



NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
THE ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Volume 22, Number 2

Fall 2010

Providence, Rhode Island To Host The Armenian Bar Association's Mid- Year Meeting, Featuring Health Care Reform, Environmental Law and Technology Issues

Providence, Rhode Island, the picturesque Atlantic Coast City which offers one of the nation's largest concentrations of registered historic landmarks, will be the host as the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) returns to New England for its Mid-year meeting, on the weekend of October 8-11, 2010. The meeting will be held at the elegant Westin Providence Hotel, and will mark the first time in the group's history that it has held a meeting in Rhode Island. Two previous meetings have been held in Boston.

"We have an outstanding group of members in the New England area, including our Ex-Officio Sonya Nersessian and Vice-Chair Christine Engustian. They have made significant contributions to the Armenian legal community and the Armenian Bar Association. They have planned an exceptional event, so we are fortunate to be returning to visit our neighbors to the northeast for our Mid-year meeting," said Edvin Minassian, Chairman of ArmenBar.



Modern day Providence site of the mid-year meeting blends in with historic sites

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

The controversial changing areas of law on National Health Reform, Environmental Law issues and Social Networking issues will be discussed by a panel of experts

See Mid-Year Meeting in RI, pg. 9

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues
and Friends,

I am honored to be writing to you as the newly-elected Chair of the Armenian Bar Association.



Edvin Minassian

I thank the Board of Governors for the confidence that has been placed in me and will do my best to ensure the continued success for our organization.

We are grateful to our former Chair Sonya Nersessian for her hard work, heartfelt compassion, and strong commitment to the mission of this organization. I also thank our outgoing Executive Director Betty Jamgotchian - an exceptional person and a pioneer among Armenian female attorneys in Los Angeles - who with the crucial support of our Administrative Assistant Lisa

See Message from the Chair, pg. 15

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Federal Court Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan Featured At Armenian Bar Association's Annual Meeting In Chicago

Samuel Der-Yeghiayan, the first Armenian immigrant to be appointed to the federal bench in the United States, received a rousing ovation from over 100 legal scholars, judges, law professors, lawyers and law students from the United States and Canada, as he was the keynote speaker at the Armenian Bar Association's 21st Annual National Meeting on May 15, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois.

The meeting was punctuated by legal seminars, receptions, city tours and a meeting of the Board of Governors. Those in attendance were treated to a number of activities, including a tour of the Federal Court Building with an in-chambers meeting with Judge Der-Yeghiayan, a tour of the new Modern Art Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago, an architectural river boat cruise, and a Chicago Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field.

"Our 21st Annual Meeting was a great success," said Amy Hoogasian, ArmenBar Secretary and the meeting organizer. "We were able to provide our members with presentations from many outstanding legal scholars and an opportunity to experience the wonderful city of Chicago," said Hoogasian.

The legal seminars featured outstanding speakers on topics of interest to the Armenian legal community, including Protection of Armenian Cultural Heritage Worldwide. The panelists included Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, Director of the Zohrab Center, Mary Hoogasian, Co-Founder of Save the ArQ, and Karnig Kerkonian, Esq., the



L-R: Karnig Kerkonian, Armenian Bar member, Armenian Bar member, James Derian, Vicken Simonian, Gary Moomjian, Thelma Loskajian, Judge samuel Der-Yeghiayan and Saro Kerkonian

managing partner of Kerkonian, LLC. Among many interesting topics discussed was the future of the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem. That portion of cultural heritage and real estate in the Holy City, controlled by the Armenian Church for centuries, is at risk of being lost due to the gradual dissipation of citizens of Armenian descent living there.

A panel on Electronic Discovery and Privacy Issues on the Internet was presented by Jim Nahikian, Principal of Nahikian Global Intellectual Property and Technology Law Group, Mark Nomellini, a partner at Kirkland and Ellis, and Larry "Bud" Conner, Senior Electronic Discovery Consultant, Applied Discovery Lexis/Nexis. The panel tackled the important emerging issue of discovery in civil cases in conjunction with the ever changing landscape of electronic communications.

An Armenia update was presented by Sara Anjargolian, Esq.

and Kevork Bardakjian, Professor and Director of Armenia Studies at the University of Michigan. Anjargolian discussed economic, sociologic and legal perspectives, and her lecture included a presentation of many of her critically acclaimed photos documenting poverty in Armenia. Professor Bardakjian provided an insightful lecture on relations among Armenia, Turkey and the Diaspora.

Rick Hartunian, the newly appointed U.S. Attorney from Albany, New York, received an award acknowledging his service to the community and was also a guest speaker at the meeting, giving a fascinating account of his ascent to his current position.

The meeting was held at the Union League Club (ULC) of Chicago, located in the heart of the downtown financial district. The ULC has a 130-year history of assistance to the cultural, political and social growth

See Annual Meeting, pg. 13

Armenian Bar Honors Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian



L-R Vrej Aghajanian congratulating Edvin Minassian, Sheriff Lee Baca, Garo Ghazarian and Robert Philibosian at Glendale Reception

Glendale, California- Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian, were the guests of honor as the Armenian Bar Association hosted a reception at the elegant Phoenicia Restaurant on Thursday, June 24, 2010. Nationally-acclaimed attorney Garo Mardirossian, Chairman of the Consumer Attorneys' Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), was on hand to introduce Mayor Najarian, and Steve Simonian, Mayor of La Habra, introduced Sheriff Baca.

