



ARMENIAN BAR

The East Coast Post

Fourth Issue: October 2018

Message from the Chairman: Gerard V. Kassabian, Esq.

Dear colleagues and friends,

Thanks to the efforts of our army of dedicated volunteers, I am once again proud to be involved in another issue of our Armenian Bar Association Newsletter full of noteworthy projects and events. As you know, our Newsletter is designed not only to inform our readers about past and future projects and events, but also to memorialize these projects and events for generations to come. In an effort to have a complete record, we have tasked ourselves to archive as many of the prior print editions of our Newsletter and other material to be made available online.

I am happy to report that our volunteers continue the good work of the Armenian Bar Association. Judging from the enthusiasm of our members, especially the young leaders, I have no doubt that our Association will reach greater heights in a very short time. I am proud to work shoulder to shoulder with our team from coast to coast.

I value everyone's participation helping us build a stronger Armenian Bar Association. I also call upon every reader to consider a more active involvement in our future projects, events and our Newsletter. The commitment level is up to you, and no matter the level of involvement, I can assure you a memorable and invaluable experience. Please contact us for involvement opportunities.

I thank you for being a supporter of the Armenian Bar Association! We always welcome your thoughts and comments.



Gerard V. Kassabian, Esq.

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ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

2018 Mid-Year Meeting
October 12th & 13th

NEW YORK CITY

www.armenianbar.org



Greetings All:

It is our distinct pleasure to announce some additional details about the 2018 Mid-Year Meeting of the Armenian Bar Association, which, as you know, will be held in New York City on October 12th and 13th, 2018.

We scheduled this year's Mid-Year Meeting to coincide with a historic exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art entitled simply "Armenia!" Armenia! is "the first major exhibition to explore the remarkable artistic and cultural achievements of the Armenian people in a global context over fourteen centuries", comprised of 140 artifacts from around the world assembled under the auspices of the venerable Armenophile curator Helen Evans, made possible by the Hagop Kevorkian Fund, and sponsored in part by the Karagheusian Foundation. Almost all of these works will be on view in the United States for the first time, and some have not travelled abroad for centuries. ArmenBar has arranged a private, curator lecture and tour of the exhibition.

This year's Mid-Year Meeting will also feature a groundbreaking CLE program entitled, "The StartUp Revolution: What Are Your Rights and How to Protect Them", which will bring together leaders in the field of intellectual property law from the United States, Canada, Armenia, Russia and Australia to share their knowledge and expertise with the startup ecosystems of Armenia and beyond. The program will be streamed live to Armenia and the World, and will be submitted for accreditation.

Please mark your calendars and send us an early indication of your intention to attend, along with the number of persons who you expect will travel with you to New York, at info@ArmenianBar.org.

This year's Mid-Year Meeting promises to be a unique and special event, and we look forward to seeing you all come Fall!



Yours truly,
The Planning Committee



ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S
2018 MID-YEAR MEETING SPECIAL PROGRAM

Columbia Law School, New York City
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018

THE STARTUP REVOLUTION
WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS & HOW TO PROTECT THEM

PROGRAM

- 8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. – Registration and breakfast
- 9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. – Plenary Session of ArmenBar's Mid-Year Meeting
- 10:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. – Opening Remarks
- 10:15 A.M. – 11:25 A.M.

ESTABLISHING AND GROWING YOUR STARTUP PRACTICE

Topics covered:

- ❖ Organizational formation, types of organizations (corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, joints ventures), subsidiaries, cross-border entities
- ❖ Brand identification and protection
- ❖ Developing and protecting business trade secrets
- ❖ Non-disclosure, non-compete, non-circumvention agreements
- ❖ Special considerations for IT startups
- ❖ Special consideration for non-for-profit startups
- ❖ Typical agreements with customers/vendors/employees
- ❖ Online terms for websites, apps and social media pages
- ❖ Privacy policies
- ❖ Setting your data strategy and establishing data practices
- ❖ Aligning business partners
- ❖ Maintaining transparency
- ❖ The role of digital assets in today's business environment
- ❖ Business and personal digital assets
- ❖ Steps to keep control

Panel Moderator:

Kathy L. Ossian – Ossian Law P.C. – Ferndale, Michigan

* CLE Certification of the program is pending.

Panel Members:

Ara A. Babaian – Encore Law Group LLP – Los Angeles

Noric Dilanchian – Lexus Lawyers – Sydney, Australia

Tamar Donikyan – Ellenoff Grossman & Schole LLP – New York City

Ara Ohanian – Systech International, CEO – New York City

11:25 A.M. – 11:35 A.M. – Midmorning break

11:35 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Topics covered:

- ❖ What is and is not intellectual property
- ❖ How to protect intellectual property
- ❖ Trademarks
- ❖ Copyrights
- ❖ Patents
- ❖ Licensing
- ❖ Outsourcing
- ❖ Open source options
- ❖ Protection of intellectual property in international investment agreements
- ❖ Customs and practices of engagement with startups

Panel Moderator:

