California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye To Headline Armenian Bar Association’s Annual National Meeting In San Francisco

A special tour of the California Supreme Court followed by a luncheon with Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye are the one-two punch of a momentous start of the Armenian Bar Association’s 22nd Annual National Meeting in one of the world’s most beautiful places, San Francisco, from April 29 - May 1, 2011. Leading the homeland’s team across the Diaspora-to-Armenia bridge directly into everyone’s favorite city will be the Justice Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Hrayr Tovmasyan.

In the rich tradition of the Association’s annual gatherings, fascinating discussions of broad and contemporary interest to Armenian-American legal professionals will be complemented with an array of fun and exciting social events. The elegant Marriott Union Square will serve as the headquarters and host for the spectacular weekend.

“I can think of no better place than San Francisco and no better time than the warmth and promise of Spring to bring together, family-style, all of our dear members and guests to participate in a truly ground-breaking conference,” said ArmenBar Chairperson Edvin Minassian. “We are delighted by the prospect of offering to our membership and community some real quality time with Supreme Court Justices, Armenia’s

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Transamerica Pyramid building in Downtown San Francisco

Message from the Chair

It has been a true pleasure and honor for me to serve as the Chairman of the Armenian Bar Association since May 2010. With the support of a great team of Board members as well as committee chairpersons, we have done our best to achieve the principal objectives of the ArmenBar. We have conducted public forums and lectures, engaged in pro bono programs, educated the Armenian community regarding their legal rights, sponsored amicus briefs in legal matters of utmost importance to the Armenian Nation, promoted the fair administration of justice, provided professional education to our members to enhance their legal careers through skills development, while also providing networking opportunities.

We had a superb Mid-Year Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, which

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The ArmenBar’s Mid-Year Meeting, which convened in Providence, Rhode Island from October 8-10, 2010, proved to be a success both on professional and social levels. Conferees participated in a number of Armenbar sponsored seminars and visited many of New England’s historical sites relating to the American Revolution, the whaling industry, and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution.

Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch delivered cordial remarks at the welcoming reception at Camille’s Restaurant, a city dining icon for decades. Following the Attorney General’s address, Rhode Island’s Chief Judge of the Family Court, Haigianoush Bedrosian, added her own warm welcome and included references to her family’s inspiring experiences in America, words that resonated deeply with conference participants. Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian described Warwick’s many attractions (along with many others in the state) and welcomed conference participants to see them for themselves, which they were fortunate to be able to do. Finally, Rhode Island Bar Association President Lise Iwon expressed the collective welcome of the state’s legal community and praised Chief Judge Bedrosian’s excellent work. The array of special guests on Friday evening was very impressive, and each one of them spoke eloquently.

Three conference panels convened on October 9. A featured speaker on the environmental law panel was top-flight environmental lawyer, Matt Bogoshian. Formerly California’s Deputy Secretary of Law Enforcement responsible for California’s Environmental Enforcement Initiative, he was appointed by President Obama in 2010 as Deputy Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Following Mr. Boghosian’s presentation on legal issues tied to environment protection, Jeff Masarjian, Executive Director of The Armenia Tree Project, Inc., focused on the social factors at work, and the spectrum of benefits derived, when ordinary people take it upon themselves to work together towards restoring the environment. A third speaker, Rachel Brown, spoke of her involvement in promoting sustainable agriculture in the Republic of Armenia through the work of Heifer International, Inc.

Rhode Island’s Michael Varadian, Executive Director of the Department of Health’s Environmental and Health Services Regulations, spoke about national health re-
Glendale, California – Appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate to one of the most elite federal positions, United States Attorney André Birotte, Jr. was the featured speaker at a sold-out gathering organized by the Armenian Bar Association on February 24, 2011.

With more than two hundred judges, lawyers and law students in attendance at the Phoenicia restaurant, Mr. Birotte was recognized for his dedication to public service and for his sustained commitment and contributions to law enforcement, victims’ and civil rights, public integrity, and the legal profession.

In the words of ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian, “The enthusiastic response of the capacity crowd reflects the Association’s deep devotion to professional excellence and, just as importantly, to our firm commitment to the Armenian community and to the rule of law.” Mr. Minassian expressed his organization’s resolve and successful results in acting as the community’s gatekeeper for the protection of its rights and the education about its responsibilities.

Garo Ghazarian, ArmenBar Vice-Chairman, and Dean of the Peoples College of Law, served as Master of Ceremonies with a smooth and perfect blend of humor and respectfulness. The large gathering was addressed by Chairman Edvin Minassian, Board members Hovanes Margarian and Assistant U.S. Attorney John Lulejian, who delivered an inspiring introduction of Mr. Birotte.

Rising to the podium to a rousing ovation, Mr. Birotte singled out the Armenian Bar Association for its unique and valuable leadership position in legal and local institutions and causes. “It is important to work with our community,” said Mr. Birotte and continuing with “coming from Haiti, I would always remember the emblem associated with their flag, ‘With unity we build strength,’ and this is a statement that lives with me today, and will continue to. That saying has been a major guideline in my life, and a major guideline we work by.” Mr. Birotte looked to ArmenBar for helping bring unity and strength to the Armenian community. On a personal note, he expressed great praise and respect for former ArmenBar Board member Federal Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian who guided and mentored the rising star when both were Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

In attendance was a full roster of judicial leaders and law enforcement brass on both the federal and state levels, elected officials, as well as a wide spectrum of leaders and representatives from the Armenian community, including Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, Archbishop Hovnan Deranian—Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, former Los Angeles County District Attorney Robert Philibosian, U.S. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian, and retired U.S. District Court Judge Dickran Tevrazian.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges in attendance included Site Supervising Judges of Los Angeles County Superior Courts in the cities of Burbank and Glendale, Patrick Hegarty and Fred Rotenberg, respectively; Kevin Brazile, Soussan Bruguera, Ruth Kwan, Mark Mooney, and ArmenBar past Chairman Zaven Sinanian. Brazile and Sinanian are on the Board of the California Judges Association. Also in attendance were Michael Garcia, the Chief Assistant City Attorney of Glendale, Gary Schram, Chief of the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation and President of the California Police Officers’ Me-

see Armenian Bar Honors, pg 17
Mark Mustian, of Tallahassee, Florida, and Armenian Bar member wrote a novel, entitled THE GENDARME, about a 92-year old man who fought for the Turks in WWI, was injured during the war and lost much of his memory. Late in life he begins to recall some of the things that happened at the beginning of the war; including the forced march of the Armenians out of Turkey, and a young woman who was part of the group. The book is published by Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam in the U.S., with foreign editions forthcoming in Spain, Italy, Greece, Brazil, Israel, Bulgaria, France and the U.K. The novel is the fall hardcover “rep’s pick” for all of the Penguin Group’s imprints. It received a starred review from the Library Journal, and was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review. Additional information is available at www.markmustian.com. You can contact Mark at mmustian@ngnlaw.com

Alice Yardum-Hunter currently serves as 1st Vice Chair of the Immigration Section, Los Angeles County Bar Association. During the Fall 2010, she has made presentations on immigration law for The American Bar Assn., Beverly Hills Bar Assn., Australian American Assn., and Southwestern Law School.

Former Chairman Vicken Simonian received the Covetted Public Service Award from the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles on December 9, 2010 for extraordinary service to the community and the legal profession. The award was given by CAALA chairman Garo Mardirosian, in attendance were past chairman Judge Zaven Sinanian and Armen Hovanissian, along with vice chair Garo Ghazarian and treasurer Sara Bederian.

Board member Robert Cannuscio, Vice Chair of the Intellectual Property Group of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, was a guest lecturer for a course on Entrepreneurship at Lehigh University’s business school. In his October 25, 2010, lecture, Robert addressed the role of intellectual property assets in the creation and growth of businesses. Robert was also recently elected as Vice President of the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association. Robert can be reached at Robert.Cannuscio@dbr.com

Los Angeles City Council by a motion brought by the President of the City Council, Mr. Eric Garcetti, and Councilmember from the 2nd District, Mr. Paul Krekorian, celebrates the Lifetime Achievement of Professor Richard G. Hovannisian father of Armenian Bar founder Raffi K. Hovannisian. In 1987, Professor Hovannisian was appointed as the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History and is currently the Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA.
Amy Hoogasian Appointed US Immigration Judge in San Francisco

In November 2010, Amy Hoogasian was sworn in as an Immigration Judge of the San Francisco Immigration Court by the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Hoogasian in October 2010. Judge Hoogasian received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1990 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Juris Doctorate in 1994 from John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois. Hoogasian has served as Chief Legal Counsel of SAGIN LLC, was Senior Corporation Counsel for Uline, Inc, and Assistant Chief Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Chicago. Judge Hoogasian worked as Attorney to the Chairman of the State of Illinois Pollution Control Board and was an Assistant State’s Attorney at the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office in Waukegan, Illinois. Judge Hoogasian is a member of the Illinois State Bar. Hoogasian serves on the Board of Directors of the Armenian Bar Association.

