Mardirossian was sworn in as President Elect of the Consumer Attorneys Association (CAALA) at the group's 60th Annual Installation and awards dinner at the posh Beverly Wilshire Hotel on January 17, 2009.

Mardirossian has been a member of the Armenian Bar Association since its inception, and has been a guest speaker at Annual Meetings and continuing legal education seminars. He has also been a generous regular sponsor of ArmenBar.

In January, 2008, he hosted ArmenBar's "Meet the Armenian Mayors" reception and retirement party for Judge Alice Altoon at his office building on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles.

CAALA (formerly known as the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association) was formed in 1949, and with nearly 3,000 members is the largest association of plaintiffs' lawyers in the United States. Among its many goals, the influential group is active in



Joining Garo Mardirossian (second from left) at the CAALA installation were, from left: Judge Zaven Sinanian, Assistant Presiding Judge Lee Edmon, Presiding Judge Charles McCoy and Judge Gregory Keosian.

the promotion of legislation intended to protect the rights and interests of consumers of the State of California.

Several members of the California judiciary were in attendance, including Ronald George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, and four justices from the California Courts of Appeal. Thirty-two judges and commissioners from the Los Angeles County court system were also present,

including Presiding Judge Charles McCoy, Assistant Presiding Judge Lee Edmon, Judge Zaven Sinanian, who sits at the Stanley Mosk courthouse in Downtown Los Angeles, and Judge Gregory Keosian, who sits in the Van Nuys courthouse in the San Fernando Valley.

Also in attendance were numerous politicians, including

See Garo Mardirossian, pg. 9

Members in the News and on the Move



Ara Aghishian, Esq. has been elected as the new president of Armenia Fund, Inc. Ara has been in private legal practice since 1988 in California and heads the Law

Offices of Ara Aghishian with offices in Encino, San Diego, and Sacramento. His client base consists of Fortune 500 companies as well as the City of Los Angeles. Ara has served as Judge Pro Tem of the Los Angeles Superior Court for several years, and has received several commendations and recognitions for his volunteer services to the legal profession. Ara can be reached at: aaghishian@aol.com.

Azita Avedissian and Grace Jamra, partners in the firm of Phillips, Lerner, Lauzon & Jamra, LLP in Century City, California were featured in the March 8, 2009 issue of Los Angeles Times Magazine's "Los Angeles' Women Leaders in the Law."

Azita Avedissian, with more than a decade of diverse experience in civil litigation, specializes in complex family law matters having represented a multitude of high net worth individuals, including prominent clients in the business sector and entertainment industry. Not only does Ms. Avedissian bring to the firm her international experience but also her knowledge of comparative and international family law studies which she completed

through the Dickinson School of Law at the University of Florence, Italy. She is also fluent in French, Farsi (Persian) and Armenian.

Grace A. Jamra, a first-class litigator, is a member of the American, California, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, and Armenian Bar Associations.

She is well respected for her work in complex, high-asset cases in the areas of dissolution, paternity, palimony, guardianship, and adoption. A graduate of Whittier College with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science, Ms. Jamra received her juris doctor degree from Whittier College School of Law. Grace and Azita can be reached at www.plljlaw.com.



Ara Babaian has been appointed as Treasurer and Director of Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing (www.gleho.org), developer of the nation's first nonprofit,

affordable housing for seniors 62 and older with services for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) seniors. With 103 apartments, the building, known as Triangle Square™, is designed to house individuals of mixed incomes under an affordable housing model. Ara Babaian is a business transactional attorney at the Beverly Hills law firm of Ervin, Cohen & Jessup LLP. Ara can be reached at ababaian@ccjlaw.com.

Judge Zaven Sinanian recently participated in the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) program and was assigned to judge a trial between Alex Pilibos Armenian High School and North Hollywood High. Four out of six participants were children of Armenian descent who wanted to go to law school. Judge Sinanian recommends volunteering for CRF as a great way to start mentoring these students. The 31st Annual Los Angeles County Mock Trial Competition with over 2000 students from 117 Los Angeles middle and high schools will be participating in this year's competition. Based on those figures, CRF will conduct over 150 mock trials over the course of a month. Over 100 volunteer judges and commissioners will preside over these trials. All trials will be held at the Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse (111. North Hill Street), from 4:45 - 7:30 p.m.

Diana Balabanian sends the photo below of her one year old daughter. In addition to practicing entertainment law as an associate with Grancell, Lebovitz, Stander, Reubens & Thomas, Diana is a successful professional wedding photographer. Diana can be reached at 310-981-1336 or dbalabanian@grancell-law.com.



See More Member News, pg. 5

More Member News continued from pg. 4



Nigol & Lynn Manoukian are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Sevag Alakyaz Manoukian, born on April 21, 2008, weighing in at 7 pounds, and 22 inches in length. Sevag has accepted a position as partner at the law firm of Manoukian & Associates. His duties will commence in 27 years! Nigol can be reached at manoukianlaw@yahoo.com.

Michael Sohigian wrote an article addressing the options available to litigants when parties die either before or during litigation. It was published in the September 2008 issue of the *Advocate*, the journal of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Southern California. Michael's firm continues its practice of business litigation, with special emphasis on employment, real estate, probate, insurance coverage and public licensing. The article can be found at www.theadvocatemagazine.com. He also was featured on the cover of the November 2008 issue of *Los Angeles Lawyer*. His feature



article "By Accident" discusses insurance coverage for unintended damages of intentional acts. Michael may be contacted at msohigian@mrsllaw.net.