"Sheriff Lee Baca and Mayor Ara Najarian have admirably served the County of Los Angeles and the City of Glendale. They both have great integrity, and are committed to serving their constituents. We are proud to honor them for their many years of service to our community," said Edvin Minassian, Chairman of ArmenBar.

Minassian and Vice-Chairman Garo Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law, served as co-Masters-

of-Ceremonies for the evening reception, masterfully conducting the festivities with charm, humor and professionalism. They presented the honorees with original artwork from Seeroon Yeretizian, which included inscriptions acknowledging their many years of public service.

Numerous public officials, judges

and dignitaries were among the 150 in attendance, including ArmenBar founder Raffi K. Hovannisian, the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and a current member of its Parliament.

Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Krekorian was in attendance and presented Baca and Najarian with proclamations acknowledging their service to the community. Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich addressed the audience, congratulating the honorees, and commending ArmenBar for continuing its mission of community service. Robert Philibosian, former Los Angeles County District Attorney, spoke on behalf of the current D.A., Steve Cooley, congratulating Baca, Najarian and ArmenBar. Also in

see Armenian Bar Honors, pg 12



L-R Edvin Minassian and Garo Ghazarian presenting Mayor Ara Najarian with award

Jacklin Boyadjian Appointed Executive Director of The Armenian Bar Association

Jacklin Boyadjian, of Glendale California, a legal professional with years of experience in public relations, non-profit organizations, political campaigning, fund raising and community service, has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar). Boyadjian succeeds lawyer and community leader Betty Jamgotchian, and becomes the fourth Executive Director in the 21 year history of ArmenBar.

"We are excited to have Jacklin Boyadjian as our new Executive Director," said ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian. "She has extensive experience leading non-profit organizations. She is dynamic,

energetic, and brings a lot to the table. We look forward to working with her and expanding our activities," said Minassian.

The Executive Director is responsible for coordinating all of the group's activities, including bi-annual meetings, receptions, legal clinics, pro bono workshops, continuing legal education seminars, fund raising and more.

"I am humbled and honored to be the new Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association," said Boyadjian. The organization's record speaks for itself. It is comprised of many of the world's leading attorneys and judges of Armenian descent. The group has



assisted thousands of members of the Armenian community through pro bono, rights watch and community forum activities. I'm proud to be a part of the team, and hope to add to the incredible mission of community

See Jacklin. Boyadjian pg. 8

Armenian Bar Association Members Attend Italian American Bar Association's "Jo-Ann Grace Roast" March 24th, 2010

Los Angeles, California—The "Jo-Ann Grace Roast" presented by the Italian American Bar Association (IALA) turned out to be a multi-cultural affair, as several ArmenBar members joined their Italian brethren in honoring a leader in the legal community, and candidate for the California State Bar Board of Governors. Over 200 people packed the Casa Italiana restaurant near the Chinatown area of Downtown Los Angeles to honor Jo-Ann Grace, Co-Publisher of the Metropolitan News-Enterprise (MetNews).

Robert M. Mallano, the Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second District, joined Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley and Jo-Ann's husband

Roger Grace in delivering the roast. Roger Grace is also Co-Publisher of the Met News. IALA President Jack Denove served as Master of Ceremonies. Jo-Ann Grace is a former member of the California State Bar Board of Governors.

ArmenBar members on hand included Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, Board of Governors members Sara Bedirian, John Lulejian, Nigol Manoukian, members Saro Kerkonian, Alice



L-R: Armen Hovannisian, Jo-Ann Grace, Saro Kerkonian, John Lulejian and Paul Caputo

Yardum-Hunter, Robert Baronian, Paul Caputo, Karen Bourzakian, and former Chairmen Armen Hovannisian and Vicken Simonian.

"We support our brothers and sisters of Italian descent and always promote coordinated participation

See Roast, pg. 15

Members in the News and on the Move

Dick Semerdjian of Schwartz Semerdjian Haile Ballard & Cauley, LLP of San Diego was elected vice-chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). Mr. Semerdjian specializes in civil litigation and trial practice. His one year term begins August 2010. Mr. Semerdjian may be reached at das@sshbclaw.com (Full story on Page 15)

Anya “Anahid” Nikogosian, a law student at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago and a student member of the Armenian Bar Association has won second place in the Mediation Division of the International Academy of Dispute Resolution.

On July 20, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that **Frank Zerunyan** of Rolling Hills Estates, has been reappointed to the Medical Board of California, where he has served as a member since 2006. Frank served two terms as Past Chair of the Armenian Bar Association from 2006-2008. Frank has also been an adjunct associate professor at University of Southern California, School of Policy Planning and Development since 2008. Previously, he was partner for the law firm of Sulmeyer Kupetz from 1995 to 2005 and Yacoubian & Zerunyan from 1989 to 1995. He has served as a council member for the city of Rolling Hills Estates since 2003 and was mayor from 2007 to 2008.

Zerunyan is a member of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority and the Zerunyan Center for Business, Entrepreneurship and Community Development at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library.