Armenian Bar Congratulations Members On Their New Family Additions

Azniv Ksachikyan and her husband, welcomed their new baby daughter, Tatevik, on February 13, 2011. Tatevik joins her big brother Armen. Of course, Tatevik is pure love as you can tell from this photo. Azniv can be reached at azniv_ksachikyan@yahoo.com

Former Armenian Bar Treasurer Saro Kerkonian and wife Sylvia welcome their new son Aris Jose Kerkonian on August 27th, 2010. Aris joins his sister Sevana. Saro Kerkonian is a founding member of the Armenian Bar Association. He has served 9 years on the board of Governors and is the current Armenian Rights Watch chairman. He can be reached at SKerkonian@aol.com

Joint Event to be held by AAHPO and ArmenBar

A joint event between Armenian Bar and the AAHPO (American Armenian Health Professionals Organization) first proposed in February is now scheduled to take place in Manhattan on Friday, June 10, 2011.

The event is a sit-down dinner with speaker for an estimated 70 people representing both professions. The event will mark the first such joint event to take place with AAHPO on the East Coast.

Armenian Bar is looking forward to a successful event and the start of a long-standing tradition of joint participation in a social and substantive program with our colleagues in the health care profession. For more information on this event, please contact Denise Damianian by email at NYFED@aol.com

Congratulations to Lori Asquith for her newborn Alexander Hovaness Asquith (pictured above). Alexander was born on October 13, 2010. Lori has been a member of the Armenian Bar association for several years and was on the organizing committee of the 2008 annual meeting in New York City. Lori can be reached at lori.hatem@aig.com
Las Vegas, Nevada—Numerous attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students flocked to the newly renovated, elegant Tropicana Hotel and Casino, as the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) presented an outstanding group of legal experts on January 15, 2011. Vartkes Yeghiayan, who has gained acclaimed notoriety as a Genocide reparations pioneer, and Arda Yemenidjian, a community leader and philanthropist, received special recognition at a luncheon in their honor.

"The quality of the speakers and the content of the lectures equaled or exceeded any program offered in the legal community," said Edvin Minassian, Chairman of ArmenBar. "We were extremely proud to have been able to present such a distinguished group of legal scholars to our members, and honor two of the finest members of our community," said Minassian.

The event was held in the all new Tropicana Conference Center. The Tropicana is undergoing a $180 million renovation under the direction of new owner Alex Yemenidjian, and is on its way to re-establishing its reputation as a premiere Vegas destination. The newly remodeled guest rooms have received recognition as “Best in Class,” and were given high marks by those in attendance. Features such as Nikki Beach, The Las Vegas Mob Experience, and a state-of-the-art sports book are just a few of the many new upcoming attractions at the hotel.

Yeghiayan was introduced at the luncheon by U.S. Army Brigadier General and accomplished trial lawyer Mark MacCarley. He received the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award, the group’s highest honor. Arda Yemenidjian was introduced by Vicken Simonian, past Chairman of ArmenBar, and received a Public Service Award. Both honorees were given a standing ovation.

Garo Ghazarian, ArmenBar Vice-Chairman, and Dean of the Peoples College of Law, was the Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon. The group was addressed by Chairman Minassian, Board members Hovanes Margarian and John Lulejian and the Honorable Raffi K. Hovannisian.

Hovannisian is the founding father of ArmenBar, the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the first Diasporan Armenian to become a member of the Armenian Parliament as the head of the Heritage party. His words regarding the honorees and the organization were thoughtful, inspirational and moving.

Preeminent attorney Yeghiayan was joined by law professor Michael Bazyler, federal court international litigation expert Lee Crawford-Boyd and Setrak Davuthan, a prominent community attorney for Turkish Armenians. Two topics were presented as part of the program, including “Legal Remedies, restitution or monetary compensation for the dispossession of Armenians of pre-Genocide communal and private property in their homeland” and “Current State of Legal Affairs involving Armenians in Turkey.” Attorneys attending the event earned four units of continuing legal education credits.

See Tropicana Conference pg. 16
Armenian Bar Honors Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian And Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Charles W. “Tim” McCoy, Jr. On November 18, 2010

Glendale, California-Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian and Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Charles W. “Tim” McCoy, were the guests of honor as the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) hosted a reception at the elegant Phoenicia Restaurant on November 18, 2010. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, past Chairman of ArmenBar and a member of the Executive Board of the California Judges Association (CJA), was on hand to introduce Judge McCoy.

“Judge McCoy and City Councilman Krekorian have had distinguished and exemplary careers in public service. They are both leaders with great integrity, and are committed to serving their constituents. We were proud to honor them for their many years of service to the community,” said Edvin Minassian, Chairman of ArmenBar.

Krekorian was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2009 after three successful years in California Assembly. Elected to the California Assembly for the 43rd District in 2006, he went on to serve as the State’s Assistant Majority Leader. In 2003, he was elected to the Burbank School Board, eventually serving as President of that city’s educational group, leading the group out of financial collapse.

Krekorian served on the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Law Library and the California State Legislature’s Task Force on Court Facilities. He earned his undergraduate degree from USC, and his law degree from U.C. Berkeley. He was a partner in the firm of Fisher and Krekorian, and had a distinguished 20-year career in the private sector before seeking public office.

First appointed to the bench in 1992, Judge McCoy became the presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2009. He previously served as a trial judge, Managing Judge of the Complex Litigation Courts and Supervising Judge of the Civil Courts. He serves on the California Judicial Council, was a member of the Governing Board of California Center for Judicial Education and Research, and chaired several committees of the CJA. He is the President of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts.

Prior to joining the bench, McCoy was a partner in the firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton’s Los Angeles office, where he practiced for 17 years, and served as Chief of Staff and Chief Deputy to Hon. Matthew Fong ‘85, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization.

Minassian and Vice-Chairman Garo Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law, served as co-Masters-of-Ceremonies for the evening reception, brilliantly conducting the festivities with charm, humor and professionalism. They presented the honorees with original artwork from Seeroon Yeretzian, which included inscriptions acknowledging their many years of public service.

See Krekorian and Judge McCoy Honored pg. 19
Sara Anjargolian captivated a standing room only audience of Montreal Armenian Bar Association and Canadian Armenian Business Council members with her thought-provoking photo presentation of Armenia.

On October 26, 2010 flown-in to the east coast from California, Armenian Bar member Sara Anjargolian was in Montreal between presentations in Toronto and New York City. Sara provided a sensitive and meaningful portrayal of people’s lives on the margins of Armenian society. Her presentation also focussed on labor migration from Armenia to the west.

“in order for us to focus our efforts in Armenia, it’s important to see where are some of the greatest needs.” Mr. Arslanian was the first judge of Armenian descent named in Quebec.

Also in attendance was Aïda Karibian, Régisseure at the règie d’alcools de course et de jeux, a decision maker for all matters pertaining to restaurant alcohol and bar licensing; as well, recently appointed Haig Basmadjian, Judge at the Commission for Immigration and Refugees.

Sara was introduced by Paul Nahabedian, Investment Advisor at RBC Dominion Securities and President of the CABC. Paul also presented a gift honoring the lecturer and thanked the Armenian Bar Association for its partnership to organize a successful dinner meeting.

In addition to attorneys, notaries, law students alongside many professionals and entrepreneurs, for the first time ever, the three Judges of Quebec tribunals were in attendance at a public function.

Each expressed their admiration and appreciation for Sara’s work. Said Chahé Philippe Arslanian, coordinating Judge of the appellate Quebec Administrative tribunal,
In a recent order the court, by a 2-1 vote, not only granted the rehearing but actually reversed itself, finding that the California statute was a valid exercise of the state’s power and that “there is no clearly established federal policy forbidding state references to the Armenian Genocide.”

On December 10, 2010, in the case Movsesian v. Victoria Versicherung, the Ninth Circuit United States Court of Appeals upheld the validity of a California law which extends the statute of limitations to file claims arising out of life insurance policies issued to Armenian Genocide victims. Reversing its own August 20, 2009 ruling which had found the California statute to be unconstitutional because it contradicted a U.S. federal policy against the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The court now found that the law is consistent with a proper exercise of the state’s power because “there is no clearly established federal policy forbidding state references to the Armenian Genocide.”

The initial case brought on behalf of the heirs of Armenian Genocide victims was supported by the extensive legal work of Brian S. Kabateck of Kabateck Brown Keller LLP, Mark J. Geragos and Shelley Kaufman of Geragos & Geragos, and Vartkes Yeghiayan of Yeghiayan Law Firm. On the appellate level, four amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs supplementing information and arguments provided to the Court were submitted in support of the positions taken by the Armenian plaintiffs.