Zareh J. Sinanyan joined the Los Angeles litigation defense firm of Anderson, McPharlin & Connors in July, 2008. Mr. Sinanyan's practice focuses



on complex business litigation, with an emphasis on accountants' liability, legal malpractice, and insurance defense coverage. While at the University of Southern California Law School. Mr. Sinanyan was on the Jessup International Moot Court Team. Mr. Sinanyan is currently serving on the Community Development and Block Grants Advisory Board. Previously, he served on the Parks & Recreation Commission in Glendale. Mr. Sinanyan can be contacted at zjs@amclaw.com.



Michael M. Babikian, J.D., LL.M., M.B.A., has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Marketing for Transamerica Insurance & Investment Group (TIIG), a marketing unit of

Transamerica Life Insurance Company (TLIC) and its affiliates, announced Marty Flewellen, President of TIIG.

Babikian joined TIIG in 2003 as an Advanced Marketing Consultant.

"Michael has a particular talent for taking complex insurance solutions and applying them to clients' business and personal financial planning needs," said Flewellen. "He is a sophisticated marketer with considerable expertise

in advanced planning, product and distribution."

Prior to joining Transamerica, Babikian was General Counsel to Infinite Source Technologies, Inc., where he advised on all legal and tax matters. Previously, he worked as an attorney for the tax law firm of Baker, Olson, LeCroy and Danielian. His experience also includes working as a tax specialist in the Personal Financial Planning department of KPMG and in the legal department of the California Franchise Tax Board.

He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law at Glendale University College of Law, where he is a member of the Board of Directors. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Glendale Bar Association and as the chairman of the Board of the Glendale Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service. He was the Committee Chair for the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Armenian Bar Association and was a member of the American Bar Association's Tax Committee for Exempt Organizations.

Contact Michael at 1150 S. Olive Street, Ste. T2708, Los Angeles, CA 90015, 213-742-4061.

See More Member News, pg. 8

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

Editor in Chief

Vicken I. Simonian, visimonian@aol.com

Senior Editor

Armen K. Hovannisian, akhova@aol.com

Associate Editor

John Lulejian, john.lulejian@usdoj.gov

Assistant Editor

Betty A. Jamgotchian, jamgotlaw@aol.com

Armenian Bar Association Hits Jackpot at Mid-Year Meeting

LAS VEGAS - Distinguished Professor Richard Hovannisian and exalted educator Alice Petrossian headlined the Armenian Bar Association's (ArmenBar) Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas on October 17-19, 2008. Former ArmenBar Chair Armen K. Hovannisian moderated the juggernaut of a panel discussion.

Professor Hovannisian and Petrossian, who, combined, boast nearly eighty years of experience in the field of education, offered captivating lectures on Genocide studies and ways in which to combat Genocide denial. Approximately 100 members and guests were spellbound by Hovannisian's panoramic view of the various stages of denial—from the perpetrators' outright rejection to their nuanced rationalization of wartime misfortune—and the effective responses to these moving targets. He suggested that the way to ensure the Genocide's reaffirmation and remembrance is to place it in the context of other crimes against humanity and not to focus exclusively on it.

With the passage of time and as the last of the survivors pass on, Hovannisian stated, the Armenian Genocide could be at risk of losing its relevance to new generations of high school and college students unless it is viewed in a broader historical context. A member of UCLA's faculty since 1962, and the holder of its Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History, Professor Hovannisian has published more than 25 volumes of historical texts, some of which were made available to those in attendance.

Petrossian, who is the Deputy Superintendent of the Pasadena School District and who was instrumental in introducing Genocide instruction and testing in California's high schools, charted the challenges faced and overcome in making sure that



ArmenBar Board members and Committee Chairs in Las Vegas, from left: Sara Bedirian, Garo Ghazarian, Edvin Minassian, Martha Mensoian, Chair Sonya Nersessian, Armen Hovannisian, Taline Festekjian, Gary Moomjian, Vicken Simonian, Betty Jamgotchian, Datev Shenian and Robert Cannuscio.



ArmenBar members at the Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas.

the Genocide be part of California's approved curriculum. The continuing challenge, according to Petrossian, is to foster a compassionate and open environment in which teachers embrace the study and teaching of the Genocide on a regular basis.

She encouraged the effort to reach out to educators at all levels to educate them of the importance of teaching the subject to their students. And, in a wake-up call to the listeners, Petrossian stressed the importance of Armenians' own self-reflection and realization of some of their own unfounded pride and prejudice in an effort to facilitate inter-racial respect and understanding.

Kenneth Khachigian, the master speech writer and political strategist, was the keynote luncheon speaker. As explained in the introduction by Armen Hovannisian,

from humble and solid beginnings on the family farm in California's San Joaquin Valley, Khachigian rose rapidly to become a consultant for Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and for California Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson. Fittingly, Khachigian was responsible for writing a speech in 1981 for then President Regan wherein he used the word "Genocide" in describing what happened to the Armenian population of Turkey during World War I and thereafter. With all of the efforts by the Turkish lobby to thwart the Armenian Genocide resolution in Congress, Armenians can be comforted with the fact that the congressional record will always include a reference to the Armenian Genocide by an American President. Khachigian, an attorney, explained how he became interested

See Mid-Year Meeting, pg. 7

Mid-Year Meeting

continued from pg. 6

in politics and gave the audience his view of the current political landscape leading up to the presidential election in November.