Denise G. Darmanian – Gallo & Darmanian, Esqs. – New York City

Panel Members:

Mark G. Kachigian – Head, Johnson, Kachigian & Wilkinson, PC – Tulsa, Oklahoma

Lana Akopyan – Mauriel Kapouytian Woods LLP – New York City

Tiran Parsamian – Moscow, Russia

Raffi V. Zerounian – Hanson Bridgett LLP – Los Angeles

12:45 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Lunch break

Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Robert Avetisyan, Permanent Representative of Artsakh in the United States

2:00 P.M. – 3:10 P.M.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING STARTUPS IN ARMENIA

Topics covered:

- ❖ Commercialization of intellectual property
- ❖ Raising capital for startups
- ❖ Initial public offerings, initial coin offerings, crowdfunding, etc.
- ❖ Current ecosystem of IT startups in Armenia
- ❖ Marketing and entry into market
- ❖ Global reach of Armenian startups
- ❖ Mergers and acquisitions
- ❖ Success stories
- ❖ Emerging opportunities
- ❖ Challenges ahead
- ❖ New frontiers

Panel Moderator:

Emma Arakelyan – Orion Worldwide Innovations, LLC – New York City

Panel Members:

Grigor Hovhannissian – Ambassador of Armenia to the United States

Karén Gyulbudaghyan – Strategic Value Ventures – San Francisco

Hovanes Margarian – AppearMe – California/Texas/Nevada/Yerevan

Brian G. Barnier – ValueBridge Advisors – New York City

3:10 P.M. – 3:20 P.M. – Midafternoon break

3:20 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR TRADE SECRETS AND THE BEST PRACTICES IN IP LITIGATION WHY STARTUPS NEED TO KNOW

Topics covered:

- ❖ Protection of trade secrets in a global cyber world
- ❖ Defense of Trade Secrets Act, what you need to know
- ❖ Trade secret misappropriation

- ❖ Current environment of threats and proactive cybersecurity management
- ❖ Cybersecurity regulation and enforcement
- ❖ Breach of cybersecurity and crisis management
- ❖ Legal obligations arising from attacks
- ❖ E-Discovery hosting and review tools
- ❖ Recent Supreme Court decisions affecting IP practice
- ❖ Evolving legal standards and practices

Panel Moderator:

Levon Golendukhin – Dentons – New York City

Panel Members:

Raymond O. Aghaian – Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP – Beverly Hills

Zaven A. Sargsian – Snell & Wilmer – Salt Lake City, Utah

Seepan V. Parseghian – Beck Redden – Houston, Texas

4:30 P.M. – Closing Remarks

Armenian Wine and Brandy Tasting Farewell Reception



Armenian Bar Association

ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S MID-YEAR MEETING PROGRAM IN NEW YORK CITY

REGISTRATION FORM and SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please fill out the information below:

Friday, October 12, 2018

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$100 for the Metropolitan Museum tour of Armenia! Exhibition, 1000 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10028, and Reception at The Liederkrantz Foundation, 6 East 87th Street, New York, New York 10028.

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Armenian Bar Member	\$250	Startup Business	\$50
Non-Member	\$350	Student	\$25

I am a/an _____, please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$_____ per person for The Start Up Revolution Program (including the program materials, breakfast and lunch) and Armenian Wine and Brandy Farewell Reception at Columbia Law School, John Greene Hall, 435 West 116th Street, New York, New York 10027.

Friday and Saturday Combined Program

Armenian Bar Member	\$300	Non-Member	\$400
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I am a/an _____, please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$_____ per person for attendance at the Friday Evening at The Met, Reception at The Liederkrantz Foundation, Saturday Program, including the Luncheon and Armenian Wine and Brandy Farewell Reception.

Name: _____ Firm/Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For ONLINE payments:

Please purchase your tickets at Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-midyear-meeting-tickets-50376896654>

For Check payments:

Make checks payable to ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
and mail to:
Gary T. Moomjian, Esq.
Moomjian, Waite, Coleman, LLP
100 Jericho Quadrangle - Suite 208
Jericho, New York 11735
Email: gmoomjian@mwcllp.com

R.S.V.P. by October 5, 2018 with

Souren A. Israelyan - si@israelyanlaw.com / (646) 459-7556, or
Denise G. Darmanian - NYfed@aol.com / (212) 692-0872, or
Emma Arakelyan -- emma.arakelyan@orionwi.com / (917) 539-7124

* CLE accreditation for the Saturday program is pending. Any participant who has financial hardship may apply for reduction or waiver of registration fee by emailing to Gary T. Moomjian at gmoomjian@mwcllp.com or Denise Darmanian at NYfed@aol.com.