“This is a monumental victory for the Armenian community. It is a vindication of our history, heritage, and legacy, and, importantly, of the cherished and valuable rights we enjoy under the laws of the United States. The Armenian Bar Association salutes the excellent work of Messrs. Yeghiayan, Kabateck and Geragos,” stated Edvin Minassian, Chair of the Armenian Bar Association. He added: “David Balabanian, one of the nation's premier litigators and the first Chair of the Armenian Bar Association, rose again to the challenge in leading Bingham McCutchen’s support of Armenian and constitutional rights.”

Sonya Nersessian, immediate Past Chair of the Armenian Bar Association, welcomed the ruling as well: “While we as Armenian-Americans, and as members of the Armenian Bar Association, are situated in geographically diverse communities, we stand and work as one for the protection of our national rights. Efforts must continue to set the record straight in the face of the increasing attacks on our history, especially when those attacks come under the guise of American jurisprudence.”

“This case will cast broad and far-reaching effects on all Armenians alike. We have a vested stake in ensuring the proper adjudication of these types of matters which, if they go unchallenged, carry the risk of marginalizing our collective past and jeopardizing our future entitlements,” stated Garo Ghazarjian, Vice-Chair of the Armenian Bar Association.

The Armenian Bar Association’s amicus brief was organized and undertaken on a pro bono basis by David M. Balabanian, Esq. and his legal team at the international law firm of Bingham McCutchen LLP, which included David B. Salmons, Esq. and Erin S. Conroy, Esq. in the Washington office of the firm. Invaluable assistance on the brief was provided by Kate Nahapetian, Esq. of the Armenian National Committee, Van Z. Krikorian, Esq. of the Armenian Assembly, Dr. Rouben Adalian of Armenian National Institute, and George Shirinian, Executive Director of the Zoryan Institute. The effort to coordinate the participation of all the amici on the brief was undertaken by Past Chair, Sonya Nersessian, Esq. Armenian Bar Association’s Rights Watch Committee Chair Saro Kerkonian also made crucial contributions. The brief was joined by the Armenian National Committee of America, the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation, Inc., and the International Association of Genocide Scholars. The Armenian Bar Association’s amicus brief provided documentation of multiple instances in which federal entities used and embraced the term “Armenian Genocide.” Mr. Balabanian's efforts helped to establish for the court that there is no established federal policy

See Federal Court Ruling, pg. 21
“It’s about time!” exclaimed Raffi K. Hovannisian, the founder of the Armenian Bar Association who went on to become independent Armenia’s first minister of foreign affairs. He was sitting on a green bench at Liberty Square in Yerevan, an unlikely smile sweeping across his face on March 22, 2011, the eighth day of his Fast for Freedom. He had just learned that his younger brother, Armen K. Hovannisian, was set to receive the Armenian Bar Public Service Award at the Armenian Bar’s annual convention planned for the weekend of April 29 in San Francisco.

“Armen has never sought or received adulation for his pivotal contributions to my life,” Raffi said, “and to the success of the Armenian community. He is the unnamed co-founder of the Armenian Bar Association. He is the unnamed co-founder of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies, the republic’s first independent research institution. He has been the unnamed co-creator of all the works I have realized over the years.”

Of course not all of Armen Hovannisian’s accomplishments have been off the record. For those who wish to follow the paper trail, they can easily find that Armen graduated summa cum laude from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los Angeles—School of Law. He began his career at the international law firm Chadbourne & Parke, where he chaired its Pro Bono Committee and ultimately received the firm’s highest honor for his continued representation of pro bono clients. Appointed by the California State Bar to its standing committee on ethnic minority relations, he represented—and defended—the interests of the Armenian-American community. And later, as an expert of environmental law, he served as Assistant Vice-President at the Markel Corporation. Today Armen is a leading member of a team of highly skilled and experienced litigators, retained by a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, to manage complex insurance coverage disputes.

And yet, the better part of his work Armen has done quietly, almost in secret. From the earliest days, when he and Raffi went door to door in Fresno, California, to collect money for victims of the Lebanon Civil War of 1975, Armen has been a modest missionary for the Armenian Cause. In his college years, he conducted dozens of interviews with survivors of the Armenian Genocide and contributed them to UCLA’s oral history collection on the Genocide, which was founded and organized by his father, Professor Richard G. Hovannisian. He taught U.S. Government and Civics at Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian High School in Los Angeles. And then, sitting at his older brother’s dining room table in Los Angeles, he scoured the American legal directories, searching for last names ending in –ian and –yan.

These were to be the first members of the Armenian Bar Association.

“After the great vision of our founder resulted in the formation of the Armenian Bar Association 21 years ago, it has been his brother Armen who has carried the banner of the organization,” said Vicken Simonian, a founding member of

See Armen Hovannisian, pg. 20
Asset Protection CLE Presented To Members At Loyola Law School

On December 1, 2010, the Armenian Bar Association presented a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar titled “Asset Protection: Its Use and Its Pitfalls,” held at Loyola Law School, in Los Angeles, California. Moderated by Ara Babaian (a partner at Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP), the presentation hosted two distinguished speakers – Neal S. Salisian (a partner at Salisian Lee LLP) and John M. Balian (a partner at Balian Law Group). The panel focused on specific asset protection plans from the perspective of a litigator and a trusts/estates/bankruptcy attorney, especially with respect to assets common to all types of clients and income levels such as homes, bank and brokerage accounts, rental real estate, businesses and professional practices, and retirement plans.

Asset protection incorporates methods available to protect assets arising from liabilities. Attendees learned about the proper ways in which they can protect their clients’ assets and shield them from liability, whether through insurance, estate planning or business planning. The panelists also highlighted the improper ways to use asset protection plans, including the use of offshore transactions. As the CLE handouts noted, asset protection is not intended to “hide” assets or to avoid income taxes. Instead, asset protection is about planning, not reacting, and its focus is on prudently protecting a client’s assets. Planning entails risk exposure analysis, followed by plan design, and then the implementation of structures utilizing a variety of legal tools, which depend on business and personal factors.

The presentation also covered the ways in which creditors can recover assets, such as through debt collection, litigation, fraudulent transfer claims, and fraud claims, which may involve the participation of the Internal Revenue Service, the District Attorney’s office and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The program was held in the Robinson Courtroom of Loyola Law School. Due to the extent and depth of questions and discussions, attendees at the program stayed an hour after the program’s end to continue the conversation with the speakers and the moderator.

This CLE program was sponsored by the CLE Committee of the Armenian Bar Association, which sponsors legal seminars for the Association’s members in an effort to promote professional growth.

Business Startup CLE Features Babaian And Eisaian At Phoenicia Restaurant

On September 9, 2010, business attorney Ara Babaian and entrepreneur Al Eisaian discussed topics related to starting a business in the United States and in Armenia. Mr. Babaian, who is a partner at the Beverly Hills law firm of Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP, discussed setting up and managing the growth of a small or mid-sized company, including how to manage relationships with investors and business partners, how to protect a company’s intellectual property, and how to deal with employee issues. Mr. Eisaian, President, CEO and Co-Founder of IconApps, Inc. and Co-Founder and former Executive Chairman of Integrien Corporation, discussed starting businesses in the United States and Armenia from an entrepreneur’s perspective. He stressed the importance of creating opportunities in Armenia, which is a country that boasts a talented and driven workforce.

The presentation was made to members of the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce and the Armenian Bar Association, and was held at Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale, California. Eligible attendees received one and a half hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit.

The Armenian Bar Association is committed to providing its members and the professional community at large a series of educational and high caliber events such as this one. Its March 2010 Professional Networking Event had approximately 300 attorneys, judges and business professionals in attendance. The June 2010 Dinner Reception honoring City of Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian and L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca was attended by over 150 legal professionals and community leaders.

Prior to the presentation, the Hamo Sahyan Scientific-Cultural Center made a special presentation to attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan of the Hamo Sahyan Award, named after the Armenian poet and translator.
Burbank, California - The City of Burbank was aglow on the night of December 4th as approximately 350 guests gathered around a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the center of the Turpanjian Plaza of the newly constructed St. Leon Cathedral. The occasion was the 7th Annual Christmas Ball of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. Guests were greeted and blessed with an Opening Prayer by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Chair of the Christmas Ball, joined in a breathtaking countdown from ten to zero as the tree lights glistened throughout the plaza.

Following this spectacular opening reception, guests were awed by the grandeur of the dazzling decorations as they entered the Nazareth and Sima Kalaydjian Banquet Hall, which had been turned into a Winter Wonderland.

"We are proud that a strong contingent of Armenian Bar members attended the Christmas Ball in support of our Chairman, Edvin Minassian," said Vice-Chairman and former recipient of the award, Garo Ghazarian.

The tradition to honor and recognize the accomplishments of young professional American-Armenian men and women was established by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, and has continued for the past seven years.