"Hye Crimes and Misdemeanors" was the topic of another lecture at the meeting and dealt with both the prosecution and defense of Armenians in the criminal justice system in Southern California. The panel was moderated by Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Steven Lubell, who sits in the Glendale courthouse.

The panel also included highly respected criminal defense lawyer Garo Ghazarian who gave the defense perspective. Ghazarian is the Dean of the People's College of Law in Los Angeles, a member of the Board of Governors of ArmenBar, and its current Pro Bono Committee Chairman. Michael Amerian, a prosecuting attorney with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office and a candidate for City Attorney in the 2009 election, presented the prosecution perspective. The view from the bench was presented by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Zaven Sinanian, who has had extensive experience trying serious criminal cases.

The panel covered such topics as domestic violence, drug addiction and jury bias. The lecturers examined all aspects of criminal cases from arrest to prosecution and conviction. In the area of domestic violence, the group discussed the issue of protection of potential victims versus rights of the criminally accused. The discussion related to drug addiction focused on rehabilitation, education and prevention, stressing that these are the primary goals of the criminal justice system.

With respect to jury bias, emphasis was given to the need to



ArmenBar members attend one of the lectures at the Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas.

educate the community with respect to the importance of jury service, and eliminating preconceived stereotypes from entering jury deliberations. "The panel discussion resulted in renewed interest in members wanting to participate in our pro bono program, which encompasses community outreach," said Ghazarian.

J. Stephen Czuleger, the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Court system, the nation's largest trial court system, was a special guest at the meeting. ArmenBar recognized Judge Czuleger for his many years of service to the legal community and his commitment to excellence within the court system he heads. In a special presentation at the luncheon, Judge Sinanian gave a warm introduction, and presented Czuleger with a signature Seeroon Yeretizian painting.

Sonya Nersessian, the current Chair of ArmenBar, presided over the meeting, as the group set its agenda for the coming year. Nersessian, who hails from Boston, updated the membership on recent activities and accomplishments. The group focused on continuing such important programs as pro bono services for

indigent Armenians, a mentor program and scholarships for Armenian law students, Armenian rights watch issues, and promoting Genocide reparation claims in international courts.

Las Vegas, which is commonly known as the "Entertainment Capital of the World," provided participants with the opportunity to enjoy first class accommodations, dining, entertainment and nightlife. Attorneys attending the meeting and lectures received 3.5 mandatory continuing legal education units (MCLE). The Armenian Bar is an approved provider of MCLE units in several states including California, New York and Pennsylvania.

ArmenBar will next meet in Southern, California the weekend of May 8-10, 2009, for its historic 20th Annual National Meeting. Past Chair Armen K. Hovannisian and current Vice-Chair Edvin Minassian are heading the organizing committee for the event which promises to be a memorable affair.

See Additional Scenes from the Mid-Year Meeting, pg. 10

More Member News

continued from pg. 5

A passion for the Illinois Constitution again burns hot

Article originally appeared in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Jan. 12, 2009

By Pat Milhizer
Law Bulletin staff writer

Ann M. Lousin was driving to Springfield to testify before the Illinois House panel that was holding impeachment proceedings against Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich when her rental car hit a patch of ice.

"I went from the right lane to the left lane to the ditch," said Lousin, a professor at The John Marshall Law School. "I thought I was going to roll over."

Lousin estimates that she's made the Chicago-to-Springfield trip about 1,000 times since the 1970

Constitutional Convention. Fortunately, she'll be able to make the drive again. After hitting the ditch, the car swerved back onto Interstate 55.

"And as I got into Springfield, I said, 'I need a drink,'" Lousin said.

As things turned out, the House committee bumped Lousin's testimony to another day. Because another ice storm was coming, Lousin turned in written testimony and headed for home.

"I'm not going to give my life for this state," she said.

Lousin, 65, is regarded as an authority on the Illinois Constitution and expects to finish a book on the subject later this year.

With the news last week of Blagojevich's impeachment and the legal wrangling over Roland W. Burris' appointment to President-elect Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat, Lousin has been a go-to source for newspaper and television reporters.

"It's been very hectic, very exciting," Lousin said during an afternoon interview in her office

preceding an appearance on WLS-TV 7.

"I fell in love with Illinois state government and the Illinois Constitution in 1970," Lousin said. "And it's been a love affair ever since."

A native of the city's Northwest Side, Lousin got a job as a research assistant at Con-Con after she had earned a degree at the University of Chicago Law School.

"I was 27 years old when I went down to Con-Con and I always liked to say, when Dawn Clark Netsch and I are introduced together, that I met Professor Netsch when I was young, thin and had naturally brunette hair. None of this is true anymore," Lousin said.

Netsch, the former state comptroller who was a Con-Con delegate, called Lousin "terribly knowledgeable" about the state Constitution. Netsch also mentioned that Lousin has tried to keep track of the Con-Con delegates over the years.

See More Member News, pg. 9

Around the Water Cooler: Q&A with Ann Lousin

Article originally appeared in Chicago Lawyer Magazine online, March 2, 2009.

Ann Lousin is a professor at The John Marshall Law School. She began teaching there on Feb. 1, 1975, and has never taught anywhere else. She teaches Sales Transactions (Article 2 of the U.C.C.), and has taught the Article 9 course in the past. It has been 30 years since she taught her two real "boutique courses," Legislation and Illinois Constitutional Law.

What makes a good law professor?