Armenian Bar Association

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

I would like to Support Armenian Bar Association as a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Metropolitan Museum Tour	\$5,000 recognition at the reception, registration for five for Friday activities and a full-page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reception at The Liederkrantz Foundation	\$4,500 recognition at the reception, registration for five for Friday activities and a full-page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday keynote speaker luncheon	\$4,000 includes registration for five at the Saturday program, recognition at the luncheon and a full-page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday Armenian Wine and Brandy Farewell Reception	\$3,000 includes registration for four at the Saturday program, recognition at the reception and a full-page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ararat Sponsor	\$2,000 includes registration for four at the Saturday program and a full-page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yerevan Sponsor	\$1,000 includes registration for two at the Saturday program and a one-half page ad in the Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sevan Sponsor	\$500 includes registration for one at the Saturday event and acknowledgement in the Program

GUESTS/ATTENDEES

1. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
2. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
3. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
4. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
5. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
6. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
7. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>
8. Name:	<input type="text"/>	Firm/ Company:	<input type="text"/>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SEVAN OGULLUK, ESQ.



Sevan Ogulluk

Sevan Ogulluk graduated from SUNY Binghamton and New York University School of Law. Prior to attending law school, he participated in the AGBU Summer Internship program in New York, with Armenian students and young professionals from around the world. Sevan credits that experience at AGBU as the first real building block for his legal career. He had worked with criminal defense attorneys on major felony trials in Manhattan and forged enduring friendships and a valuable professional network with Armenians entering the international work force.

While attending NYU Law he worked at the Manhattan offices of Jones Day, a top global law firm, and joined the firm as a litigation associate upon graduating law school. Sevan went on to work in Jones Day's Litigation Department for 20 years, including as a partner since 2009. Because Jones Day is at the vanguard of major legal battles with sophisticated clients, Sevan litigated numerous high-stakes cases involving cutting edge legal issues and multi-billion dollar claims. His practice consisted of routinely representing domestic and international clients across various industries in a wide range of business disputes in state and federal trial and appellate courts across the U.S., at arbitration, and in regulatory/enforcement proceedings (such as SEC, DOJ and Attorney General actions/investigations). For example, he represented a foreign bank for years in the highly-publicized Enron litigation and criminal investigations, represented a foreign sovereign before the New York Court of Appeals (the state's highest appellate court), represented domestic and foreign clients in a weeks long intellectual property trial, successfully defended a U.S. consumer products manufacturer at several jury trials in New York and California, represented a Hollywood movie studio in several lawsuits, litigated several "busted" M&A transactions in the Delaware Chancery Court (the nation's preeminent court for business disputes), defended a London auction house in a copyright infringement lawsuit by an Indian artist, was lead counsel for an energy company suing Lloyd's of London, and other insurance companies after a fatal construction explosion, and was also lead trial counsel for Lehman Brothers executives in a weeks long arbitration stemming from the financial crisis.

In 2018, Sevan launched his own firm with his close friend and partner Bill Hine, who was also a litigation partner at Jones Day for many years. Their new firm, Hine & Ogulluk LLP, leverages their skills, unique backgrounds and wealth of experience to give our sophisticated clients high quality representation in major business litigation at reasonable rates. Sevan sees his new firm as a credible alternative to large firms: "We decided to launch our firm because we felt it was the optimal platform represent our domestic and international clients (including from Armenia and the Middle East). We knew we could tap into a big market of sophisticated clients facing serious litigation who need highly credentialed and experienced lawyers, but can do without the high rates, inefficiencies and conflicts of interest that often come with big firms."

The contacts Sevan made nearly 25 years ago at AGBU continue to pay off today at his new firm. The Armenian connection – and the element of trust and goodwill that's built into that network – has been a key ingredient to his success.

The Armenian Bar Association Announces Its Second “20 Under 40” Rising Stars Awards Program

The Armenian Bar Association is pleased to announce its upcoming “20 Under 40 Awards” recognizing 20 Armenian legal professionals, who, as of September 5, 2018, are less than 40 years old, or have been practicing law less than 10 years, and have distinguished themselves in their area of practice.

“Our membership includes a vast array of people from all walks of life and all levels of education,” said Gerard Kassabian, Chairman of the Armenian Bar Association, adding “Our 20 under 40 event celebrates those exemplary individuals who recently began their careers in the legal profession and whom we are proud to have as our members and colleagues.”

The 20 Armenian legal professionals selected will be recognized at an awards dinner in early 2019. These professionals may include practicing lawyers, law professors, and members of the judiciary. Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by a colleague. Nominees should be individuals who have begun to establish themselves in their respective legal practices, whether in private, non-profit, or government sector, in the judiciary, or in academia. They must have a proven track record of career success, be involved in promoting the profession, and demonstrate that they give back to their communities and advance the mission of the Armenian Bar Association. To substantiate these credentials, a current resume and cover letter (not to exceed 2 pages) must be submitted and two (2) references must be provided. Additionally, letters of support are strongly encouraged as they allow the Armenian Bar Association to consider various elements in making its selection.

While the deadline to nominate a colleague was Monday, September, 24, 2018, the final application submission deadline is Monday, October 22, 2018. Information regarding nominations, including the nomination form, is available at <https://armenianbar.org/rising-stars-award/>. The 20 individuals selected must be members of the Armenian Bar Association.

Nomination forms and application materials must be submitted via e-mail to info@armenianbar.org and the subject line should read: “20 Under 40”

Grant Petrosyan, Esq.

Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Committee

Gpetrosyan11@gmail.com

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*

**Visit us on the web for more
information and to become
a member**

<https://armenianbar.org/>

**Contact Us—
info@armenianbar.org**

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

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ArmenBar Revives a Prominent Tradition Honoring Public Servants in NYC

By Malvina Mardirosyan, Esq.

On April 26, 2018, on the occasion of what would have been the 162th birthday of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. - one of the greatest supporters of the survival of the Armenian people, the Chapter honored four public servants who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and years of dedicated service to the community:

- **Honorary Robert M. Morgenthau**, grandson of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. and District Attorney (former), New York County, and Of Counsel, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
- **Honorable Claire C. Cecchi**, U.S. District Court Judge, District of New Jersey
- **Honorable Deborah H. Karalunas**, Justice, NYS Supreme Court and President, Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York
- **Honorable Richard S. Hartunian**, United States Attorney (former), Northern District of New York, and Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP



The magnificent gala dinner was attended by many judges and dignitaries including his Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, his Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan and Hon. Zohrab Mnatsakanian, then Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, presently the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Three generations of the Morgenthau family were in attendance including, Robert Morgenthau, honoree, his son – Bob, and grandson – Harry who is now a member of ArmenBar. The prominence of the event was also marked by attendance from other bar associations' leadership including Michael Miller, President of New York State Bar Association.

Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour at the Yale Club terrace overlooking the NYC skyline, followed by awards dinner program at the elegant ballroom. Saro Kerkonian, then Chairman of the ArmenBar gave opening remarks, *"Tonight, we honor and recognize public servants, that special breed of humanity who often disregard and subordinate personal gain to follow, instead, a career path which advances the greater good, protecting and uplifting the entire community through their public service."*

On acceptance of this year's award, Mr. Morgenthau gave a poignant speech about the Armenian people and his grandfather's legacy. Mr. Morgenthau emphasized the Armenian cause by referring to a well-penned letter by him to the editor of the *Wall Street Journal* entitled "Will Trump Tell the Truth About the Armenian Genocide?" that was published earlier this year.

East Coast Chapter Co-Chairs, Denise Darmanian and Gary Moomjian, remarked, *"In the sixteen months of its existence, the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Chapter of the Armenian Bar Association has been on an amazing ride... This event continues our momentum and the ride will not stop here...Special thanks go to the Event Committee Co-Chairs Souren Israelyan and John Halebian...and the twenty-one active members of the event planning committee. We are enormously grateful and proud of each."*

The event received wide media coverage and was published on Page 2 of the *New York Law Journal*, April 30, 2018 edition.



Honorable Richard S. Hartunian and Honorable Deborah H. Karalunas

**ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU'S REMARKS AT THE
ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLIC SERVANTS DINNER**

APRIL 26, 2018

Reverend clergy, distinguished jurists, fellow honorees, sisters and brothers at the bar:

I am most grateful to you for honoring me, and the memory of my grandfather, on what would have been his 162nd birthday.

It is particularly appropriate that you do so at an event honoring public service. For while everyone in this room is aware of my grandfather's support of the Armenian people during and after the Genocide, you may not know of the impact of the Genocide upon him, personally.

His own words express it best: he said when he resigned his post as ambassador, "I had reached the end of my resources." By then, my grandfather had witnessed the slaughter of the Armenian people. He had argued with men who had ordered the destruction of a nation, men whom he described as "reeking with blood." And, perhaps, most cruelly of all, he had endured the indifference of his own government, that last best hope on earth, which stood idly by as the horror continued.

He returned home with his son — my father, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. And starting then, and for as long as he lived, my grandfather told all of us the lessons that he drew from the Genocide.

The chief lesson he taught is that there are, in the world, many people whose basic human rights and very lives are threatened by despots and dictators and thugs posing as political leaders. He taught us that we have a fundamental obligation to protect those people. And the way we do that is the way you do it every day — through public service.

My grandfather's words made a big impression on me — in fact maybe *too big* an impression. When I graduated from Yale Law School and interviewed with jobs with law firms, I explained that I planned to stay for only a short while and then leave to pursue my true calling, public service.

I was promptly rejected by all of them.

Finally, a very great man with his own passion for public service, Robert Patterson, took a chance and hired me at the law firm that today bears his name. And thus, began my legal career.

I served as United States Attorney for eight years, and as Manhattan District Attorney for 35. There I came to see most dramatically the wisdom of my grandfather's teaching. I passed that lesson on to the young lawyers who came to work for me. I told them that most often, criminals victimized the powerless, the impoverished, and the disenfranchised. Our sworn duty was to protect the people we served by enforcing the rule of law — and to set an example for all by respecting the rights of the accused.

Today, I am told that I am in retirement. But my grandfather's voice will not let me rest. For there is unfinished business before us. None of us can rest until there is acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide.