Following are the 2010 honorees: Peter Abajian, Philanthropist and Executive Director of the Paros Foundation of Armenia; Harry Balian, M.D., FACC. FSCAI, Interventional Cardiologist; Sonia Boyajian, jewelry designer; Armen Cherik, M.D., MBA, Neurologist; Aida Gharakhani, fashion designer under the name of Nicole Bakti; Arbi Ghazarian, M.D., Family Practitioner; Vatche Mankerian, renowned pianist and composer; Avedis Markarian, Bank Executive; Edvin Minassian, Esq., Chairman, Armenian Bar Association; and Vicken Sonentz-Papazian, Esq., Executive Director, Western Division, Armenian National Committee.

The Primate presented the honorees with Certificates of Recognition and a special artistically carved Khatchkar. The excitement continued with the presentation of a special cake to celebrate the Primate’s Birthday by the Chair; Raffi Kendirjian, and members of the Christmas Ball Committee. Champagne toasts were made and everyone sang a joyous Happy Birthday to the Primate.

Plaudits and congratulations were extended to the Christmas Ball Committee by the Primate for their exemplary service and to Raffi Kendirjian for his effective leadership and direction.

Guests danced the night away to the delightful music of Koko Hayitian and his band.
New Long Beach Courthouse to be Named After Former Governor and Honorary Life Time Member of the Armenian Bar Association Hon. George Deukmejian

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye touted the commencement of construction for a new court facility in Long Beach at a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday as proof of the foresight and effective leadership of the branch.

In what the chief justice said is likely a first in this country, the project is being overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts but financed by a consortium from the private sector. That demonstrates how the judiciary “is always taking innovative leadership ideas and executing them” and willing “to try things in new ways,” she said.

Cantil-Sakauye claimed the “genesis of this project” was the “foresight” of the 2002 Court Facilities Act, which turned over courthouse management to the state, and said she was a “grateful observer” of “the extraordinary leadership that brings this project to bear.”

Her remarks were delivered to an assemblage of several hundred guests including Supreme Court Justices Ming W. Chin and Marvin R. Baxter; Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, Alternate Public Defender Janice Fukai, and about two dozen bench officers.

Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Lee S. Edmon, who served as the master of ceremonies, quipped that the jurists who serve in Long Beach were easily identifiable because they were “the ones with the biggest smiles on their faces.”

Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey told the audience that the project “really demonstrates that the government does work on behalf of the public that it serves” and represented the “potential of what we hope to replicate across California.”

Sen. Alan S. Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, suggested the project was also “a direct repudiation” of the idea that Democrats and Republicans are unable to cooperate, and shows “if we work together with a common purpose, we can do great things.”

Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, called the project “a testament to optimism and all that is best about California.” She has been a recent vocal critic of Vickrey and AOC governance, and unlike the other speakers, did not bestow any praise upon court leaders in her remarks.

All of the speakers, however, commended former Gov. George Deukmejian, in whose honor the courthouse has been named.

Alan Lowenthal said Deukmejian “is truly an idol, and worthy of our respect and our love,” while Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster called him a “man of impeccable capability, integrity and intelligence.”

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe described the former governor as a “respected bridge builder,” whose abilities to bring political factions together had served him well in politics.

KnabeturnedtoDeukmejian, and drew an appreciative laugh from the audience by noting when Deukmejian served as governor, he succeeded Jerry Brown. “I just thought I’d throw that out there,” he said.

After being presented with a framed artist’s rendering of the building, Deukmejian commented that he was “glad it’s a long building, because I have a long name.”

He received a standing ovation from the audience as he took the podium, where he joked he thought “the only two ways to get your name on a building” were to “donate a lot of money” or “be dead.” Deukmejian said he did not have $500 million, as evidenced by the fact that he drives a 15-year old car with “more miles on it than Willie Nelson’s tour bus.”

“I’m not dead either,” he added, “but that could change.”

Deukmejian appeared to grow more somber as he discussed his upbringing as the son of immigrants and how he “came west in search of opportunity” as a young man.

“I never dreamed this day would come,” he said. After 23 years of public service and 83 years of life, Deukmejian suggested, “I can finally say I don’t think they’ll...
Glendale, California - The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar), in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee of Glendale (ANCG) and Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), held their third installment of a free legal clinic at the Glendale Youth Center on October 20, 2010. Despite less than perfect weather, the clinic was attended by a solid number of community members who were able to consult with volunteer attorneys regarding a wide range of legal issues.

“One of the critical public service roles for the Armenian Bar Association is to provide legal counsel and education to the Armenian Community at large. This legal clinic gave us a unique opportunity to provide legal information to individuals on a pro bono basis with the added bonus of working with ANCG and NLS that enabled us to reach a wider audience,” stated ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian. Thanks are in order to the ANCG, NLS, and the numerous attorneys who donated their time to help our community,” said Vicken Simonian, past Chairman of ArmenBar. “Special thanks are in order to Jacklin Boyadjian, Executive Director of ArmenBar, Sarkis Ourfalian, Co-Chair of the ANCG, Elen Asatryan, Executive Director of the ANCG, and Alina Azizian of NLS for their tireless work in organizing the clinic,” said Simonian.

The ArmenBar attorneys included Varoujan Agemian, Benjamin Aydindzhyan, Sarkis Babachanian, Garbis Ekmekjian, Armen Hovannisian, past Chairman of ArmenBar, Raymond Hovsepian, Alice Yardum-Hunter, Saro Kerkonian, Hovanes Margarian, ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian, ANCG Co-Chairman Sarkis Ourfalian, Garo Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law and current ArmenBar Vice-Chairman, Vicken Simonian, Hagop Tashjian, Arek Nizamian, Anahid Oshagan, Marina Manoukian, and Aris Artounians.

A number of volunteers from ArmenBar, the ANCG and NLS, as well as a group of students from Loyola Law School were on hand at the clinic to greet the community members, help them fill out an intake questionnaire, then take them to the appropriate attorney for assistance. Where needed, the volunteers also served as interpreters.

The legal topics covered at the clinic included immigration, landlord/tenant, civil, small claims, family law, workers’ rights, criminal matters, trusts, wills and estates. After the intake process was completed, individuals were assigned to meet with and discuss their issue with an attorney having special expertise in that area of law. The volunteer attorneys offered information and assistance only. Where a referral was requested, an approved list from the Los Angeles County Bar Association and Glendale Bar Association was provided.

Helpful information handouts were also furnished to the community members, including legal information pamphlets in Armenian from NLS and ArmenBar.
Annual Meeting Preview
continued from pg. 1

Justice Minister, and a bevy of talented and dedicated practitioners.”

ArmenBar Honorary Lifetime Member Marvin Baxter, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, will usher in the weekend’s activities on Friday, April 29, 2011, with a personalized tour of the Supreme Court facilities. The Association will then be recognized by the Judicial Council of California which will be in session. The Judicial Council, led by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Associate Justice Baxter, is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. The private luncheon with the Chief Justice in the court complex will cap off the day-time events.

The festivities will kick off on Friday evening at the Marriott Union Square with a welcome reception atop the premier hotel in the heart of the city. The reception—billed as the Bingham Reception—will pay special tribute to champion litigator David Balabanian and his law firm Bingham McCutchen LLP for their pivotal role they have played in protecting Armenian rights and the United States Constitution in American courts. Their pro bono work on behalf of the Armenian Bar Association and the community includes successfully fighting back efforts to remove a Genocide memorial plaque and cross on the Bay Area’s Mount Davidson and preparing exemplary amicus briefs in federal courts from coast to coast in matters dealing with Genocide education and asset recovery.

On Saturday, April 30, 2011, after the Association’s business meeting during which committee reports will be rendered, future plans discussed, and new Board members elected, the first of two expert panels will be assembled. The topic of discussion is entitled “Armenia On The Road To Judicial Independence And Legal Reform” and the panelists will be Professor Ruben Melikyan of Yerevan State University, author and Professor of Journalism Garin K. Hovannisian, and ArmenBar Vice-Chairperson and Professor of Law Garo B. Ghazarian. Each of the panelists is in a unique position to recognize the challenges and accomplishments in Armenia’s legal and judicial systems. Ideas about the Association’s involvement in meeting some of those challenges and being part of the accomplishments will be shared.

The Saturday gala luncheon will be keynoted by Justice Minister Hrayr Tovmasyan, a young, articulate, forward-looking cabinet member of the Republic of Armenia. His presence and participation will be the latest footprint on the highway connecting the Association with Armenia. Over the last 22 years, the Association has hosted at the annual meetings and established professional relations with Armenia’s best, brightest and most deserving, including its Constitutional (Supreme) Court Justices, prosecutors and public defenders, human and civil rights practitioners, and university faculty and students.