The following is a link to an article **Ara Babaian** wrote regarding the revised definition of “accredited investor” under the Dodd-Frank Act. This makes it harder for individuals to qualify as accredited investors for purposes of Regulation D private offerings.

<http://www.ecjlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/2010-09BCLR-Babaian.pdf>

Los Angeles lawyers, **Brian S. Kabateck** and **Artin Gholian**, were on the April 2010 cover of Los Angeles Lawyer, the magazine of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Their article (based on the 1984 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, CFAA) advocates a new approach to combating Internet advertising click fraud. Mr. Kabateck is the founder and managing partner of Kabateck Brown Kellner LLP, advocating consumer rights. Mr. Gholian is an associate with the firm focusing on Internet and business litigation. Mr. Kabateck can be reached at bsk@kbklawyers.com. Mr. Gholian can be reached at ag@kbklawyers.com

At the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce Greater Los Angeles Chapter fourth annual

“Women in Business Excellence Luncheon on October 16, 2010, **Lori Sinanyan** will be honored in the “Women in Law” category. Ms. Sinanyan is being honored for her professional accomplishments and for her contributions to the community.

Mark Fleming of the Boston office of Wilmer Hale and one of the authors of the Amicus Curie brief was a speaker at the Zoryan Institute Conference held at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis on Feb. 5, 2010. Mr. Fleming spoke on the subject of “Griswold v. Driscoll: The Massachusetts Board of Education Lawsuit and the Armenian Genocide.” The conference was organized as a partnership by The University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy and The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute). This conference featured such distinguished scholars as M. Cherif Bassiouni, Vahakn N. Dadrian, William A. Schabas, and Roger W. Smith. The papers presented at the conference will be published in a special issue of the law school’s journal in May 2010. Mr. Fleming can be reached at Mark.Fleming@WilmerHale.com

SulmeyerKupetz opened an office in Newport Beach. **Mark S. Horoupian**, who has been with the Firm for 15 years, is the resi-

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Armenian Bar Association Joins The ANC and Neighborhood Legal Services To Present Free Legal Clinic In Glendale

Glendale, California- The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar), in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee (ANC) and Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), held a free legal clinic at the Glendale Youth Center on June 2, 2010. The clinic was attended by over 100 members of the community who were able to consult with volunteer attorneys regarding a wide range of legal issues.

"Our free legal clinic was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of the ANC, 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 Sarkis Ourfalian and Elen Asatryan of the ANC and Alina Azizian of NLS for their tireless work in organizing the clinic. We look forward to future collaborative functions, and expect the clinic to become a regular event," said Simonian.

The volunteer ArmenBar attorneys included Varoujan Agemian, Sarkis Babachanian, Sara Bedirian, Ani Garikian, Victor Hairapetian, Armen Hovannisian, Raymond Hovsepian, Alice Yardum-Hunter, Saro Kerkonian, Azniv Ksachikian, Nigol Manoukian, Hovanes Margarian, Sarkis Ourfalian Vicken Simonian and Zareh Sinanyan. Professor Garo Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law, was on the clinic organizing committee, and along with Sinanyan, Azizian, Ourfalian, Kerkonian and Simonian appeared



Attorneys Varoujan Agemian and Ani Garikian consulting a legal clinic participant on local Armenian television programs to promote the event.

A number of volunteers from the ANC and NLS 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, criminal matters, trusts, will and estates. The clinic allowed the community members to receive guidance from attorneys who specialize in these areas. The attorneys offered information and assistance. 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 provided to the community members, including legal information pamphlets in Armenian from NLS and ArmenBar.

"We had a fantastic turnout, which proves there is a great need in the community for this type of service. We are happy with the overwhelming positive response from the community," said Asatryan," the Executive Director of ANC Glendale. ♦

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Armenian Bar Association Joins The ANC and Neighborhood Legal Services To Present Second Installment Of A Free Legal Clinic In Glendale

Glendale, California- The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar), in conjunction with the Armenian National Committee (ANC) and Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), held their second installment of a free legal clinic at the Glendale Youth Center on August 18, 2010. The clinic was attended by over 100 members of the community who were able to consult with volunteer attorneys regarding a wide range of legal issues.

“Our free legal clinic was a tremendous success and proved that Armenian organizations can work together for the betterment of our community. Thanks are in order to the ANC, 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 ArmenBar Executive Director Jacklin Boyadjian, Sarkis

Ourfalian and Elen Asatryan of the ANC and Alina Azizian of NLS for their tireless work in organizing the clinic,” said Simonian.

The volunteer ArmenBar attorneys included Varoujan Agemian, Benjamin Aydindzhyan, Sarkis Babachanian, ArmenBar Treasurer Sara Bedirian, Garbis Ekmekjian, Victor Hairapetian, Armen Hovannisian, Raymond Hovsepian, Alice Yardum-Hunter, Garo Ghazarian, Betty Jamgotchian, Saro Kerkonian, Nigol Manoukian, Hovanes Margarian, ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian, Sarkis Ourfalian, Vicken Simonian, Zareh Sinanyan and Hagop Tashjian. Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law and current ArmenBar Vice-Chairman, was on the clinic organizing committee, and along with Margarian, Sinanyan, Azizian, Ourfalian, and Boyadjian, appeared on local Armenian television programs to promote the

event.