Recently, as you know, I suggested to our President that if he can be bold enough to move the American embassy to Jerusalem over widespread opposition, then he could also be bold enough to call the Armenian Genocide by its true name. In that piece in the Wall Street Journal, I wrote that "a just and lasting world order cannot be built on falsehoods and equivocations."

For us gathered here today, that can only mean only one thing: we must redouble our efforts to apply the lessons of history in a troubled world. For we are told, we are, today, in a new age of dictatorship. In country after country despots tell their people that civil order can be maintained only if they forfeit their civil rights.

In country after country, tragically, the people seem to be accepting their plight — everywhere, it seems, but in the Republic of Armenia. There, a popular uprising, led by the young, emphatically restored the rule of law. The prime minister abandoned his power grab, resigned, and told his nation, "I was wrong."

The Republic of Armenia has honored my grandfather's memory in many ways for which I am grateful. They named a street after him. They transported soil from his grave-site to Armenia. They put his image on a postage stamp. But I doubt anything pleases him quite so much as what the children of Armenia accomplished this past week.

As lawyers, as public servants, let us learn from those young idealists. Let us find in the Armenian Genocide, in the endurance of the Armenian people, and in the struggle for recognition, the inspiration to transform the world.

Thank you.

INVITATION FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS, CONTRIBUTOR GUIDE-LINES

E-mail Article Submissions to Steve Gokberk sgokberk@sskblaw.com

Submission Guidelines

1. Articles should be a minimum of 500.
2. Articles should be attached as Word files. Charts and tables should be attached as Excel files. Include the author's phone number.
3. For all submissions, include a one or two sentence biography of the author(s) and a brief summary of the article (maximum one paragraph).

I. General Inquiries

Q. What type of subject matter will we consider for publication?

A. We will review any Armenian-related articles written from a legal, accounting, socio-economic, or policy perspective. We will also review any articles related to an attorney's field of practice.

Q. Where do I submit an article?

A. Please submit all articles to Steve Gokberk sgokberk@sskblaw.com

Q. Do you accept student papers?

A. Yes.

II. Review Process

Q. May I submit an abstract or early draft for preliminary review?

A. No. We will review an article only after the author has affirmatively declared that it is a final draft.

Q. How long is your review process?

A. We may take up to two weeks from the date of submission to review an article and make the initial decision on publication. If an updated draft is submitted during that time, the time for review will restart from the date of that updated submission.

Q. Will I receive feedback on my article after the initial review process is complete?

A. We generally don't provide substantive feedback for accepted or rejected articles. However, occasionally we may suggest that an author revise an article and resubmit it.

III. Publication Process

Q. What if I need to update my article while its publication is pending?

A. If an event development occurs that requires significant revision of an article (i.e. new law, case rulings, etc.) authors should immediately notify the specific magazine editors. We reserve the right to change an article's publication date if necessary. Minor changes may be made during the galley review process.

Q. How long does it generally take to get an article published?

A. All scheduling decisions are based on our needs, the length of the article, and the timeliness of the subject matter.

Q. What kinds of changes can I expect to my article?

A. Our editors make changes consistent with our internal style guidelines, formatting constraints and readability issues, and check for errors of fact and law.

Volunteers

Welcome

The Armenian Bar Association invites your participation in the following committees:

[Genocide Reparations](#)

[Rights Watch](#)

[Continuing Legal Education](#)

[Development/Fundraising](#)

[Grants & Scholarship](#)

[Membership Development](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Pro Bono](#)

[Social Media](#)

[Student Affairs](#)

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

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

Narratives: Between East and West*

By Ted Tourian, J.D., LLM

As a young nation, Armenian society needs to develop infrastructures integral for statecraft. One of the most important attributes in governance is knowing how to control the narrative. This is done through: a) Identifying the message coming in; and b) knowing where that country stands geopolitically to recalibrate the right message for itself, its constituents, and its neighbors.

i) Who Controls the Narrative Controls the Outcome:

“War is Deception.” This principle has been mastered by the Turks, who have dominated Western Asia for millennia through the Seljuks and the Ottomans.

To guard against deception, one needs to understand who they are, and their surroundings. A nation has difficulty keeping its rediscovered freedom after being occupied. It’s like a wild animal becoming domesticated, with its progeny reintroduced back to the wild. Once reintroduced, that animal no longer knows how to hunt. It no longer knows what it is.[i]

This analogy applies to Armenia. Armenia’s ruling “Nakharar” class has long been extinguished, in turn first by the Byzantines, then by the Arabs, and finally the Turks. Armenia’s ruling class mentality, which gave rise to fierce nations, such as the Hyksos and its domination of Egypt 3,000 years ago,[ii] or Urartu, a state prophesized to bring the Assyrian Empire down,[iii] has been replaced by a business-oriented mindset.[iv] The business-oriented mindset is dangerous when it comes to governing a society, as its focus is on the “now,” and the bottom-line.[v]

In order to keep sovereignty, Armenian leadership must build infrastructure to prepare for 21st century foreign messengers. As technology changes, so too does the messenger and the target audience. Society has moved from the newspaper to social media, where immediate and unverified information is disseminated in a matter of seconds, appealing to raw emotion.[vi]

ii) Armenia’s recent revolution - “Velvet” or “Pied Piper” Revolution:

The key for any successful Armenian leadership [Diasporan or governmental] is to understand the many different narratives being promoted, as well as the medium promoting those messages, to protect those who belong to the Diaspora, Armenia, and Artsakh.