The second expert panel on Saturday afternoon is dubbed “A Rose By Any Other Name: The Armenian Genocide’s Legal Significance in Recovery Litigation” and centers on the legal and other consequences, both positive and negative, of anchoring the litigated recovery efforts of Genocide-era assets to the use of the phrase, Armenian Genocide. The discussants will be David Balabanian of Bingham McCutchen LLP, Professor Lee Crawford-Boyd, Steven Dadaian of the Armenian National Committee, Brian Kabateck of Kabateck Brown Kellner LLP, and Harut Sassounian, Publisher of the California Courier and President of the United Armenian Fund. Each of the panelists will offer first-hand experiences and innovative thoughts on the issue.

A fun-filled night is planned for Saturday evening, beginning with a group dinner in Little Italy or China Town and then continuing among the city’s charming and eclectic gathering places. On Sunday, May 1, 2011, after the newly-constituted Board’s first meeting during which the Association’s executive officers will be elected, the bow on the weekend package will be a lovely excursion and luncheon either to Sausalito or Napa Valley.

For further and registration information, please contact Lisa Boyadjian at lisa@ArmenianBar.org or visit www.ArmenianBar.org
Tropicana Conference
continued from pg. 6

The legal remedies discussion was moderated by Yeghiayan and included Bazyler, a Chapman University School of Law professor and Crawford-Boyd. Bazyler is a leading authority on the use of the American and European courts to redress genocide and other historical wrongs.

Boyd is of counsel with the law firm of Howarth & Smith in Los Angeles. She is an adjunct professor at Pepperdine Law School teaching international law, complex litigation and human rights. As a litigation consultant, she specializes in federal court complex cases and international relations.

The panelists discussed the wide array of Genocide aftermath recoveries, including lawsuits against insurance companies, European banks, companies that employed slave labor, museums who hold looted artwork and governments holding improperly seized land. Past and current cases involving Holocaust and Genocide claims were discussed, including legislation to extend the statute of limitations.

Also addressing the audience was Loyola law professor Stan Goldman. Goldman teaches a class at Loyola, with Bazyler, on post-Genocide remedies. He is the faculty advisor to the Loyola Armenian Law Students Association.

The discussion regarding the state of legal affairs involving Armenians in Turkey was delivered by Setrak Davuthan. He is a lawyer for the foundations of the Armenian community in Istanbul. He led the precedent setting legal effort for Armenian Foundations in Istanbul before the European Court of Human Rights, successfully recovering real property seized in 1936 from Samatya Surp (Saint) Kevork Armenian Church Trust and the Surp Pirgic Yedikule Hospital Foundation. Davuthan has represented the community in a diverse number of cases including the rights of Turkish Armenians to elect a new Patriarch and the rights of children of Armenian citizens to attend private schools in Turkey.

He discussed these issues, and the challenges of litigating civil rights cases for minority class citizens of Turkey. Yeghiayan was responsible for initiating, and was lead counsel, in the landmark case of Marootian v. New York Life. The class action lawsuit sought to recover life insurance proceeds relating to victims of the Armenian Genocide. The case resulted in a $20 million dollar settlement, and touched off a series of cases involving recovery of Genocide-related claims. He is currently involved in a case against the Turkish government and two Turkish banks to recover $63 million dollars for land improperly seized from Armenians during the Genocide, including land which is currently occupied by the strategic Incirlik airbase utilized by the U.S. military.

Arda Yemenidjian is the wife of Alex Yemenidjian, the former CEO of MGM Studios and current owner of the Tropicana. Arda is one of the first students of the Ferahian high school in Encino, the first Armenian school in California. She has been involved in the legal field for many years, managing the Law Office of Terenik Koujakian, her brother. She has been involved with a number of Armenian charities and non-profit organizations, donating her time and resources to worthy Armenian causes.

As a Board member of UNICEF, she helped the group focus on helping under-privileged children in Armenia and Lebanon. As a Board member of the Marie Manoogian school, she promoted the highest standards of education. She was honored for her lifelong commitment to public service. ♦
Armenian Bar Honors U.S. Attorney  
*continued from pg. 3*

In September 2009, President Obama appointed Mr. Birotte to the top federal prosecutor post in all of Southern California, whose district includes seven counties, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, and a population that is the largest of any district in the country. For much of the past decade, Mr. Birotte has served in capacities of increasing responsibility in the Los Angeles Police Commission’s Office of Inspector General. Before assuming his administrative duties as Inspector General, Mr. Birotte served as Assistant United States Attorney and as a deputy public defender in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Tufts University and the Pepperdine University School of Law.

The 22nd Annual National Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association is being held from April 29, 2011 to May 1, 2011, at the Marriott Union Square, in San Francisco, California. Among the special attractions will be the attendance and participation of members of the California Supreme Court, including Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Justice Marvin Baxter. This year’s other very special guest will be Hrair Tovmasyan, the Justice Minister of the Republic of Armenia. Last year’s annual national meeting which was held in Chicago drew an affluent audience of lawyers and jurists and the 22nd Annual National Meeting in San Francisco will continue that high standard.

L-R: John Lulejian, Nigol Manoukian, Vicken Simonian, Chairman Edvin Minassian, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, U.S. Attorney André Birotte Jr., Vice Chair Garo Ghazarian, Hovanes Margarian, and Judge Zaven V. Sinanian

L-R: Vice Chair Garo Ghazarian, Chairman Edvin Minassian, Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Judge Kevin Brazile
Mid-Year Providence  
*continued from pg. 2*

form and the recently-enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAXA). He addressed selected aspects of the health reform legislation including regulations affecting health insurance coverage mandate, eligibility for medicaid and social security disability benefits, access to care and licensing and discipline of medical professionals. Garry Giragosian, the Rhode Island General Assembly’s legal counsel, then provided insights into the prospective impact the PPACA will have on state governments and their employees, and spoke about social security and disability issues.

Another panel discussion was devoted to social medial landmines and the legal implications of social networking. Kathryn Ossian, a member of ArmenBar’s Board of Governors and a principal at the law firm of Miller Canfield in Detroit, addressed a number of issues related to this emerging technology, including intangible property rights, privacy rights, employment matters, defamation, and, not unexpectedly, criminal behavior. Ms. Ossian has extensive experience in negotiating and drafting software licensing agreements, distribution and maintenance agreements and other information technology agreements, as well as in computer law, advising clients in internet law and intellectual property dispute resolution.

After the completion of the Mid-Year Meeting’s professional continuing-education component, many of the participants attended the closing dinner at the Waterman Grille, followed by the signature event in Providence—“Waterfire”-- a sound and light production during which a hundred fires illuminated the city’s rivers and bridges while music, including Armenian music, was played over loudspeakers to the awestruck public. Approximately 40,000 people attended the Waterfire event.

Providence is also home to two major memorials to the Armenian people. The Armenian Heritage Park, founded 15 years ago and located on public grounds within the city limits, is dedicated to “our forefathers who searched for freedom and human dignity wherever Armenian is spoken or written Armenia lives.” The monument, a free-standing inscription stone elevated on circular steps, was donated by Providence’s Armenian family. The stone’s location is designated Armenian Heritage Park.

The Armenian Martyrs’ Memorial Monument, located in Providence’s North Burial Grounds, is dedicated to “the 1,500,000 Armenian martyrs massacred by the Turkish government during the 1915 genocide.” The memorial, which was sponsored by the American-Armenian community of Rhode Island, was dedicated in 1919. It consists of a domed arch, flanked by two inscription stones.

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WARWICK — The new chief judge of Rhode Island’s Family Court, a daughter of Armenian immigrants who grew up in Cranston, graduated from Brown University and later sat on the bench for three decades, took her oath from Governor Carcieri Friday December 17, 2010 at Warwick City Hall.

Her name, Haiganush R. Bedrosian, provided a rhetorical tool to more than one of the people who spoke at the event, addressing a large group of friends, family, professional colleagues and state officials.

“The word Haiganush when translated means ‘sweet Armenian woman’ and nothing could be more true today,” Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian said when he welcomed the crowd. Bedrosian, a former school teacher, became the first woman to serve on the Family Court bench and she is the first woman to lead the court.

During her remarks, she promised to carry out new reforms to bring greater efficiency to the court system. She recited some of Robert Frost’s poetry and she also quoted her parents. Her mother and her father, she said, had found refuge in Edgewood after fleeing their homeland to escape the “terrors of the time,” a reference to the genocide and persecution of Armenians early in the 20th century.

“This is America,” they told her. “Follow your dreams. In America all things are possible.”

Bedrosian studied hard, graduated from Cranston High School East and received a bachelor of arts degree from Pembroke College, the former women’s school of Brown University. She earned her law degree from Suffolk University Law School.

She worked as a prosecutor and later in a practice specializing in family law. She was appointed to the bench in 1980. Bedrosian has served as the Family Court’s acting chief judge since the retirement of Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. in late June. Bedrosian, a Warwick resident and longtime friend of Avedisian, said that the recent renovation of the city’s council chambers had provided a nice setting for the event. All 480 seats in the chambers were occupied.