A number of volunteers from ArmenBar, the ANC and NLS 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. The clinic allowed the community members to receive guidance from attorneys who specialize in these areas. The attorneys offered information and assistance. 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 provided to the community members, including legal information pamphlets in Armenian from NLS and ArmenBar.

“Numerous members of the Armenian Community turned out for our clinic, which proves there is a great need for this type of service. We are happy with the overwhelming positive response from the community and our ability to continue to our 21-year history of pro bono service,” said Boyadjian. ♦



Armenian Bar Treasurer, Sara Bedirian, volunteering her time at the Legal Clinic

Join the Armenian Bar Association today!

Download and Fill out application available on armenianbar.org today.

Armenian Bar Hosts Reception At Minx Nightclub

Glendale, California-Trendy nightclub Minx, located in the hub of the Armenian community in Glendale, served as the venue as the Armenian Bar Association held a social networking event in conjunction with the USC Armenian Alumni Association, on March 23, 2010. Over 300 members and friends of the two associations attended the function which served as an opportunity to network and renew friendships.

"We are extremely happy to have had such a good turnout for this networking event," said Hovanes Margarian, Board Member of Armenbar, and the organizer of the event. "The goal of this social event was to help us increase membership, promote upcoming activities, help professionals network and have a good time. I am confident that we achieved our goals" said Margarian.

Those in attendance were able to mingle and sample the libations

offered by one of Glendale's hottest evening destinations. On hand for the festivities were James Bozajian, City Councilman and Mayor of City of Cababadas, along with Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Sousann Bruguera and Zaven V. Sinanian. Bruguera, is of Armenian descent, and is undergoing an election challenge for her seat at the Stanley Mosk courthouse. She has been a bench officer for over 19 years.

Armen Hovannisian, past Chairman of ArmenBar was on hand to offer inspiring words to those in attendance, and introduce the dignitaries present. Both Hovanes and his brother Armen Magargian made brief introductory comments, then allowed the attendees to mingle. A local disc jockey, DJ International, provided musical entertainment, and dancing was on store until late in the evening.

Plans are underway for additional social receptions in the Los Angeles area. All upcoming events are posted on the ArmenBar website at www.armenianbar.org ♦

Jacklyn Boyadjian Appointed Executive Director

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service," said Boyadjian.

Boyadjian has a Master's degree in Public Policy from Pepperdine University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA, graduating summa cum laude at both universities. She serves on the Board of the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce-Greater Los Angeles Chapter, Fund raising Chair of the Armenian National Committee-Glendale Chapter, and is an active member of Charity: Water (a non profit organization bringing clean, safe drinking water to people in Africa), Glendale Healthy Kids, and the Armenian Bone Marrow Registry.

She was the Fund Raising Coordinator of the successful campaign of Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian, and was a political volunteer on the successful campaigns of Glendale City Councilman Ara Najarian and Glendale City Treasurer Rafi Manoukian. She currently works as a litigation paralegal for the Law Offices of Armen Janian and Associates in Glendale.

The previous Executive Directors of the group have been Vahe Messerlian (1994-1998), Lucy Varpetian, Senior Assistant City Attorney of Glendale (1998-2004), and Betty Jamgotchian (2004-2010). ♦



L-R James Bozajian, Karen Bourzakian and Judge Zaven V. Sinanian

Don't miss the Mid-Year Meeting in Providence, RI, Oct 8 - 11

Featuring:

- Health Care Reform
- Environmental Law and Technology Issues

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

Mid Year Meeting in RI

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in each area.

The panel on National Health Reform will include a discussion on state and legal implications for various practices headlined by experts Michael S. Varadian, JD, MBA, Executive Director of Health, Environmental and Health Services Regulations, Rhode Island Department of Health; Garry Giragosian, Esq., an Associate with Coloian Mansolillo, LLC, Legal Counsel for the Rhode Island General Assembly and Gregory A. Madoian, Esq., Deputy Chief Legal Counsel Rhode Island Department of Health.

The panel on Environmental Law will include presentations by Jeff Masarjian, Executive Director, Armenia Tree Project and Matt Bogoshian, Deputy Assistant Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

The fast changing area of Internet Technology law and Social Networking will be the topic of another lecture at the meeting. Kathryn L. Ossian, who heads up the legal team that counsels Fortune 500 companies, second-stage businesses and start-ups in all aspects of Information Technology law with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone PLC, will discuss how real

Armenian Bar Association Participates In Third Annual Graduate Professional Networking Forum at UCLA

Los Angeles, California- Chairman Edvin Minassian, Treasurer Sara Bedirian and Armenia Watch Rights Committee Chairman, Saro Kerkonian, were on hand to meet, greet and encourage law students and graduate students at the University of California at Los Angeles, Kerckhoff Hall, in the magnificent Charles E. Young Grand Salon on May 17, 2010.

Approximately forty organizations and companies representing various industries participated in the business forum intending to offer graduate professionals an opportunity to network and meet and communicate with successful Armenian-Americans from the various organizations and major national companies. The forum is intended to enable graduate students to learn about post-graduate community involvement in various organizations tailored to professional interests and goals. The forum was open to everyone and wine and food was served.