Western leaders have long understood the importance of narrative. There’s a reason why National Football League broadcasts are draped in imagery promoting the US military and patriotism, while being financed by the US government;[vii] why “Google” has long partnered with the US government.[viii] There’s a reason why China and Russia have begun to invest heavily in social media platforms such as Weibo and VK.com[ix] to rival American platforms like Facebook or YouTube.

Armenia and its Diasporan organizations need to seriously evaluate what messages are being promoted, who is being promoted, and what they represent. No responsible leader provides a platform for famous reprobates to get “clicks” or immediate remuneration, even if it can be justified that certain famous reprobates bring attention to certain causes. [x]

The fair question that needs to be asked is, was Armenia’s recent revolution a “Velvet Revolution,” or a “Pied Piper Revolution”?[xi] The analogy of the Pied Piper relates to the recent revolution in Armenia where it was the youth who organized the revolution.

* The views expressed in the following article are exclusively those of the author and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Armenian Bar Association.

I do not know the details of the everyday life of the average Armenian, or what prompted its revolution. However, the parallels between Armenia's recent revolution is similar to the color revolutions in the former Soviet Bloc and Arab Spring.[xii] The narrative of the aforementioned revolutions are pretty much the same; youth-driven movements due to gloomy economic prospects and rampant government corruption. Corruption, economic decline, and election fraud all fed the popular frustration that fueled these revolutions,[xiii] but these and other injustices can be found in many other countries where no "democratic" revolutions occurred (think Saudi Arabia).

The common denominator with these revolutions is the utilization of new tools in the continued struggle between East and West. The US State Department "has taken a proactive stance in arming [] masses with advanced communications gear and training. With millions of dollars of grants, for instance, State has been financing "stealth wireless networks," mobile "internet in a suitcase" systems, and software that protects the anonymity of cell phone and internet users in places like Iran, Libya, Syria, and China."[xiv] The pattern emerging is Russia's buffer states have been targeted one-by-one for regime change.[xv]

Armenia is a minor buffer state between East and West, deepening its political and economic partnerships with Iran and Russia.[xvi] Global strategic think-tanks have observed that as long as Armenia was governed by Kocharian or Sargsyan, Armenia's worldview would be lockstep with Russia's.[xvii]

So where does Armenia lie?

iii) Between East and West

Responsible statecraft recognizes that the perception of immediate neighbors is one of the most important attributes in order to survive war.[xviii] Armenian culture has long sought validation and acceptance as being European. This mentality needs a surgeon general's warning: hazardous to your family and the values taught as a child.

The "pied-piper revolution" has seen some disturbing trends turning west. First is talk of withdrawal from the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union.[xix] Second are one-sided political arrests of "corrupt politicians" who bend towards alliance with Russia, and not the west. Most troubling are sentiments echoing one-sided concessions with Azerbaijan over Artsakh's territorial integrity, such as Armenian National Congress (ANC) member Zoya Tadevosyan proclaiming that "the liberated territories of Artsakh are actually occupied territories." [xx]

These trends by the new government are dangerous, considering where Armenia is located. Armenia is West Asian, not European. Armenia is not, nor has ever been a European nation-state. This is fact. This is reality. To its west is Turkey, 80 million strong, militarized, Islamized, intent on reviving the Ottoman Empire. To its east is Azerbaijan, locked in bitter dispute with Artsakh over Artsakh's territorial integrity, while suffering an identity crisis between its Turkic and Shi'ite attributes. Iran is to the south, with a hot/cold relationship with both Azerbaijan and Turkey. Georgia to the north acts as a bridge between Turkey and Azerbaijan, while alienating Russia at the expense of South Ossetia and Abkhazia for potential NATO accession. And Russia nearby, Armenia's only guarantor of peace, acts in its own self-interests (as it should).

Showing weakness in the South Caucasus is deadly. The Republic of Armenia was prudent by not accepting the Protocols when they were initially advocated for, despite the "business acumen" of certain leading Diasporan organizations.[xxi] One only need look at how Tayyip Erdogan changed his stance on Bashar Assad when it was expedient to do so,[xxii] or how Erdogan has been able to easily manipulate German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, a beacon of "western idealism," into paying Turkey more for a refugee crisis Turkey itself incited.[xxiii] (Maybe Europeans are the ones who need advice on governing their own affairs, and should mind their business).

Conclusion:

The message being delivered to Armenians today is the same as a hundred years ago, except with new buzzwords and a new delivery system. Over a hundred years ago at the Congress of Berlin, Armenians were promised buzzwords like “human rights” and “nationalism.” We all know how that ended. Today, the word “corruption” is used to infiltrate Armenian society. We, as Armenian society, need to learn to subdue emotions, and develop infrastructure to identify who the message is coming from, and why it is being sent. Only then can Armenian society begin to govern its affairs properly among the growing challenges it will face during the 21st century.