When I began teaching at JMLS in 1975, I asked a good friend, the veteran law professor at The University of Illinois College of Law, Rubin G. Cohn, for advice on being a law professor. He

said: "Two things. First, ALWAYS have respect for your students. Second, NEVER be afraid to admit you don't know the answer to a question."

Those are very simple answers, but over the years I've come to understand the layers behind his advice. Respect: They are people; they deserve your best; treat them courteously and professionally. Admitting ignorance: Let students know that nobody is omniscient, even you, and that you are still learning. They will realize that they, too, will be learning all their lives.

What advice do you have for new or future law students?

You will be lost many times, especially in your first year. Learn to live with the uncertainty. There really IS no absolutely correct answer to most legal

questions.

What is the biggest legal news going on right now, and what is its impact?

In my view, the Blagojevich scandal. Of course, I've been up to my eyeballs in it because it implicates my long-time specialty, the Illinois Constitution. It shows that state government really IS important.

It's not over yet. The focus has shifted from Springfield to the U.S. Attorney's office and the criminal proceedings. He will be (and probably already is) in negotiations with the government; this will involve naming names and describing, "How the game is played." If all the tapes are played, they will be explosive! The implications for almost every aspect of Illinois government are hard to exaggerate.

More Member News

continued from pg. 8

"She has been very much, if not the instigator, then at least the organizer of some of the reunions that we used to have fairly regularly," Netsch said.

"There aren't many of us left now. I must say, not too long ago, she was talking about another one."

Today, the leather guest chair in Lousin's office could use a little more cushioning. That's because it's as old as Con-Con and was one of the chairs used by the delegates.

"It makes for the fastest exam conferences with students because they don't want to linger too long," Lousin said.

After the 1970 Constitution was approved by Illinois voters, Lousin spent two years as an Illinois House staff member assigned to the Constitution Implementation Committee. She then became what is believed to be the first female parliamentarian in any state legislature, serving two years in that role in the House.

In 1975, Lousin joined the teaching staff at John Marshall.

Regarding the latest constitutional issues surrounding Blagojevich, Lousin has thoughts on

everything related to law and procedure. But she said that she doesn't have an opinion on how lawmakers should vote on impeaching the governor.

"I'm just here to help these people who represent the voters of Illinois," Lousin said.

When Attorney General Lisa M. Madigan petitioned the Illinois Supreme Court last month to temporarily remove the governor from office due to a "disability," Lousin thought that Madigan's position was wrong.

"Nonetheless, it was a very creative brief," Lousin said. "If a student had turned it in, I would have written across it 'creative but not convincing.'"

Lousin said she also believes that Blagojevich has the absolute authority to appoint Burris to the U.S. Senate.

"As long as he's still the governor, that's it," Lousin said.

Secretary of State Jesse White also has the duty to sign off on the appointment, Lousin said. And the professor took issue with the U.S. Senate's refusal to let Burris into the chamber without White's signature.

"They say the failure to have the secretary of state's signature is fatal. If they say that, they are allowing the secretary of state of any state to veto the



governor's selection," Lousin said.

As for the Illinois House's 114-1 vote on Friday to impeach Blagojevich -- setting up a trial in the Illinois Senate -- Lousin said that the matter should not be taken lightly.

"Is his conduct egregious enough to overturn the will of the people in November 2006 when 2 million Illinoisans voted for him? You don't overturn the will of the people lightly, and I'm sure they are aware of that in Springfield," Lousin said.

At the very least, Lousin is pleased that the Illinois Constitution is in the spotlight again. She hopes that state constitutional law will eventually return as a subject in Illinois law schools.

"Nobody can say that state constitutions are unimportant anymore," she said.

Garo Mardirossian

continued from pg. 3

Congressman Adam Schiff, California State Assemblyman Paul Krekorian and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo.

In 2000 Mardirossian was voted CAALA's "Trial Lawyer of the Year." Mardirossian has been on the Board of Governors for 15 years, and he will be the first person of Armenian descent ever to become president of the prestigious organization.

Mardirossian and his wife Kathy have been married for 22 years. Their daughter Ani is a sophomore at

UCLA, Garo's alma mater. Daughter Nora is a freshman at UCSB, and their son Kevork is in the third grade.

The Mardirossians are the managing partners of Mardirossian and Associates, a six-lawyer boutique personal injury firm, where Mr. Mardirossian achieved multi-million dollar jury verdicts in several cases over his 27 year career. Notably, a \$24.85 million judgment rendered in the case of Dole v. County of Los Angeles in 1995 remains the largest police brutality verdict ever achieved in California.

"I am honored that my colleagues have the faith in me to lead this great organization of trial lawyers," said Mardirossian. "I am determined to work

with the Board of Governors to continue our efforts to defend the rights of the citizens of California while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and integrity," he said. Mardirossian's term as President will begin in 2010. Randy Mc Murray of the Cochran Law Firm was installed as President of CAALA and will serve in that capacity this year.

Several awards were presented at the banquet, and included: Justice Ronald George, Appellate Justice of the Year; Charles McCoy, Trial Judge of the Year; Gary Paul, Trial Lawyer of the Year; Jeffrey Ehrlich, Appellate Lawyer of the Year; Antony Stuart, Ted Horn Memorial Award for significant contributions to the organization.

Additional Scenes from the Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas

continued from pg. 7



Professor Richard Hovannisian and Kenneth Khachigian



Pictured from left: Lynn Manoukian, Vice Chair Edvin Minassian, Chair Sonya Nersessian and Datev Shenian;



Alice Petrossian, Armen Hovannisian and Professor Richard Hovannisian.