“It takes a special jurist to serve successfully in the Family Court,” said Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, D-Newport.

Firm but compassionate, she said. Tough-minded but kind-hearted, she added. Bedrosian has already provided such qualities during her many years in the system, she said.

House Speaker Gordon D. Fox, D-Providence, also characterized Bedrosian as a sweet Armenian woman and said she does her job “with a grace and steely determination to get to the facts.”

Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell said that he served with Bedrosian during 13 of her 30 years in Family Court. He vividly described what he referred to as the “emotional strain” of the job, saying that doing it correctly typically means that none of the parties will be happy. He, too, agreed with the suggestion that Bedrosian’s first name aptly describes her personality.

“I think that fits you very well,” Suttell said, shortly before he kissed Bedrosian on the cheek.

Councilman Paul Krekorian and Judge Tim McCoy Honored

Numerous public officials, judges and dignitaries were among the 200 in attendance. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges in attendance included Kevin Brazile, Sousan Bruguera, Gregory Keosian, Ruth Kwan, Mark Mooney, Fred Rotenberg and ArmenBar past Chairman Zaven Sinanian. Brazile and Sinanian are on the Board of the California Judges Association, in which Brazile currently serves as Vice-Chairman. Rotenberg is the site Supervising Judge Of the Glendale Courthouse.

“We will continue to honor those individuals who have distinguished themselves by serving our community,” said Minassian.
Armen Hovannisian  
*continued from pg. 10*

the Armenian Bar, who along with Saro Kerkonian and a small group of dedicated lawyers, oversaw the Armenian Bar's evolution into a formidable and highly influential network of lawyers and judges. “Armen has attended every meeting, participated in every pro bono activity, and has both organized and lectured at countless legal seminars. He is a tireless worker for the Armenian community who is blind to petty differences between political and social groups.”

For this reason, perhaps, Armen has come into a new role of late. He has presided over community events across the country, and established himself—unwittingly—as the definitive spokesman for Armenian unity and pride. Those thousands who attended the unified community requiem and remembrance program dedicated to Hrant Dink at the Glendale Civic Auditorium in March 2007, for example, were left in awe and wonder over the mesmerizing master of ceremonies: the startling power of his character, the depth and elegance of his patriotism. An extraordinary leader had been revealed to them.

Of course this came as no surprise to friends and colleagues in the Armenian Bar Association.

“Armen has been and continues to be the confidant to all, the center and clearinghouse of ideas and issues,” said Judge Zaven Sinanian. “He is the resident historian and the backbone of the Armenian Bar; and he has a keen understanding of the diaspora community and its relationship to Armenia.”

Indeed it is under Armen’s leadership that the Armenian Bar Assocation has become increasingly active in the development of the law in the homeland. More and more often in the past few years, members of ArmenBar have been deployed to Yerevan on mission to nurture ties with both private and public organizations of Armenian jurisprudence.

As it happened, the latest such mission was organized to monitor the civil rights violations committed against Armen’s brother, who—as of this writing—was still on his bench at Liberty Square.

Soon Armenian Bar’s Vice Chair Garo Ghazarian would arrive in the capital—he would support his friend and raise fundamental issues of international convention and law in meetings with the Chief of Police, the Minister of Justice, and the Ombudsman—but for now Raffi Hovannisian was years and hemispheres away from the life he had left behind. He was shaking hands and giving interviews and exchanging promises with the tens of thousands of citizens who were pouring into Liberty Square to visit him. And in odd moments, he was reflecting on his brother and the organization they built together.

“Armen has taken the shadow seat,” Raffi said, smiling in the sunlight. “But he has been the engine and I the mere technician at the steering wheel.”

Long Beach Courthouse  
*continued from pg. 13*

summon me for jury duty.”

Edmon, however, quickly dissuaded him of this idea, telling Deukmejian:

“Sorry, we summon everybody.”

In addition to such levity, the ceremony was also punctuated by strong gusts of wind, which prompted Foster, Knabe and Alan Lowenthal to leave their seats on the dais to hold onto poles supporting the tent where the festivities were taking place at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Third Street in downtown Long Beach.

The six-acre site is slated to be developed with a 31-courtroom, 650,000 square foot court facility, targeted for occupancy in 2013. This new building will replace the current courthouse, which was built in 1959 and suffers from “fundamental flaws,” overcrowding, dilapidation and a failure to meet accessibility requirements,” according to an AOC release.

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Reprinted in its entirety from the Metropolitan News Press  
By SHERRI M. OKAMOTO  
Friday, April 8, 2011
Federal Court Ruling  
*continued from pg. 9*

against the legislature’s use of the term “Armenian Genocide.”

Attorney General, now current Governor, Edmund Gerry Brown Jr. led an amicus brief on behalf of the State of California arguing that the court’s interpretation of conflict preemption under the foreign affairs doctrine was unprecedented and overly-expansive and that it was improper to hold that the mere words used in a state statute may invalidate the statute under principles of preemption. Congressman Adam B. Schiff filed his own amicus brief and further clarified the lack of congressional or executive branch actions to preempt state action on insurance claims or statutes of limitations relating to claims arising from the loss of Armenian lives and property from 1875-1923. The amicus brief of human rights organizations EarthRights International and the Center for Constitutional Rights presented additional arguments advancing the contention that mere lack of consistent use of the term “Armenian Genocide” by the federal government does not constitute sufficient grounds to claim the existence of a federal policy against use of the term.

On September 23, 2009, in the aftermath of the decision declaring the California statute invalid, the Armenian Bar Association held a town hall community forum on this issue. Harut Sassouanian, publisher of the California Courier, moderated the discussion between Mark Geragos (plaintiffs’ counsel), Steve Dadaian (ANCA and Armenian Bar attorney) and Seto Boyadjian (ANCA National Board). Through these types of efforts the public has remained informed and engaged in the process.

Nearly sixteen months after the initial negative court ruling on the matter, the diligent efforts and collaboration of the plaintiffs’ counsel and the amici curiae resulted in the December 10, 2010 positive court decision. The defendant insurance company may now try to persuade the entire Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case or request the U.S. Supreme Court to review it. Otherwise, the case will proceed and the plaintiffs will have the opportunity to obtain redress for their claims against the defendants.

This marks the latest success achieved as a result of collaboration among leading Armenian organizations, truth-seeking friends of the Armenian community and advocates of humanity.

“While these cases are litigated on an individual level and do not speak for all Armenians everywhere, the stakes are high for so many of us. When the time comes, we must, do and will continue to remain united. The Armenian Bar Association intends to help assure the proper legal course in these matters in light of its being the legal and non-partisan entity for all Armenians,” stated Chairman Minassian.

“We will continue our collaborative efforts with all attorneys and entities in the common cause of achieving recognition of and reparations for the Armenian Genocide,” stated Armenian BarBrings On The Holiday Cheer

The Armenian Bar Association celebrated the Christmas season at the legendary Sidebar in Glendale, California, with nearly 100 members and friends in attendance. It was a wonderful night, with a steady stream of high spirits and warm exchanges shared by so many energized and eclectic people. Joyful laughs and pleasant discussions filled the place to capacity.

“In addition to the serious work undertaken by the Association in the name and interests of Armenian communities worldwide, it is important for us also to share in fun-filled and social get-togethers,” stated ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian. He was particularly pleased at the great number of young professionals in attendance.

With the New Year around the corner, the members of the Armenian Bar raised their glasses toasting to the success of 2010 and to the promise that 2011 would be even more fruitful. ♦

ArmenBar members and friends at Sidebar Christmas Party
Message from the Chairman

continued from pg. 1

took place on October 9, 2010. It would not have been possible without the efforts of our Vice Chair Christine Engustian to whom I and the Board are grateful for undertaking the leadership needed to organize an exemplary program. We had great speakers and panelists, including but not limited to the Attorney General of Rhode Island, Scott Avedisian, the Mayor of Warwick, Matt Bogoshian, a top official with the Enforcement Unit of the EPA, Jeff Masardjian of the Armenian Tree Project, our very own Kathryn Ossian (a top-notch expert in intellectual property law who lectured on the legal implications of social networking), Michael Varadian, Executive Director of the Department of Health in Rhode Island, Gary Giragosian, Legal Counsel to the State General Assembly, and our pride and joy, the Honorable Haiganoush Bedrosian, Chief Judge of the Family Court of Rhode Island. In addition to Christine Engustian, I must thank our ex-officio, Sonya Nersessian, for her crucial support and assistance in securing some of the great speakers we were able to attract. It is also appropriate to mention here that Sonya Nersessian, our Immediate Past Chair has been there every time we needed her during this year. I will also remain grateful for her enthusiasm and support. I consider myself lucky to have her as our ex-officio.