Also in attendance were,

time access and connectivity through the Internet and social media tools impacts the outcomes of trials.

Centuries of American history are preserved in Rhode Island, from 17th Century Colonial houses and churches to opulent mansions in Newport. Those attending the conference will have the opportunity to view "Waterfire Providence," the award winning sculpture by Barnaby Evans installed on the on the three rivers of downtown Providence. The exhibit features 100

Professor Richard Hovannisian, Chair of the Armenian History Department at UCLA, who was busy greeting students and talking with the graduate students. Also on hand was ArmenBar member, Raffi Kassabian, who is a business litigation associate of law firm of Lurie & Park. "The graduate students seem optimistic and energetic and interested in making connections," said Kassabian, who is also a past Executive Officer of the AGSA. Ardashes Kassakian, Clerk of the City of Glendale, was also busy meeting and greeting the crowd of graduate students interested in locating positions within local municipalities.

"The event was well received and has allowed graduate students to interact and network with established professionals in the community," said Andrew Behesnilian, current Executive Officer of the AGSA at UCLA. All the professionals and organizations who were present at the forum graciously donated their time to be a part of the event. ♦

bonfires near arched bridges, torch-lit vessels traveling down the river, and enchanting music from around the world.

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

More information about the event can be obtained at:

www.armenianbar.org ♦

Armenian Bar Board Members Meet With Archbishops Of The Armenian Church In Southern California



Meeting with Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian (center) are from L-R: Saro Kerkonian, Vicken Simonian, Nigol Manoukian, Prelacy volunteer, Edvin Minassian, Sara Bedirian, Armen Hovannisian, Judge Zaven V. Sinanian and Garo Ghazarian

The month of June, traditionally the most sought after month of the year for weddings, was utilized by the Armenian Bar Association as an opportunity to solidify its union with the Armenian Church. In consecutive weeks, Board members and leaders of ArmenBar met with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Primate of the Western Diocese and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian Prelate of the Western Prelacy.

The meetings were mandated by newly elected Chairman Edvin Minassian, and were intended to explore ways ArmenBar can work with the Armenian Church to educate and provide assistance to members of the community. Minassian is on various Boards of the Western Diocese and the Organization of Istanbul Armenians.

"I can think of no better way to

reach out to our community than to create a stronger bond with the leaders of the Armenian Church," said Minassian. "Our meetings with the Archbishops were very productive, and the groundwork was laid for future community forums, lectures and events designed to educate, provide pro bono assistance and further the mission of our organization," he said.

Attending the meetings were Chairman Minassian, Vice-Chairman Garo Ghazarian, Treasurer Sara Bedirian, Board Member Hovanes Margarian, Board Member Nigol Manoukian, Board member and former Chairman Armen Hovannisian, former Chairman and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, former Chairman and Treasurer Vicken Simonian, and Saro Kerkonian, former Treasurer and Rights Watch Chair.

Each meeting resulted in a productive exchange of ideas and a discussion of ways to work together. The meeting with Archbishop Derderian took place at the Western Diocese headquarters in Burbank, followed by a tour of the extraordinary new church. Equally fulfilling was the meeting with Archbishop Mardirossian at the Prelacy's impressive newly built church in La Crescenta.

Archbishop Derderian is an Oxford educated, luminary leader of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. He was appointed to his current position in 2003. Archbishop Mardirossian has a doctorate degree in theology, has served as Prelate since 1996, and was elevated to the rank of Archbishop in 2003. Both spiritual leaders have made significant advances for their constituents in Southern California. ♦

More Member News

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dent Member in that office. The Newport Beach office is located at 450 Newport Center Drive, 2nd Floor, Newport Beach, California. Mr. Horoupian can be contacted at 949.721.7302.



On March 26, 2010 a book launching party was held for Professor **Ann Lousin** at the John Marshall Law School. Professor Lousin's new book is entitled, *The Illinois State Constitution: A Reference Guide*. It's the first full-length scholarly analysis of the 1970 Illinois Constitution. Professor Ann Lousin said, "My book is selling like hotcakes or, should I say, lahmejoun." Oxford University Press is contemplating a second run of at least 500 copies. ArmenBar members in attendance included Leona Mirza, Liz Al-Dajani, Nick Berberian, and Greta Doumanian. Fr. Aren Jebejian of St. Gregory the Illuminator and Fr. Tavit Boyajian of Sts. Joachim & Anne were gracious enough to attend as well. Professor Ann Lousin's remarks can be found online at www.ArmenianBar.org. The book is available on Amazon



On April 24, 2010, several members of the Armenian Bar Association attended a multi-organization commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at Bicknell Park in Montebello, California. The park has been the home of an Armenian Genocide monument for 40 years. A beautiful floral arrangement, donated by Chairman Edvin Minassian was placed under the monument on behalf of ArmenBar. Pictured above from left are Vicken Simonian, Saro Kerkonian, Armen Hovannisian, Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, Ani Ghazarian, and Vice-Chairman Garo Ghazarian.