Above, from left: Michael Amerian, Judge Zaven Sinanian, Commissioner Steven Lubell and Garo Ghazarian.



At left: Professor Richard Hovannisian, Vicken Simonian, Kenneth Khachigian, Chair Sonya Nersessian and Armen Hovannisian.

Message from the Chair

continued from pg. 1

stimulating, thought-provoking and rewarding. For those who have participated by being a member of a Committee or the Board, working with others of like minds

towards a shared goal has been, if not a pleasure, then an enjoyable commitment.

And for those who have been honored to lead this organization, the volunteer spirit of those who give generously of their time to make this organization one we are all proud of is inspirational and humbling. This is your organization.

May it continue to grow and prosper over the next 20 years!

I look forward to celebrating the 20th Annual Meeting with you.

Best,
Sonya Nersessian, Chair

Board of Supervisors Set to Name Kalunian Acting County Counsel

Originally appeared in Metropolitan News.

By Kenneth Ofgang, Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will name Chief Deputy Public Defender Robert Kalunian as acting county counsel on Tuesday, the MetNews has learned.

Board members could not be reached for comment, but Kalunian, the No. 2 person in his office for the last 15 years, said yesterday he had agreed to accept the appointment, effective April 1.

Kalunian, 60, would temporarily fill the vacancy created by the announced retirement of Raymond G. Fortner. Fortner informed his staff by memo yesterday that supervisors “felt it best to temporarily appoint someone to the acting position who would not be a candidate for the permanent appointment,” and public defender employees were informed of the expected move as well.

Kalunian said he expected the board’s nationwide search for a permanent successor to Fortner to take 90 days or so, and that he fully

intends to return to his present post once an appointment is made. While the search could take somewhat longer, he commented, “I was assured that it would move as fast as is practical.”

Public Defender Michael Judge said he was informed last week that Board Chairman Don Knabe wanted Kalunian to fill the post. Kalunian said he had not sought the job, but that he accepted “because the [supervisors] wanted me to.”

He added that he was “flattered that they have the confidence in me to ask me to do this during a short period of time.” He added that he had “dealt with most of the managing attorneys in the County Counsel’s Office over a period of many years” and had “the utmost confidence in them” and in the office’s ability to provide “quality service to all of its clients, including the board.”

He also said that he had no plans to make any management changes at the office and would not be bringing any Public Defender’s Office staff members with him.

Kalunian grew up in Pasadena and graduated from California State University, Los

Angeles and Southwestern Law School. He has spent his entire legal career of over 35 years in the Public Defender’s Office.

Public Defender Michael Judge commented that the County Counsel’s Office was getting someone who was “highly organized, detail-oriented, very thorough, a hard worker, very reliable, and very trustworthy.” One of his greatest skills, Judge said, was that Kalunian “has a very healthy ego, by which I mean he subordinates what might be best for him personally to what is best for the organization.”

He added, however, that he was “certainly” looking forward to Kalunian’s return to his current role. “I’m not going to let him retire,” Judge said.

Judge said he had no plans to replace Kalunian with a specific individual for the time being, but would parcel out his duties as necessary. In a few weeks, however, “we will reevaluate and decide if a single individual should manage the balance of his portfolio” until he returns, Judge said.

Copyright 2009, Metropolitan News Company

Judge Zaven Sinanian Appointed to the Executive Board of CJA

The Honorable Zaven V. Sinanian, currently sitting as a trial judge in the Central District, Stanley Mosk Courthouse of the Los Angeles County Superior Court (LASC) was recently elected by his colleagues to the Executive Board of the California Judges Association (CJA). He was nominated to the Executive Board by the LASC's then Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger. The swearing in ceremony took place on September 27, 2008, in Monterey, California at the State Bar Annual Conference.

The CJA was established in 1929 and is the professional association representing the interests of the judiciary of the State of California. It is the nation's largest professional association, representing 2,600 active and retired California judges, justices, commissioners and referees. Its mission is to preserve and promote the integrity and independence of the state judiciary; uphold the quality of justice and foster public confidence in the courts; support and enhance the well-being and effectiveness of its active and retired judicial officers; and strengthen relationships among the three branches of government.

Judge Sinanian was appointed to the bench in 2002 by Governor Gray Davis, following 13 years with the Attorney General's office in California. He was elected to another term on the bench by the voters of Los Angeles County in 2004. Prior to moving to the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, in 2007, he was the first judge of Armenian descent to be appointed site supervising judge for the North Central District, Burbank, which has a large Armenian population.

"I am humbled and honored by this appointment, and will do my best to represent the constituents of the California Judges Association," said Sinanian.

In 2005, Sinanian was



Judge Zaven Sinanian, left, was appointed to the Executive Board of the California Judges Association.

appointed to a three-year term on the California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness by Ronald George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. He has worked diligently in that capacity to implement changes to the court system that would benefit the public and increase access to justice.

In addition to his work with the Judicial Council, Sinanian is a current member of the Executive Board of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Committee and was formerly a member of the LASC Executive Committee, which is the policy making arm of the court.

Sinianian is a past Chairman of the Armenian Bar, and continues to participate in seminars, panel discussions and continuing education classes for attorneys conducted by that organization. In 1992, he took a one-year sabbatical to travel to Armenia where he served as the Counselor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who at that time was the Armenian Bar's founder, Raffi Hovannisian.