I am just as lucky and privileged to work with my Vice Chair Garo Ghazarian whose energy and relentless pursuit of every project that involved the mission of the Armenian Bar Association and the civil rights of Armenians anywhere is legendary. Led by his efforts, we tackled numerous civil rights issues in the City of Glendale and actually achieved correction of some potentially discriminatory policies and procedures. Garo also served as the truly masterful Master of Ceremonies during several of our major events including the honoring of Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian on June 24, 2010. Garo also shined big and bright during the reception/dinner honoring Los Angeles City Councilman (first Armenian ever) Paul Krekorian and the outgoing Presiding Judge of the LA Superior Court, Charles McCoy, Jr. on November 18, 2010, before a capacity crowd comprised of Armenian lawyers, guests from other ethnic bar associations (including our great friends from the Mexican American Bar Association, MABA), as well as many judges from the Superior Court. Garo Ghazarian serves on the MABA-PAC Board and we have also improved our engagement and interactions with other bar associations by attending their annual dinners and other functions.

Garo Ghazarian also served as the Master of Ceremonies during the standing-room only dinner reception we held honoring U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, André Birotte, Jr. It is my pleasure to thank our Board member and Asst. U.S. Attorney John Lulejian for playing a key role in organizing the event, along with Asst. U.S. Attorney and our CLE Committee member Tamar Kouyoumjian. As with all Armenian Bar events that take place in Southern California, I must thank Board member Hovanes Margarian for his critical assistance and organizational skills. The event had great coverage in the press and Mr. Birotte expressed genuine pleasure at being invited. He gave a very warm speech and we look forward to a productive relationship. During my speech, I addressed Mr. Birotte and expressed my confidence that he would be an ally in the ongoing fight to eradicate discrimination and ethnic prejudice towards Armenians. This event was attended by 200-plus attorneys and judges, as well as media representatives.

Keeping in mind that one of our key charitable objectives involves scholarships awarded to highly-qualified students of the law, our Scholarship Committee led by Christine Engustian and the Hon. Amy Hoogasian was hard at work. They selected outstanding students for scholarships that we have awarded.

While we can always improve on it, our treasury is in good shape thanks to the prudent stewardship of our Treasurer Sara Bedirian and Assistant Treasurer Vicken Simonian.

I must thank our new Executive Director Jacklin Boyadjian for her dynamic and energetic work on behalf of our organization and Administrative Assistant Lisa Boyadjian for continuing to serve with diligence and superb competence.

As part of our pro bono program, we teamed up with two organizations, the Armenian National Committee and Neighborhood Legal Services, to hold three free legal clinics during the year. Over twenty attorneys volunteered their time at each clinic, where several hundred Armenian community members benefited from the legal information that was provided to them. The reach of our organization, however, extended even farther as our members, including Messrs. Ghazarian, Hovannisian, Kerkonian, Simonian, Margarian and I, as well as Ms. Boyadjian, appeared on Armenian television programs, both in-studio and on location, which were broadcast locally and worldwide. In addition, our involvement in community activities and programs was widely reported in domestic and foreign press publications and broadcasts.

Consistent with our philosophy to team up with diverse organizations within the Armenian community, we look forward to the joint event with AGBU-YP that shall take place on

See Chair’s Message, pg. 23
Chair’s Message
continued from pg. 22

May 19, 2011, in Pasadena, involving networking and a discussion regarding the juris doctorate degree. Through the efforts of Denise Darmanian, a joint dinner with the Armenian Bar and the AAHPO (Armenian American Health Professionals Organization) will be held on June 3, 2011, in New York City, which I look forward to attending. We have also visited with and offered our counsel and services when necessary to the Primate and Prelate of the Armenian Church in Western United States, Archbishops Hovnan Derderian and Moushegh Mardorian, respectively.

We also joined with the ANC to provide our community with information regarding the status of the litigation that is pending before the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. I had the honor to speak on behalf of the Armenian Bar, whose efforts were led by David Balabanian and his law firm Bingham McCutchen. It was a very lively session and members of the community were provided with extensive information regarding the current status and background of the case. The Armenian Bar has also played a key role through its amicus briefs in the Griswold case which was resolved in favor of the Armenian position in an opinion issued by the Retired Supreme Court Justice David Souter, sitting by assignment with the First Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals. We are grateful to Mark Fleming who led our legal team as well as our ex-officio Sonya Nersessian for these results. Our Rights Watch Committee Chair Saro Kerkonian will provide further detail regarding these legal cases. I must mention that there has been a significant increase in litigation that is directly and indirectly related to the Armenian Genocide. The battles will continue and are getting more intense.

Our Board is greatly concerned and continue and are getting more intense. The battles will continue and are getting more intense. Our Rights Watch Committee Saro Kerkonian will provide further detail regarding these legal cases. I must mention that there has been a significant increase in litigation that is directly and indirectly related to the Armenian Genocide. The battles will continue and are getting more intense.

Our Continuing Legal Education Chair Ara Babaian has organized several important legal seminars, centering on legal issues involved in business formations, tax planning, asset protection and litigation featuring specialists in those fields. We are making a great effort to serve a broader segment of our membership by diversifying legal subject matters. More CLE events are planned and the committee has been expanded.

During the month of September, I was joined by Vice Chair Garo Ghazarian as well as Past Chairs Armen K. Hovannisian and Hon. Zaven Sinanian in a visit to Armenia. We had the honor and the privilege to be welcomed by the founder of the Armenian Bar Association, Rafii K. Hovannisian, minority leader of Armenia’s Parliament. We then had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Chief Justice Gagik Haroutounian and had a very productive dialogue at Armenia’s Supreme Court. Mr. Ghazarian, a prominent criminal defense attorney, also lectured to law students at Yerevan State University. I also had meeting with the ABA/CEELI program representatives and established a good working relationship with Chairman Ruben Sahakyan of the Chamber of Advocates. Recently, Garo Ghazarian made a second trip to Armenia as part of our efforts to ensure recognition of civil rights and civil liberties, including freedom of expression for all citizens when he joined Rafii K. Hovannisian during Rafii’s 15-day Freedom Fast which took place in Liberty Square. Mr. Ghazarian engaged in significant meetings with the Republic of Armenia’s highest echelons of government, including with the Chief of Staff of the President, the Justice Minister, the Ombudsman, the Senior Advisor to the Speaker of Parliament, the United States Ambassador, the Chief of Police, Members of Parliament and, most importantly, with thousands of Armenia’s proud citizens. You can get more information regarding those efforts and the position of the Armenian Bar on our website.

Assisting efforts to combat domestic violence in Armenia has been a top priority of my administration. We have joined with prominent Armenian organizations such as the Tufenkian Foundation, AIWA, AYF and others in that crucial endeavor. Drafting of key legislation, training of prosecutors and responsive law enforcement are areas where the Armenian Bar will make a key contribution, while shelters, job training programs, childcare and financial assistance will be provided by our partners. I had the honor to be selected as the Chairman of the group as I represent the Armenian Bar, while Sonya Nersessian has been making efforts on the East Coast that will support the overall effort.

We held a special meeting in Las Vegas during the Martin Luther King weekend in January. Once again, superb legal panels were presented to our attending members along with CLE credits. The legal topics included the legal remedies available for the great dispossession of property during the Genocide and the current legal rights and issues of concern to Armenians in Turkey. The organization also honored veteran attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan by bestowing on him the highest honor we can, the Lifetime Achievement Award. We were also inspired by the powerful speech given by our founder, Rafii K. Hovannisian, during the luncheon during which we also honored Arda Yemenidjian with our Service to the Community Award.

This year has been a busy and challenging one. Thanks to the outpouring of support from our membership and high quality of

See Chair’s Message, pg. 24
Chair’s Message

committed Board members, we have been able to achieve some of our objectives. We would like to think of ourselves as the legal counsel to the Armenian Nation, as if its constituents were the shareholders of a corporation. We take that self-imposed duty seriously and, as Chairman, I am committed to our neutral but effective leadership role in the legal field when it comes to matters of importance to Armenians. We would like this to continue into the future and we work on identifying the Armenian Bar’s next generation of leadership. It is with that in mind that we have set up the 20 Best Armenian Lawyers under 40 Award. Please check our website for further information regarding that program.

We have every reason to feel proud of our past and present and look forward to the future when we continue to define ourselves with a commitment to excellence, further increase our membership and strengthen the financial foundations for our vital programs. We hope that you will join us in these efforts and look forward to seeing you all in San Francisco during our Annual Meeting from April 29-May 1, 2011.