L-R: Armen Hovannisian, Edvin Minassian, Hovanes Margarian, Laura Karabulut, Betty Jamgotchian, John Lulejian, Sara Bedirian, Vicken Simonian

Armenian Bar member **Laura Karabulut** of Toronto, Canada was visiting the Los Angeles area in mid February 2010, enjoying the great summer like weather. While in Glendale, she met with other ArmenBar members at a dinner hosted by John Lulejian, Edvin Minassian and Vicken Simonian at Phoenicia Restaurant.

Armenian Bar Honors

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attendance was Raffi Manoukian, past two-term Mayor of Glendale, and a current Commissioner of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges in attendance included Kevin Brazile, Soussan Bruguera, Gregory Keosian, Ruth Kwan, Mark Mooney, Fred Rotenberg and ArmenBar past Chairman Zaven V. 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.

Also in attendance were Scott Howard, the City Attorney of Glendale, Gary Schram, Chief of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and President of the California Police Officers' Memorial Fund, Gary Markarian, Chief of the Armenian Police Officers' Association, Felipe Plascencia, President of the Mexican American Bar Association's Political Action Committee, Roger and Jo-Ann Grace, publishers of the Metropolitan News-Enterprise and Ed Hensen, a representative from the State Bar of California

Members from the Armenia News Media, including Vrej Aghajanian of AABC-TV and US-Armenia-TV were on hand to interview the guests and ArmenBar Directors. The interviews were aired locally and internationally in over 100 countries.

Najarian and Baca were delighted to receive the recognition,



L-R: Garo Mardirossian, Vicken Simonian, Garo Ghazarian, Raffi Hovannisian, Sheriff Lee Baca, Edvin Minassian, Judge Gregory Keosian, Judge Zaven V. Sinanian, Saro Kerkonian, Robert Philibosian, Armen Hovannisian, and Hovanes Margarian

and both thanked ArmenBar while encouraging members to volunteer for community service.

Najarian was appointed Mayor of Glendale on April 5, 2010, and has been on the City Council since 2005. This is his second term as Mayor, having served in that capacity during the 2007-2008 term. In addition to his duties as Mayor, Najarian is currently Chair of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Board of Directors. He has been a member of ArmenBar since its inception in 1989.

Baca was elected Los Angeles County Sheriff in 1998, and was reelected to a third term in 2006. He commands the largest Sheriff's Department in the United State, and leads a staff of over 18,000 professionals. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the law enforcement provider to 40 incorporated cities, 90 unincorporated communities, nine community colleges, and hundreds of thousands of daily commuters of the MTA and the Rapid Rail Transit District. Over four million people are directly protected by the Sheriff's Department.

Mardirossian is a decorated trial attorney and is a first cousin of Najarian. He was sworn in as CAALA Chairman in January, and in April, CAALA passed a resolution acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. The organization is the largest association of Plaintiff lawyers in the country.

Steve Simonian is a seasoned public speaker, and regaled the audience with humor and wit. In addition to being the Mayor of La Habra, he is the former Police Chief of Montebello, former Chief of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, and the former City Manager of the City of Bell Gardens.

"We will continue to honor those individuals who have distinguished themselves by serving our community," said Minassian. ♦

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Annual Meeting

continued from pg.2

of Chicago, and was an excellent venue for the meeting.

Der-Yeghiayan has been a federal court judge for the Northern District of Illinois since 2003, having been nominated for the position by George W. Bush. Prior to being appointed to the Federal bench, Der-Yeghiayan had a distinguished career as a trial attorney, district counsel and district director handling immigration matters. He received many awards during his legal career including the Frank J. McGarr award of the Federal Bar Association as the Outstanding Federal Government Attorney in Chicago and the District Counsel of the Year Award from the Commissioner of the INS and Attorney General Janet Reno in 1998.

Der-Yeghiayan's keynote speech entitled "Celebrating Armenian Heritage: Baba Ghanoush is the New Guacamole" was inspiring, thought provoking and humorous. In a special ceremony, he was awarded a plaque acknowledging his many years of service to the community.

As is customary, the meeting provided members with valuable continuing legal education units. ArmenBar is a preferred provider of MCLE credits in California and Pennsylvania.

The meeting was presided over by Sonya Nersessian, from Boston, Massachusetts, who concluded her second term as chair of the organization. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Board of Governors to meet, set the agenda of the organization, update the membership on recent activities and accomplishments, and vote on issues



L-R Sonya Nersessian and Amy Hoogasian



L-R Edvin Minassian, Betty Jamgotchian, Sonya Nersessian. Jamgotchian received an award for her many years of service as Executive Director of The Armenian Bar Association.

of importance to the organization.

Betty Jamgotchian, who served as Executive Director for ArmenBar for six years, was given an award of appreciation from the Board at the luncheon. Jamgotchian, from Glendale, California, retired from her position this year. In a touching ceremony, she thanked everyone for allowing her to serve such a great organization in a leadership role.

Edvin Minassian from Glendale, California was unanimously voted by the Board as ArmenBar's Chairman. Christine Engustian from Providence, Rhode Island became

the East Coast Vice-Chair and Garo Ghazarian, Dean of the Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles was voted in as West Coast Vice-Chair. Hoogasian from Chicago became Secretary, and Sara Bedirian from Beverly Hills retained her position as Treasurer.