Since his appointment to the bench, Judge Sinanian has mentored

students and young professionals, many of them Armenian, who aspire to enter and succeed in the field of law. He has regularly welcomed law students for externships in his department and has advised young lawyers on career development issues. He has been a guest speaker and lecturer at conferences organized by the Armenian Bar Association, and has continued to be involved in Armenian community affairs.

Don't miss the Armenian Bar Association's 20th Annual National Meeting in Glendale, CA, May 8 - 10

Featuring:

- Governor George Deukmejian
- CA Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming Chin
- CA Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvin Baxter
- First Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Raffi K. Hovannisian
- Armenian Bar Association Members and more!

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

Armenian Bar Hosts Networking Brunch at Castaway Restaurant in Burbank, California

Minister of the Diaspora and Consul General Liloyan honored guests.

BURBANK - The Armenian Bar Association hosted a networking reception at the elegant Castaway Restaurant, on November 22, 2008. The event served as an opportunity for young Armenian attorneys to network with fellow members. The reception also served as an opportunity for ArmenBar to honor the newly appointed Minister of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Hranoush Hakobian, and the Consul General, Armen Liloyan.

"We are extremely proud to have had the Minister of the Diaspora and the Consul General join us for this important networking event," said Hovanes Margarian, the Armenian Bar's new member liaison and the organizer of the event. We had a great turnout of judges and attorneys in what proved to be a warm reception," said Margarian.

On hand to lend their support and meet the honored guests from Armenia were Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Alice Altoon (retired), Gregory Keosian and Zaven Sinanian. Altoon is an Honorary Member of the Armenian Bar, Keosian is a founding member, and Sinanian is a past Chairman of the organization.

The Honorable Hranoush Hakobian was in Los Angeles to participate in the Thanksgiving Telethon sponsored by the Armenia Fund. Hakobian, who became an attorney prior to becoming a diplomat, offered words of encouragement to those present, outlining the goals of the Ministry for the Diaspora. In an impassioned plea, she stated that Diaspora does not

exist without Armenia, and that Armenia will not exist without the support of its constituents in the Diaspora.

Margarian gave opening remarks then introduced Lucy Varpetian, the past Executive Director of the Armenian Bar, and a Senior Assistant Deputy City Attorney for the City of Glendale. Varpetian gave a brief history of the organization then introduced the Consul General.

Hakobian was introduced by the Honorable Armen Liloyan, the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia stationed in Los Angeles. Liloyan has attended many Armenian Bar events and was honored by ArmenBar at a reception in Glendale in 2007.

Former Chairman Vicken Simonian offered closing remarks, thanking the guests of honor, judges and members for attending the event. Members were free to meet fellow



From left: Consul General Armen Liloyan, Ara Boyadjian and Armenia's Minister of the Diaspora, Hranoush Hakobian.

colleagues, renew old friendships and network.

The Castaway is perched atop the mountains in Burbank, and offers a panoramic view of Los Angeles. Those in attendance were treated to a first class champagne brunch. Margarian's law firm and his brother Armen's software development firm are sponsoring the revamping of the Armenian Bar web site which will soon be launched. The Margarians have also pledged to organize more networking events in the future.



From left: seated: Ana Awakian, Mania Abrahamian, Annette Ohanganian, Tony Forberg; standing from left: Karen Bourzakian, Paul Caputo and Saro Kerkonian.

Sushi and Fine Wine at Lapointe Rosenstein in Montreal, Canada

MONTREAL - Senior Corporate partner Seti Hamalian hosted this fall's Armenian Bar Association cocktail, on Tuesday October 7. With the magnificent view of autumnal leaves, the gathering was at the luxurious offices of Montreal's premier full service law firm, Lapointe Rosenstein.

The dynamic group of both young and seasoned attorneys had a unique opportunity to discuss the new challenges of the practice. For many, the markets' direction into a full blown economic recession in the United States and the impact on Canada was something to think seriously about.

Attorney Viktorya Aksoy, a junior M&A Associate at Lapointe, graciously welcomed the many guests. She highlighted the increased interest in the Association, especially among the young attorneys and law students from all three law schools.

She introduced her partner Mr. Hamalian. With his usual good humour, Seti invited the participants to consider different aspects of the practice. Seti generously offered his availability and his firm's resources for mentoring students and young lawyers in a more formal way.

Ms. Aksoy then invited Harry Dikranian, Armenian Bar Association's Canadian Liaison, to speak about the Association and upcoming activities.

Harry expressed his gratitude to Lapointe Rosenstein and to the hosts Seti and Viktorya. He highlighted the exciting roster planned for Las Vegas on October 17-19 and invited the participants to consider Glendale in May. The Quebec Bar Association will credit the Armenian Bar conference participants because it is recognized by the California State Bar. The annual meeting will mark the Association's 20th anniversary. After that a Canadian bash for the mid-year meeting in Toronto is in the works for the week-end of October 2-4, 2009.

Finally, Harry also invited the group to attend the All-Armenia Fund banquet scheduled for October 25. The dinner will feature special guests and Armenian Bar member Mark Geragos



From left: Sonia-Sima Parsakhian, Canadian Border Services Agency; Harry Dikranian, ArmenBar Canadian Liaison; Jerry Devletian, Deloitte; and host Seti Hamalian, Lapointe Rosenstein.