Endnotes

[i] Niccolo Machiavelli, Discourses on the First Ten Books of Titus Livy, Book. 3, Chapter XI, (published 1531), <<https://www.constitution.org/mac/disclivy1.htm>> [as of Sept. 1, 2018]

[ii] Ancient Egyptians were closer to Armenians than to Africans; a new genetics study reveals, (Jun. 5, 2017) People of Ar <<https://www.peopleofar.com/2017/06/05/ancient-egyptians-were-closer-to-armenians-than-to-africans-a-new-genetics-study-reveals/>> [As of Aug. 22, 2018].

[iii] Jeremiah 51:27.

[iv] Artsvi Bakhchinyan, The Activity of Armenian Merchants in International Trade (2013) Regional Routes, Regional Roots? Cross-Border Patterns of Human Mobility in Eurasia <http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/rp/publications/no14/14-03_Bakhchinyan.pdf> [as of Aug. 26, 2018]

[v] Jason Whitlock, Sometimes, I can't handle the Truths (Dec. 16, 2010) FoxSports, <<https://www.foxsports.com/nfl/story/nfl-truths-too-much-even-for-jason-whitlock-121610>> [as of Sept. 2, 2018], discusses the pitfalls of a pure capitalist system and, when left unfettered, hurts its constituents:

“That’s capitalism at its highest level. Package your product in a way that fools the consumer into believing it’s good for them. Most Americans have no idea Ronald McDonald is killing their kids. No clue.

Trust me, I believe in capitalism and I’m making every effort to become a billionaire.

But Division I college football doesn’t need more capitalism. Capitalism is a slave to the bottom line. **An overdose on capitalism is what created the gross inequities and widespread corruption that is now pervasive throughout the NCAA.**” [Emphasis added]

[vi] Jason Whitlock, BLM, N.W.A. Prove It Takes 1,000 Tweets To Hold Us Back (Feb. 15, 2016) J.School <<http://j.school/post/139392087225/blm-nwa-prove-it-takes-1000-tweets-to-hold-us>> [as of Aug. 25, 2018], discusses how the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement is similar to the hip hop group N.W.A. by appealing to the lowest common denominator, and using the latest media modes to spread its message:

[vii] Melanie Schmitz, How the NFL sold patriotism to the U.S. military for millions (Sept. 25, 2017) Think Progress <<https://thinkprogress.org/nfl-dod-national-anthem-6f682cebc7cd/>> [as of Aug. 23, 2018].

[viii] Brandon Specktor, Google Will End Its 'Evil' Partnership with the US Military, But Not Until 2019 (June 4, 2018) LiveScience <<https://www.livescience.com/62733-google-will-end-project-maven.html>> [as of Aug 26, 2018].

[ix] Adrien Henni, Russia’s top 10 websites include Facebook, Google, Instagram, and YouTube (Oct. 1, 2016) VentureBeat <<https://venturebeat.com/2016/10/01/russias-top-10-websites-include-facebook-google-instagram-and-youtube/>> [as of Aug. 29, 2018].

[x] «Yet'e voreve pashtonatar andz yndunelut'yan arzhanats'ni k'aliforniats'i ays paronin` apa da khaytarrakut'yun klini» (Aug. 27, 2018) blog.168.am <<https://blog.168.am/blog/169719.html>> [as of Aug. 28, 2018].

[xi] In 1284, the German town of Hamelin is dealing with a terrible rat problem. The Pied Piper comes in, and agrees to rid the town of rats in exchange for a large fee, and he does so by playing his pipe until the rodents come out to follow him. The town decides not to pay the Piper when he comes back to collect his money. So the Piper takes out his pipe and begins to play again, and this time, it's the children that begin to dance and follow him. He leads them to a crack in a mountain, which swallows them up forever.

[xii] Though the Arab Spring primarily started out in Tunisia, its effects were primarily felt in Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain, it's interesting to note that one year after the bulk of the passing of the Arab Spring, Season Five of Star Wars Clone Wars, four episodes known as the Onderon arc ["A War on Two Fronts," "Front Runners," "The Soft War," and "Tipping Points"] featured the then Republic training foreign insurgents in harsh desert planets. The Republic would then become the Galactic Empire, ruled by Darth Sidious/Emperor Palpatine, with Darth Vader by his side.

[xiii] Giorgi Kandelaki, Georgia's Rose Revolution: A Participant's Perspective (July 2006) United States Institute of Peace, Special Report 167 <<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/sr167.pdf>> [as of Aug. 22, 2018].

[xiv] James Kitfield, I Tweet for Freedom (June 29, 2011) NationalJournal, reprinted in "Hillary Clinton Email Archive," Wikileaks.org (Mar. 16, 2016) <<https://wikileaks.org/clinton-emails/emailid/27517>> [as of Aug. 28, 2018].