A Friday evening reception was held at the Union League Club, and a Saturday evening dinner reception took place at the Armenian owned and award winning NAHA Restaurant. ♦

Scenes From The 2010 Chicago Annual Meeting



Message from the Chair

continued from pg. 1

Boyadjian has served for nearly seven years with the highest level of professionalism and represented our interests in various forums. And always with that wonderful smile!

While I also thank our outgoing Board members, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the strong group of newly-elected Board members, including a historic first from Canada, our esteemed colleague Harry Dikranian. We are enthusiastically looking forward to increasing our general and Board memberships from Canada, as well as from Europe and beyond.

As I take on the responsibility of Chair, I call on all lawyers, judges, legal scholars and law students who share the common bonds of Armenian heritage and heart to join us as we welcome you to a warm and rewarding professional home. We are dedicated to make sure that membership in the Armenian Bar Association offers each of you something worthwhile. For our part, we are viewed as a respectable, diverse and unique organization within the Diaspora with a lot of potential and a great track record of community involvement. Together, we can improve on that by putting our legal skills to good use, particularly in our pursuit and defense of justice for Armenians everywhere and our fight against the defamation of our history, heritage and culture.

While serious issues of Armenian-community concern draw our attention, we also try very hard to foster social and

professional interactions among legal professionals. We are dedicated to improve and continue the legal education of members with superb programs and captivating speakers. We will continue our active engagement in legal matters that affect the Armenian nation as a whole; as confirmed by our amicus curiae filings before the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals as well as the Appellate Court of Massachusetts. At the same time, we actively participate in civic and community affairs wherever we live to ensure the proper administration of justice. Another of our significant goals is the advancement of well-qualified Armenian attorneys onto the judicial bench. We will do our utmost to assist in the judicial application process and help demystify it for deserving individuals.

Along with my fellow Executive Committee members--Christine Engustian, Garo Ghazarian, Sara Bedirian and Amy Hoogasian--I welcome your input, ideas and suggestions. We also want to hear about your accomplishments and successes. We pledge to see to it that the Armenian Bar addresses and responds to your needs and expectations. At the same time, there are numerous challenges on the horizon that will require greater involvement and participation of our members. Our strength and our ability to advocate for the issues we all care about depends on our willingness to work together across North America and the world over. Moreover, as we identify and prioritize several new projects we are compelled to determine potential funding sources for them. A financially sound Armenian Bar can

accomplish so much. For example, one of our newest projects is establishing a grant fund to support young legal professionals and law students in Armenia to help tackle a variety of legal issues and challenges in our Motherland. Please feel free to send any ideas you have on this issue as well.

Planning is underway for the mid-year meeting in Providence, Rhode Island which will be held from October 8 – 10. The details as to the lecture program, activities and accommodations will be announced shortly. I also look forward to welcoming you to San Francisco for our Annual Meeting in Spring 2011.

As always, I look forward to a great year of exciting and educational programs and, above all, to seeing and working with many good friends.

Edvin Minassian

Chairman of the Board of Governors

Armenian Bar Association ♦

Roast

Continued from pg. 4

with other Bar Association functions,” said Bedirian, ArmenBar Treasurer. “Many present this evening have attended and supported our organization, and we believe it is important to show our support for them as well,” she said.

“We will continue to support other ethnic Bar Associations by participating in their events, with the goal of combining forces for the good of the legal community,” said Bedirian. ♦

Join the Armenian Bar Association today!

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

San Diego Attorney Dick Semerdjian Elected Vice-chair of American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section

SAN DIEGO, February 6, 2010 - Schwartz Semerdjian Haile Ballard & Cauley, LLP is proud to announce that at the American Bar Association (ABA) mid-term meeting in Orlando Florida, partner Dick Semerdjian was elected vice-chair of the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). Semerdjian, who specializes in civil litigation and trial practice, will begin his one-year term at the close of the ABA Annual Meeting in August, 2010.

The ABA is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world, boasting more than 400,000 members. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is a national source of expertise in tort, trial and insurance law and brings lawyers together to share information and speak out on issues of importance. The section has more than 32,000 members and 34 general committees that focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas across the broad spectrum of civil law and practice.

"It's an honor to take this new position," states Semerdjian. "I've enjoyed my service to the ABA, and specifically the TIPS section, for nearly two decades. I consider this

an opportunity to take my leadership to the next level."

Semerdjian has been a dedicated member of the ABA since 1986 when he first began practicing law. In 1994, he was appointed by the State Bar of California to the ABA House of Delegates where he served for nine years and gained insight into the policy and legislative arm of the association. Today, he continues as Vice-Chair of the Business Litigation Committee – one of the most successful groups in the TIPS section.

Over the years, Semerdjian has made positive contributions to the many TIPS General and Special Standing Committees in which he's been involved. In addition, he has served as a faculty member for the National Trial Academy in Reno, Nevada, and in 2009, he addressed the ABA/TIPS International Law Committee in Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, speaking on the subject of Legal Challenges to Chinese Companies doing business in the United States. He is currently a liaison for the ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence and serves on the Task Force on a Leadership-Diversity Initiative.