Attorney Jack Chadirdjian from the Insurance Bureau of Canada with University of Montreal law students (from left to right) Talar Kondakjian, Karine Topikyan, Sona Bedrossian and Marleine Alanjian

along with Rakel Dink, wife of the late Hrant Dink, publisher of Agos Armenian daily in Turkey.

The cocktail took place only one week prior to general elections in Canada. With that, the fate of Conservative candidate Agop Evereklian in Laval-Les Iles was also in the thoughts of the politically minded (Stephen Harper was narrowly re-elected).

Agop was supported by the entire Armenian community, including the first Canadian Member of Parliament and retired Judge Sarkis Assadourian: former Liberal MP from Toronto. Despite the solid support, our good friend Agop lost with 20.75% of the votes cast in his favour. The incumbent, Raymonde Folco, also a friend of the Armenians with her past support of Parliament's Armenian

Genocide resolution, won with 40.18%.

A special treat for curious visitors was a peek inside Seti's office. The suite is literally a gallery of more than 150 large photographs. Seti, an amateur photographer, has spectacular walls decorated with scenes from around the world, portraits of family and a select number of his most photogenic friends and associates.

Corporate attorney for Tim Hortons Canada, George Kanadjian was so taken by the photos and the event that he, along with law students Karine Topikyan, Sona Bedrossian, Talar Kondakjian and Marlene Alanjian, volunteered to help organize the October 2-4, conference in 2009 with our colleagues and friends from Toronto.

Post Office Box 29111
Los Angeles, CA 90029
Tel: 323-666-6288
www.ArmenianBar.org



MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE 2009

● Please make changes on this form.

● Make checks payable to:
Armenian Bar Association

● Mail form and check to the above address.

\$1000 Annual Sponsor

\$125 Attorney/Judge

\$25 Law Student

FREE! - Class of 2009

\$_____ Voluntary Contribution

Your contributions are vital. They continue to fund Pro-Bono programs, scholarships and moot court teams from Armenia. Your generosity is appreciated by many young men and women who deserve it.

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Website _____

Law School _____

Year Graduated _____

LLM Degree _____

Jurisdiction _____

State Bar No. _____

If you DO NOT wish to receive emails from the Armenian Bar Association please check here _____

ArmenBar Committees: Please select committee on which you would be interested in serving.

- Armenia Programs Continuing Legal Education Membership Pro Bono Website
 Armenia Rights Watch Grants Newsletter Student Affairs Scholarship

Areas of Concentration: Please select no more than three areas that best describe your area of practice.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Regulatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispute Resolution (Arb./Med.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admiralty & Maritime | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment & Sports Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Litigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking & Savings | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Securities | <input type="checkbox"/> Mergers & Acquisitions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> General Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Liability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collection | <input type="checkbox"/> Government - Federal Level | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Responsibility/Ethics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Transactions | <input type="checkbox"/> Government - Local Level | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal - Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> International | <input type="checkbox"/> Trust, Probate & Estate Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal - Prosecution | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation |

Board of Governors and Committee Chairs 2008 - 2009

Executive Committee

Chair - Sonya Nersessian

Sonya Nersessian Law Office
P.O. Box 1356, Dedham, MA 02027-1356
T: 781-899-7866, F: 781-899-7959
E: svn27@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair - Edvin E. Minassian

Tennenhouse, Minassian & Adham
1101 N Pacific Ave., Ste. 200, Glendale, CA 91202-3250
T: 818-551-9990, F: 818-551-0273
E: EdvinMinas@aol.com

Treasurer - Sara Bedirian

Bedirian & Associates
211 S. Beverly Blvd., Suite 214, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
T: 310-288-9797, F: 310-288-9798
E: SaraBedirian@BedirianLawFirm.com

Secretary - Christine J. Engustian

1 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914
T: 401-434-1250, F: 401-434-2934, E: cje@ids.net

Ex-Officio - Honorable Frank V. Zerunyan

Council Member, City of Rolling Hills Estates, California
And Principal & General Counsel
Public-Private Community Development LLC
608 Silver Spur Road, Suite 290
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
T: 310-971-5219, E: fzerunyan@PublicPrivateCD.com

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Members at Large

Honorable Larry A. Burns

United States District Court
880 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92101-8900
T: 619-557-5874,
E: Larry_A_Burns@casd.uscourts.gov

Taline Festekjian

LyonRoss Capital Management LLC
150 East 52nd St., 26th Floor, New York, NY 10022
T: 212-218-3916, F: 212-218-3959
E: tfestekjian@lyonross.com

Garob. Ghazarian

Law Office of Garo B. Ghazarian
15915 Ventura Blvd., Suite 203, Encino, CA 91436
T: 818-905-6484, F: 818-905-6481
E: gbglaw@sbcglobal.net

Armen K. Hovannisian

15456 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
T: 213-233-9662, E: akhova@aol.com

John J. Lulejian

1500 United States Courthouse
312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 60012
T: 213-894-2434, F: 213-894-3713
E: John.Lulejian@usdoj.gov

Nigol Manoukian

Manoukian & Associates
1101 N. Pacific Ave., Suite 303, Glendale, CA 91202
T: 818-240-1199 F: 818-240-1120
E: manoukianlaw@yahoo.com

Martha Mensoian

Capstone Holdings Group, LLC.
44 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005
E: mensoian@earthlink.net

Gary T. Moomjian

Moomjian, Waite, Wactlar & Coleman, LLP
100 Jericho Quadrangle, Ste. 225, Jericho, NY 11753
T: 516-937-5900, Ext. 47, F: 516-937-5050
E: gmoomjian@mwwclp.com