Sincerely,
Edvin Minassian,
Chairman ♦

Report From Vice Chairman in Armenia

On March 15, 2011, Raffi K. Hovannisian—the founder of the Armenian Bar Association, the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and a current member of Armenia’s Parliament—began what has become known as the “Freedom Fast” which is aimed at bringing awareness to the serious challenges faced by Armenia’s citizens in their enjoyment of democratic rights. Mr. Hovannisian has continued, peacefully and uninterruptedly, the Freedom Fast in Yerevan’s Liberty Square for two weeks during which a major cross-section of society has come out to express their support and solidarity. Until this week, however, both the citizens’ rights to public access and assembly and their freedom of expression, as well as Mr. Hovannisian’s basic rights to humanitarian treatment, had been compromised. In response to these conditions, on March 19, 2011, the Armenian Bar Association’s Board of Governors unanimously approved the release of a statement on human and civil rights in Armenia, which was widely reported and published in various media outlets. A copy of that statement is attached.

On March 26, 2011, Vice-Chair of the Armenian Bar Association, Garo B. Ghazarian, arrived in Yerevan where he has met with Mr. Hovannisian, in addition to one-on-one meetings with the Chief of Staff of the Armenian President, Armenia’s Justice Minister, Yerevan’s Police Chief, and other high-ranking members of Armenia’s government. Hours ago, Mr. Ghazarian met with U.S. Ambassador Marie Jovanovich to discuss the current state of affairs. Below, for your information, are Mr. Ghazarian’s written reflections of his first few hours in Yerevan.

It is 3:30am Sunday morning in Armenia, March 27, 2011.

I am in Armenia.

I am with Raffi K. Hovannisian.

I am with his son and the mother of his children, Armine, the angel of the needy, the less fortunate, and the disadvantaged and disenfranchised in Armenia.

I am with the scores of people who are here in the cold... and trust me, it’s cold... singing nationalistic songs.

I was greeted by Armenian authority personnel, who treated me like I was, a VIP. Personally, I would’ve preferred a modest tent for Raffi 12 days ago, rather than my reception this evening.

I asked, and my request to be taken directly to Raffi was respected and complied with. I was energized as I was greeted by Raffi’s son, Garin, who assured me that Raffi was okay.

We walked the short distance from the Opera House to the backside of the circular building, where Raffi, in my presence, completed his 12th day of continuous and uninterrupted vigil, the Freedom Fast - Hunger Strike.

There is a tremendous lump in my throat. It's been there since I walked up to him... he standing to

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Vice Chair’s Report  
*continued from pg. 24*

greet me, we hugging one another, I not letting go... mostly because I do not want the moment to end, and partly because I am filled with a rush like no other; and I am fighting to suppress the tears. I am for the first time in my memory, indeed in my entire life, filled with emotions, eyes welled up with tears, and I feel as though I now truly know, that my moment is not lost in time. It is a long, strong, and a “belonging” moment...belonging to something sacred. Next to a living legend, I am a witness to history in the making.

A human being like this doesn’t come around in a generation or two. No, it doesn’t. We are so very fortunate to have Raffi. We really do not know how fortunate we truly are. This man, when even noble mottos such as “Partsratseeer, partsratsour” drive Armenian boy and girl scouts throughout the world, moves with a motto best described with one word, “Partsratsour.”

I have never met someone who not only treats all with respect, but makes each and every one he comes into contact with (and I sat there on that bench, to his left, arm in arm, and witnessed old, young, children and teenagers come up to him, and he was just superb to each of them) feel as though they are his equal, and then some.

I am reminded of our dear Zaven’s [Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Zaven Sinanian] own journey to be with Raffi in the Foreign Ministry 20 years ago, and it makes me that much more proud of Zaven, especially since his journey wasn’t for days, rather for many months.

It is surreal. We walked, he and I together, so that I may use the restroom. I used the restroom. Yet, as I took my time, and though he could have walked back to his bench with Garin who had followed us, I exited the restroom to find him standing there, with an eye at the door, waiting for my return, so that we may walk together back to the crowd. The walk back was not without the supporters along the way, the well-wishers, the advice-givers, and those who offered their willingness to help. Raffi wished them all to be well, to think wisely, and to be supportive merely by being true to themselves and to their true ideals.

By now I am tired. The journey has been a long one for me. It puts into perspective Raffi’s sacrifice. It is the beginning of day 13 for Raffi. It is 290 + hours since he last ate, and he spent the first 240 + hours with no shelter; sleeping on a metal bench, a narrow bench, in far colder weather than tonight. As for tonight, it was tolerable at first, but after about an hour, it was not. In fact, it was unbearable. That’s when one begins to sense what it must be like to endure 290 + hours, not just under the open sky, but also with the seemingly never-ending arrivals of people. Strangers and others just keep on coming.

I am now sitting on the kitchen table on the third floor of a building, in Garin’s apartment. I’m overlooking the Opera House about 100 yards away, behind which, in Liberty Square, Raffi retired for the evening, after an ambulance came by and checked him out with what I take issue with... specifically, a symbolic check up, which I hope is replaced with a far more comprehensive one real soon.

I have come from far away to be with Raffi. Yet, at this moment, 100 + yards away, in the comfort of all the amenities surrounding me in this apartment, I think I need to narrow the gap by 99 ½ yards, and return to Liberty Square.

So, I shall take a shower (a luxury Raffi has deprived himself of), and shall return to “Mr. Liberty” at Liberty Square, which I’ve already renamed “Raffi’s Place.”

It is a cause which is so simple, yet made so complicated by some. Sometimes the answers to serious issues are indeed simple. I bid you a good Saturday night in Los Angeles, and do so by sharing with you the Serenity Prayer:

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” I hope each of us has a sliver of the courage to change the things that we can individually, and much more collectively. But, for a collective to be formed, multiple persons must first answer the call for action.

There can be no spring with one flower, nor an army with one soldier. May we each come to know our respective path, just like Raffi has known, walked, and continues to walk his path.

Garo Barkev Ghazarian ♦
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We appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

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Thank you for all of the wonderful work you do for the Armenian community.
We appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

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COMMITTEES

Armenia Programs
The Armenia Programs Committee, formed in 1991 in response to the newly-gained independence of Armenia, coordinates the efforts of the Association and its members regarding legal projects in Armenia. The Association has sponsored seminars and conferences designed to facilitate legal reform and to develop the legal practice in Armenia. Many of our members have enjoyed working visits with judges, law students, legal institutions and parliamentarians to help promote the rule of law.

Chair - Vahan Bournazian
T: 374-10-51-27-55, E: bournazian@aua.am

Armenian Rights Watch
The Armenian Rights Watch Committee monitors and investigates human rights abuses against Armenians in the Armenian Republic, the Diaspora, and in the host countries.

Chair - Sarah K. Korkonian
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Continuing Legal Education
The Continuing Legal Education Committee sponsors legal seminars for the Association’s members in an effort to promote professional growth.

Chair - Ara A. Babain
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Grants
The Grants Committee seeks and applies for governmental and privately-endowed grants to fund its activities, such as the rule of law projects in Armenia, domestic legal assistance programs and exchange programs. The Grants Committee raises funds to support meritorious students of Armenian descent attending, or accepted for admission to, an approved law school in the United States, Armenia or elsewhere.

Chair - Christine J. Engustian
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Membership Development
The Membership Development Committee reaches out to potential members by keeping the multitude of individuals joining the legal profession informed of the Association’s agenda. The committee also implements programs and activities to channel the interests of existing members.

Nominations Committee Co-Chairs
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Social Media
The purpose of the Social Media Committee is to maintain current information on the Armenian Bar Association Website and expand the site’s usefulness to members.

Editor - Hon. Amy Hoogasian

Newsletter
The Association’s Newsletter Committee publishes the Newsletter, which apprises members of the Association’s activities and informs them of events in the Armenian world community which warrant the Association’s attention. It also features articles of human interest. The Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis.

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Pro Bono
The Pro Bono Committee facilitates access to basic legal services for those in need and apprises Armenian immigrants of their rights and responsibilities. The committee maintains close working relationships with prominent legal and social service agencies, and state bar associations.

Student Affairs
The Student Relations Committee cultivates and helps advance the careers of law students by offering periodic seminars and lectures, and by involving law students in the Association and its activities.

Co-Chairs
Vicken I. Simonian & Garo B. Ghazarian

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The purpose of the Resource Development/Fundraising Committee is to establish a structure for effective fundraising for the organization, evaluating the organization’s future financial needs and goals; creating a long-range fundraising plan and updating it yearly; instituting a public-relations program; reporting to foundations or large donors on specific projects; and visiting major donors.

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☐ Armenian Rights Watch ☐ Grants ☐ Newsletter ☐ Student Affairs ☐ Scholarship

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Type of Practice - Limit 1 - Please Circle - Law Firm - Government - In-House

The Armenian Bar Association is an I.R.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
AIMS AND STRUCTURE

The Armenian Bar Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, formed in 1989 to enable attorneys of Armenian heritage 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
- Newsletter
- Membership Directory
- Amicus Curiae Submission on Issues of Interest
- Topical and Regional Practice Groups
- Cooperation with other bar associations and lawyers’ societies

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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.

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