



# ARMENIAN BAR

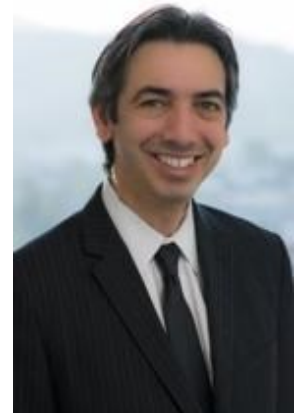
Armenian Bar Association NY/NJ/CT Chapter Post

December 2017

## Message from the Chairman: Saro K. Kerkonian

At the inaugural retreat of the Armenian Bar Association's Board of Governors held in Palm Springs in 2016, after very careful consideration, Board members decided to establish the organization's first regional chapter in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut region.

Our past chairman and veteran board member, Gary Moomjian, assured his colleagues on the Board during the meeting that establishment of a chapter in the tri-state area would promote enthusiasm and build momentum for the organization on the East Coast. Gary's predictions couldn't have been more accurate. Since the establishment of the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut chapter, the Armenian Bar Association has seen a dramatic rise in the number of activities taking place in New York and this year we had our first chapter event in our history in New Jersey when a summer mixer was held in Hoboken. **(Continued on page 2)**



Armenian Bar Association Chairman: Saro K. Kerkonian

## Meet the Chapter Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Denise Darmanian, Co-Chair - *Gallo & Darmanian, Esqs., Partner*

Gary Moomjian, Co-Chair - *Moomjian, Waite & Coleman, LLP, Partner*

Souren Israelyan, Vice-Chair - *Law Office of Souren Israelyan, Principal*

Scott Ohnegian, Vice-Chair - *Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland Perretti, Partner*



## In This Issue

- Message from the Chairman
- Souren Israelyan obtains \$19 million verdict in Queens
- Message from NY/NJ/CT Co-Chair
- Member Accomplishment
- Recent Events
- Young Attorney Spotlight

ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION



First Issue: December 2017



**February 21, 2017 NY/NJ/CT Chapter Launch**  
**Top row from left to right: Malvina Marirosyan, John Halebian, Arsineh Kazazian, Yelena Nersesyan, Scott Ohnegian (Vice-Chair), Grant Petrosyan**  
**Bottom row from left to right: Denise Darmanian (Co-Chair), Gary Moomjian (Co-Chair), Souren Israelyan (Vice-Chair)**

**Message from the Chairman (Continued)**

Just four weeks ago in Manhattan, we held our first joint event with the Armenians in Banking and Finance as well. With the rise of activities on the East Coast, we have also seen a steady rise of new members in the region. At the initiative of NY/NJ/CT chapter Board member, Grant Petrosyan, the Armenian Bar Association’s Board of Governors unanimously established a Young Lawyers’ Committee, for attorneys under the age of 40 or in practice less than 5 years. With hundreds of Armenian law students across the country soon to join the ranks of members of the bar, the Young Lawyers’ Committee will have a vital role in the future of our organization.

To complement all of these activities in the NY/NJ/CT region, chapter member, Steve Gokberk, leading by example, took on the task of enhancing communication to chapter members by preparing this first edition of the East Coast Post. This publication will serve several important purposes for our organization: It will provide articles highlighting recent activities which have taken place in the NY/NJ/CT chapter. It will provide a forum where members can learn of the significant achievements of chapter members. It will also serve as a resource for members to find out about future events. This new feature of the Armenian Bar Association will be integrated into the organization-wide newsletter, so all ArmenBar members can be kept abreast of the good work of our members across the nation.

I hope you will enjoy the first edition of the East Coast Post and welcome your proposed submissions to the editorial board. I wish to congratulate Steve, Gary and Denise for their outstanding work in making this bulletin a reality. We look forward to this periodical becoming a regular tradition for years to come.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Gary Moomjian and Denise Darmanian, co-chairs of the NY/NJ/CT chapter, for their outstanding work invigorating attorneys of the tri-state region to further their participation and take leadership roles within the Armenian Bar Association. It is a pleasure and honor to be working together with two pillars of the Armenian Bar Association toward fulfillment of the organization’s mission.

**Recent Events**

**Member Accomplishment: Gary Moomjian and Tamar Donikyan**

Lakeland Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq: LAKE) completed a \$10,005,000 public offering in August 2017 underwritten by Roth Capital Partners, LLC and Craig-Hallum Capital Group LLC. Lakeland was represented by Moomjian, Waite & Coleman, LLP, of which Gary Moomjian, co-chair of our Chapter, is a partner. The underwriters were represented by Ellenoff Grossman & Schole LLP, of which Tamar Donikyan, an active Chapter member, is a partner.

**Armenian Bar Association and Armenians in Banking & Finance Hold Social Mixer**

On November 2, 2017, the Armenian Bar Association and Armenians in Banking & Finance (ABF) held a cocktail reception at Byblos Restaurant in Manhattan. About 100 attendees from both the legal and financial communities enjoyed an evening of food and drink while getting to know each other.