[xv] Syrus Ahmadi, Mohammad Reza Hafeznia & Bernard Hourcad, Geopolitics of Buffer Spaces: Characteristics of Iran's Buffer Situation Between Great Powers in the Nineteenth Century and Twentieth Century (2013) Science International (Lahore). 25:4, 1019, <<https://www.sci-int.com/pdf/888971359-1019-1030-%20Syrus%20Ahmadi-Geopolitics%20of%20Buffer%20Spaces%20-%20IRAN%2025-3-13.pdf>> [as of Aug. 26, 2018], provides a discussion of the importance of buffer states.

[xvi] Berat's Box, Wikileaks.org (Dec. 5, 2016) <<https://wikileaks.org/berats-box/emailid/36128>> (as of Aug. 28, 2018), provides the following excerpt from an email forwarded from Congressman Bill Shuster, 9th District of Pennsylvania;

"3. What will the resolution accomplish, and what could be the unintended consequences? > > Adopting this resolution could be cataclysmic and undermine US interests. Undertaking this course of action would not only be morally short-sighted, but it would alienate one of our last allies in the region who is working hand in hand with US soldiers and our allies to combat ISIS and give refuge to hundreds of thousands of innocent refugees from the Syrian Civil War. **While many of Turkey's neighbors continue to pivot to Tehran and Moscow, Turkey has remained loyal to the west, helping to protect our interests and countless American lives in the region. Turkey hosts Raytheon missiles despite the pressure exerted by Russia and Iran.** > > Adoption of this resolution will directly result in the erosion of the United States' ability to protect its citizens and assets in the region, ushering in a new era where Iranian influence is unchecked. > > Turkey's geostrategic position between Europe and the Middle East has made the country an important NATO ally and an essential partner for both the United States and European countries in combating extremism in the region. **As Lebanon, Syria, Armenia, and Iraq continue to deepen their political and economic partnerships with Iran and Russia, the United States' leverage in the region is rapidly diminishing. Adopting the resolution would alienate a close ally and damage US interests.**" [Emphasis Added].

[xvii] The Global Intelligence Files, Wikileaks.org (Feb. 27, 2012), <https://wikileaks.org/gifiles/docs/22/2229139_re-proposal-armenia-recent-resignations-in-armenia-and-their.html> (as of Aug. 28, 2018),

provides a discussion between members of Stratfor.com, and American geopolitical intelligence platform, concerning the Armenian parliamentary resignations in 2011:

* Both current president [Serge Sargsyan] and former president [Robert Kocharian] has [SIC] good relations with Russia which is to say that whoever manages to stay in power is not going to change Armenia's direction in world affairs to a significant degree.

[xviii] Niccolo Machiavelli, Discourses on the First Ten Books of Titus Livy, Book. 3, Chapter XIX, (published 1531), <<https://www.constitution.org/mac/disclivy1.htm>> [as of Sept. 1, 2018], provides:

I conclude, therefore, with this discussion that the virtue of Romulus was so great, that it was able to give time to Numa Pompilius to be able to rule Rome with the arts of peace; but he was succeeded by Tullus, who by his ferocity reassumed the reputation of Romulus; after whom there followed Ancus, so gifted by nature that he was able to use peace and endure war. **And first he addressed himself to want to hold the ways of peace, but he soon knew that his neighbors judging him effeminate esteemed him little, so that he decided that if he wanted to maintain Rome he needed to turn to war and imitate Romulus, and not Numa.** [Emphasis added].

[xix] Nerses Haroutiunyan, Russophobes in Pashinyan's team: Soros tilting boat of pro-Armenian premier (May 28, 2018) Eurasia Daily <<https://eadaily.com/en/news/2018/05/28/russophobes-in-pashinyans-team-soros-tilting-boat-of-pro-armenian-premier>> [as of Aug 26, 2018].

[xx] Arts'akhi azatagravats taratsk'ner irakanum gravyal taratsk'ner yen. HAK andam (Jul. 31, 2018) Politik.am <<http://politik.am/%D5%A1%D6%80%D6%81%D5%A1%D5%AD%D5%AB-%D5%A1%D5%A6%D5%A1%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%A3%D6%80%D5%BE%D5%A1%D5%AE-%D5%BF%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%AE%D6%84%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%B6-%D5%AB%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6/>> [As of Aug. 22, 2018].

[xxi] AGBU's Statement Regarding the Protocols (Sept. 10, 2009) Reprinted at Keghart.com <keghart.com/AGBU-Protocols> [as of Aug. 28, 2018].

[xxii] Oleksiy Volovych, Erdogan — Assad: from Friendship to Enmity (Feb. 7, 2017) Borysfen Intel <<http://bintel.com.ua/en/article/02-06-turkey-syria/>> [as of Aug 25, 2018].

[xxiii] Caroline Mortimer, President Erdogan: I will open gates for migrants to enter Europe if EU blocks membership talks (Nov. 25, 2016), Independent <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/president-erdogan-turkey-eu-membership-migrants-refugees-europe-warning-a7438316.html>> [as of Aug. 26, 2018].