On a local level, he has been on the Board of Governors for the San Diego County Bar Association, and acted as Chairman for the San Diego International Sports Council and Foundation (now the San Diego Sports Commission/Hall of Champions where he remains as a trustee) and Chair of the UCSD Athletic Board.



"It's a passion for Dick to give back to the legal profession and to be involved with attorneys from all over the country on issues important to our firm's practice, explains Ross Schwartz, managing partner of the firm. "I'm speaking of substantive and procedural issues which really make a difference in the way our law firm lawyers seek excellent outcomes for our clients. We are proud of Dick's accomplishments"

Attorney Peter Bennett, former TIPS Chair and president of The Bennett Law Firm in Maine, encouraged Semerdjian to seek the vice-chair position because of his proven commitment and leadership to the ABA and to TIPS. "Dick is personable and engaged. He cares, he listens and he's good at building consensus. This is the only true national bar association that brings together plaintiff, defense, insurance and corporate counsel in one place, and does so on a grand scale. To be able to lead this organization means that you not only have to be good at what you do, you have to be respected by your peers and your opponents."

Respect and professional acknowledgement have been

continued on pg. 17

Federal Appeals Court Hands A Major Victory for Education and Denies Inclusion of Denialist Claims of The Armenian Genocide Within State Curriculum

U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a unanimous opinion authored by retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, David Souter, affirmed the District Court's decision that literature denying Armenian Genocide will not be included in Massachusetts human rights curriculum. A copy of the decision has been posted for your review.

The Armenian Bar Association had filed an Amicus Curiae Brief in support of the Massachusetts Board of Education, under the guidance of my predecessor, our former Chair Sonya Nersessian. We are grateful for her leadership and relentless efforts. We are also thankful to our partners who joined our brief: Armenian National Committee of America; Irish Immigration Center; Jewish Alliance for Law and Social

Action; The Genocide Education Project and the Zoryan Institute.

The ABA would like to address our special and sincere thanks to attorneys Mark Fleming and Rachel Gurvich and the Law Firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr, LLP, for their great work, time and efforts.

We would like to individually thank Kate Nahabetian of ANCA for her contributions and George Shirinian of the Zoryan Institute for his participation.

Special thanks are due to our own Rights Watch Chair Saro Kerkonian; Former Chair Frank Zerunyan and Genocide Project Chair Prof. Ann Lousin.

ABA would also recognize the efforts of and thank Edward Barshak, Esq., of Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak and Cohen who served as co-counsel on the Amicus Brief.

Additional thanks are also due to the following who have also contributed to this tangible and significant victory: The Armenian Assembly of America; Attorney General of Massachusetts Martha Coakley; Asst. Attorney General William Parker; The International Association of Genocide Scholars; Prof. Erwin Chemerinsky and Arnold Rosenfeld, Esq.

While we celebrate this well deserved and justified legal victory, we must never forget the victims in whose name and honorable memory we all worked. United, we will always remain vigilant and ready to successfully face current and future legal challenges.

With my deepest gratitude,

Edvin Minassian

Chair, Armenian Bar Association ♦

Dick Semerdjian Vice-chair

Continued from pg. 16

plentiful for Semerdjian throughout his career. In August 2009, he was included in the 2010 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America" – an honor based on an extensive review by peers, including more than 2.8 million confidential evaluations by top attorneys in the United States. And in San Diego, he was named as a 2009 semi-finalist for top Civil Litigator in San Diego County by the San Diego Transcript. The Transcript also recognized him in 2006 and 2008 as a Top Influential and in 2006 as one of the Ten Best Attorneys in San Diego. In April 2010, San Diego Magazine will name Semerdjian as one of the Top

Attorneys in San Diego County.

Semerdjian says he is excited to begin what will be a three-year commitment to TIPS, eventually taking over Chair of the organization in 2012. "I thoroughly enjoy helping to shape policy for our profession. And in my experience with TIPS, I have met excellent attorneys throughout the country and our clients know that our firm's reputation extends far beyond San Diego County and that judges and attorneys throughout the country recognize our name and accomplishments."

Schwartz Semerdjian Haile Ballard & Cauley LLP, located in downtown San Diego, has served its clients since 1998. The firm represents clients across a spectrum

of specialized areas, throughout California and the United States. Schwartz Semerdjian is a member of Legus – an association law firms world-wide, which focuses on legal and educational programming to improve the quality of legal performance.

Semerdjian and his wife Peggy live in Carmel Valley area of San Diego with their three children; Alyssa, a sophomore at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Tyler, a senior at Torrey Pines High School who will be heading to the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder in August; and Trevor, a sophomore at Santa Fe Christian High School. ♦

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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.

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The Armenian Rights Watch Committee monitors and takes action on issues affecting Armenians on the local, national and international levels. Members meet with international human rights organizations, raise media awareness of the Armenian Genocide and related issues, and join community task forces to battle discrimination and hate crimes against minorities.

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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.

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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.

Co-Chairs -

Nigol Manoukian and Hovanes Margarian

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.

Co-Chairs -

Garo B. Ghazarian and Vicken I. Simonian

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.

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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.

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AIMS AND STRUCTURE

The Armenian Bar Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, formed in 1989 to enable attorneys of Armenian heritage 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

COMMITTED TO SERVE

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

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