**Armenian Bar/ABF Mixer: From left to right: Gary Moomjian; Judy Moomjian; Harry Dikranian; Denise Darmanian; Armen Khajetoorian; Irina Hovhannisyann**

## **Volunteers Needed**

The Armenian Bar Association is looking for volunteers to assist in a number of different committees! The following are looking for participation:

[Genocide Reparations Committee](#)

[Rights Watch](#)

[Continuing Legal Education](#)

[Development/Fundraising](#)

[Grants & Scholarship](#)

[Membership Development](#)

[National Newsletter](#)

[Pro Bono](#)

[Social Media Committee](#)

[Student Affairs](#)

The contact information for joining can be accessed through the hyperlink:

<https://armenianbar.org/committees/>



Souren Israelyan

## **Chapter Vice-Chair Obtains \$19,000,000 Verdict**

Souren A. Israelyan, vice-chair of the NY/NJ/CT Chapter of the Armenian Bar Association, achieved a verdict on liability in favor of plaintiff Judy Zhou and against defendant Tuxedo Ridge, LLC. The jury found the defendant 100% liable for the accident and, on the damages portion of the trial, entered a verdict in the amount of \$19,000,000. Souren's victory was the "Featured Verdict" in the ALM's New York Verdict Search and was included in the New York Law Journal in October 2017.

In *Zhou v. Tuxedo Ridge, LLC*, 9 year old infant plaintiff Judy Zhou, was in a ski resort with her mother for the second time in her life. She was a beginner skier and she went to ski on the Bunny Hill slope. As she was coming down the hill she hit white plumbing PVC pipe that the ski resort placed on the skiable area for a corral line leading to the chairlift. She did not see the pipe which blended into the white snow. As a result, Judy suffered a displaced fracture of her femur at the growth plate, requiring open reduction internal fixation surgery. While the surgery was successful, half of the growth plate died causing leg shortening and angulation, tilting of her pelvis and scoliosis of her spine. She suffered axial skeletal deformity.

Souren A. Israelyan is not a newcomer to large and record-breaking verdicts. Nine of his verdicts have been featured in Top New York Verdicts over the past seven years, and he is a life member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Half of Mr. Israelyan's cases are referrals from other attorneys. "Every case has the potential to make the world a little better place, and I end up fighting for it every time," says Mr. Israelyan.

## **Message from NY/NJ/CT Chapter Co-Chair: Denise Darmanian**

A hearty welcome one and all to the inaugural issue of ArmenBar's NY/NJ/CT Chapter Post. We hope you enjoy our first edition, which features some of the many events and activities involving our members and our fledgling Chapter.

Established only a few months ago in NYC, our Chapter is the first in the 28 year history of ArmenBar. The brainchild of some of our visionary national Board members, the Chapter has tapped into the tremendous talent of the tristate's young and enterprising Armenian attorneys.

Galvanizing this talent through a localized structure has already demonstrated its viability for the mutual benefit of both the local Chapter and the national organization, upon which the local Chapter remains dependent and to which we are eternally indebted.

By enhancing the organization's underlying foundation, we have jointly created a broadened platform from which our ambitious agenda for ArmenBar can take flight. Come soar with us as we reach new heights of achievement together.

# YOUNG ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT



Grant Petrosyan

## Armenian Bar Association Establishes National Young Lawyers Committee

Member Grant Petrosyan proposed the idea of establishing the Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) to the board of governors of the Armenian Bar Association. It was Grant's intention for this committee to be organization-wide (not just chapter specific), comprised of young ArmenBar members from around the country. The unanimous decision to form the committee took place at the annual meeting in Huntington Beach. The YLC will represent the younger generation of ArmenBar members and provide them with tools and opportunities to achieve professional and personal success. The YLC is comprised of ArmenBar members under the age of 40 from cities across the country. To learn more about the Young Lawyers Committee, please email: Grant Petrosyan [gpetrosyan11@gmail.com](mailto:gpetrosyan11@gmail.com).

## Vartges Saroyan among Recipients of American Bar Association's *On the Rise: Top 40 Young Lawyers*

The American Bar Association annually recognizes the Top 40 Young Lawyers in the United States. Vartges is one of this year's recipients. He is a lawyer with the Department of Homeland Security who has been a member of our chapter of the Armenian Bar Association since its inception. He advises law enforcement agents on high-profile cybercrime, counterterrorism and fraud investigations. As a litigator, Vartges represents the agency in administrative hearings. Recently, Vartges received the "Innovation Award" from the agency's Principal Legal Advisor. Also, Vartges lectures and has led more than twenty trainings and CLEs.



Vartges Saroyan

## NJ Attorney Named "Rising Star"

*Seyfarth Shaw* associate Lisa Savadjian was selected to the 2017 New York Metro Rising Stars list. Only 2.5% of attorneys in the NY Metro Area receive this distinction. In 2016, Lisa was selected to the 2016 New Jersey Rising Stars list.

## NY/NJ/CT Awards Scholarship to Columbia Law Student

Andrew Khanarian was named this year's Armenian Bar Association Souren Israelyan Legal Scholarship winner in October 2017. He is currently a 1L at Columbia Law School. Originally from Princeton, NJ, Andrew received his BA from Columbia University as well.

## Visit us on the web for more information

<https://armenianbar.org/>

## Contact Us

E-mail us for more information regarding the Armenian Bar Association. Also, contact us if you are interested in contributing to the East Coast Post.

Please e-mail Armenian Bar Association Chairman Saro Kerkorian or New York Chapter member Steve Gokberk for more info:

[skerkonian@aol.com](mailto:skerkonian@aol.com)

[SGokberk@sskblaw.com](mailto:SGokberk@sskblaw.com)

[info@armenianbar.org](mailto:info@armenianbar.org)