Datev K. Shenian

Shenian Law Group
500 S. Grand Ave, 22nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071
T: 213-455-3510, F: 213-455-3510 or (213) 341-2253
E: dshenian@shenianlaw.com

Melineh B. Verma

WilmerHale LLP
1875 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20006
T: 202-663-6855, F: 202-663-6363
E: melineh.verma@wilmerhale.com

Advisory Board

Honorable Dickran Tevzian

United States District Court Judge (Retired)
JAMS, 707 Wilshire Blvd., 46th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017, T: 213-620-1133

Executive Director

Betty A. Jamgotchian
Armenian Bar Association
P.O. Box 29111, Los Angeles, CA 90029
T/F: 323-666-6288, E: info@ArmenianBar.org

COMMITTEES

Armenia Programs Chair -

Vahan Bournazian
Assistant Dean, AUA Law
Yerevan, ARMENIA 375010
T: 374-10-51-27-55, E: bournazian@aua.am

Armenian Rights Watch Co-Chairs -

Garob. Ghazarian
Law Office of Garo B. Ghazarian
15915 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 203, Encino, CA 91436
T: 818-905-6484, F: 818-905-6481
E: gbglaw@sbcglobal.net
and
Saro K. Kerkonian
Tennenhouse, Minassian & Adham
1101 N. Pacific Avenue, Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91202
T: 818-551-9990, F: 818-551-0273
E: SKerkonian@aol.com

Continuing Legal Education Chair -

Antranig Kzirian
ANC Executive Director
104 N. Belmont, Suite 208, Glendale, CA 91206
T: 818-500-1918, E: antranig.kzirian@gmail.com

Grants Chairs -

Christine J. Engustian
1 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914
T: 401-434-1250, F: 401-434-2934
E: cjengustian@gmail.com

Membership Development Co-Chairs -

(WEST COAST) Sara Bedirian
Bedirian & Associates
211 S. Beverly Blvd., Suite 214, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
T: 310-288-9797, F: 310-288-9798
E: SaraBedirian@BedirianLawFirm.com
and
(EAST COAST) Martha Mensoian
Capstone Holdings Group, LLC.
44 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005
E: mensoian@earthlink.net

Newsletter Chair -

Vicken I. Simonian
131 N. El Molino Ave., Suite 310, Pasadena, CA 91101
T: 626-584-0043, F: 626-795-6138
E: VISimonian@aol.com

Co-Chairs -

Armen K. Hovannisian
15456 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
T: 213-233-9662, E: akhova@aol.com

and

John J. Lulejian

1500 United States Courthouse
312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 60012
T: 213-894-2434, F: 213-894-3713
E: John.Lulejian@usdoj.gov

Pro Bono Chair - Garo B. Ghazarian

Law Office of Garo B. Ghazarian
15915 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 203, Encino, CA 91436
T: 818-905-6484, F: 818-905-6481, E: gbglaw@sbcglobal.net

Student Affairs Co-Chairs -

(WEST COAST) Ellin Davtyan
333 S. Grand Ave., Suite 1670, Los Angeles, CA 90071
E: edavtyan@meyersnave.com
and

(EAST COAST) Taline Festekjian

LyonRoss Capital Management LLC
150 East 52nd Street, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10022
T: 212-218-3916, F: 212-218-3959
E: tfestekjian@lyonross.com

AD HOC Committees

Genocide Project Committee Chair -

Professor Ann M. Lousin
The John Marshall Law School
315 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604
T: 312-987-1434, F: 312-427-8307, E: 7lousin@jmls.edu

Development/Fundraising Co-Chairs -

Sara Bedirian
Bedirian & Associates
211 S. Beverly Blvd., Suite 214, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
T: 310-288-9797, F: 310-288-9798
E: SaraBedirian@BedirianLawFirm.com
and
Honorable Frank V. Zerunyan
Councilmember, City of Rolling Hills Estates, CA
and Principal & General Counsel,
Public-Private Community Development LLC
608 Silver Spur Road, Ste. 290
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
T: 310-971-5219, E: fzerunyan@PublicPrivateCD.com

Nominations Committee Co-Chairs -

Denise Darmanian
Gallo & Darmanian, Esqs.
645 Fifth Avenue, Suite 703, New York, NY 10022
T: 212-692-0872, F: 212-692-0875
E: NYFED@aol.com

and

Saro K. Kerkonian

Tennenhouse, Minassian & Adham
1101 N. Pacific Avenue, Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91202
T: 818-551-9990, F: 818-551-0273
E: SKerkonian@aol.com

Website Committee Co-Chairs -

Hovanes Margarian
Law Offices of Hovanes Margarian
13425 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 303, Sherman Oaks, 91423
T: 818.397.9624, F: 818.990.1418
E: hovanes@margarianlaw.com or
hovanes@nexuslab.com
and

Martha Mensoian

Capstone Holdings Group, LLC.
44 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005
E: mensoian@earthlink.net

and

Datev K. Shenian

Shenian Law Group
500 S. Grand Ave, 22nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071
T: 213-455-3150, F: 213-455-3150
E: dshenian@shenianlaw.com

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

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

Copyright 2007. Armenian Bar Association. All Rights Reserved.



Armenian Bar Association
P.O. Box 29111
Los Angeles, CA 90029

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VISIT US AT
www.ArmenianBar.org