

# THE ADVISOR

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW | MAY 4, 2015

## TJSL ALUMNI VIDEO SERIES EPISODE FIVE FEATURING RENEE GALENTE '08 AND ERIC GANCI '08



The [TJSL Alumni Video Series](#), filmed and edited by Art Director Sherwin Laranga and produced by Communications Coordinator Denice Menard, showcases a wide variety of Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni and focuses on their areas of expertise and experiences.

In [Episode 5](#), you will meet husband and wife team Renee Galente '08 and Eric Ganci '08 who give you a glimpse into their lives and discusses their journey from law school to career.

After several years at a premiere plaintiffs' Civil Litigation firm in San Diego, alumna Renee Galente '08 joined her husband, DUI Attorney Eric Ganci '08, to form

[Galente Ganci, APC](#) in 2011. Managing a thriving practice has proved immensely rewarding for this husband and wife team, both professionally and personally. One of the many rewards for Galente is, "Getting to help people who've been hurt. Everything I do makes a difference to someone, betters their lives and makes them feel heard. That is an incredible gift for both the client and me as their lawyer," said Galente. "Another huge rewarding part is the freedom to be your own boss," Ganci pointed out. "Knowing I can do things how I want to do them, and that I am not bound by someone telling me I have to do something a certain way, or telling me I have to do something that I don't feel comfortable doing."

"In law school, all I knew is that I wanted to be a trial lawyer," Ganci said. With this in mind, at TJSL Ganci pursued internships and formed important ties within the legal community while learning important client skills. In particular, Ganci credits the Veterans Legal Clinic with providing an "eye-opening experience" that brought him to the realization that soon after graduating people would be relying on his advice as counsel.

Similarly, Galente pursued various internships and eventually found what area of the law she was passionate about at Thorsnes Bartolotta & Mcguire. "Clerking at Thorsnes Bartolotta & Mcguire sealed the deal and I knew that



it was plaintiff-side civil work that would make me happiest as a career," Galente said. Galente's enthusiasm earned her a job offer at Thorsnes Bartolotta & McGuire after passing the bar.

After becoming an attorney, Ganci faced the challenges of entering a difficult job market. "To be honest, starting my own practice was a business decision to start. I needed to start work, and there were few jobs available," Ganci said. "Also, I was playing in a lot of bars with my band, and I was already answering a lot of questions about what your rights are if you get pulled over for a DUI. I made a name for myself within that community for giving straight answers, and the clientele just started to build from there."

For Ganci, a venture that began as a practical decision became a burgeoning practice driven by his growing expertise and interest in DUI defense. "Once I started getting into DUIs, I got really, really interested on the science and procedure," Ganci said. "The more I

learned, the more I wanted to continue to learn about alcohol, drugs, field tests, and police procedure."

Practicing law also gave Ganci the satisfaction of helping his clients by educating them on the law. "As a former teacher, I really enjoy seeing how people take in and process information, and discovering what makes them act on that information," Ganci said. "Each trial, each negotiation, each client meeting is about teaching. I absolutely love it."

Although Galente worked for Thorsnes from 2008 to 2011, gaining valuable experience in plaintiff's personal injury, the couple soon realized that with their successful legal skills they could develop a practice together. At Galente Ganci, APC, Galente takes the lead on civil litigation matters while Ganci handles criminal defense matters, specializing in DUI defense.

Since opening their practice, Galente and Ganci have been recipients of multiple

accolades. Both Galente and Ganci were included in the San Diego Business Journal's Best of the Bar. In addition to this honor, the American Chemical Society Chemistry & the Law Division granted Ganci the Lawyer Scientist Designation for his study and application of science in the courtroom.

Galente and Ganci, who are both former TJSU Alumni Board Presidents, recognize that TJSU helped them develop a love for learning the law which has helped them shape the careers and the life they enjoy today. "The school changed my life and was my first experience with an educational organization that encouraged me to succeed and that actively worked and supported me to help me reach my goals," Galente said. "I always think about my time doing a summer project with former TJSU General Counsel Jeff Joseph," Ganci said. "Sitting with him, discussing how to write legal arguments and motions, I just loved how he would flow around case law holdings and facts with such command and enjoyment.

That really taught me to love the law, and to get excited about how all this comes into play with real-life situations."

Knowing firsthand the obstacles many recent graduates face today, Ganci's advice is, "Get involved in the local, statewide, and nationwide legal communities. Take classes, volunteer your time, do pro bono work. Do everything you can to push yourself forward as a person and as a student of life." Galente seconds Ganci's advice. "Hit the ground running. Get out there, and if you have not joined San Diego legal organizations, do that immediately. Get involved in the community," Galente said. "Show up and sign up for committees. Get your face recognized for being someone who can be counted on to follow through."



### TJSU RANKS #13 IN THE NATION FOR TOP GRADUATE PROGRAM



[GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com), a resource for prospective graduate students, aimed at providing an honest and candid look at graduate programs across the country, has released its [Spring 2015 Law School Rankings](#).

Thomas Jefferson School of Law ranked number 13 out of 50 among the nation's graduate programs which puts TJSU above Georgetown University, The Ohio State University and University of San Diego.

According to [GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com), the program ratings used to calculate the rankings are based on

a comprehensive assessment by alumni and current students across fifteen categories including student diversity, academic competitiveness, career support, education quality and faculty accessibility and support.

Over 70,000 alumni and students participated, from over 1,600 graduate programs, using data gathered between September 1, 2012 and March 31, 2015.

[GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com) states, "We don't just offer answers from administrators—though their feedback is invaluable—we go straight to the students who have gone

before you so that you can make informed choices based on true experiences. For a prospective graduate student, [GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com) is a great resource where you can hear what your peers have to say about their grad school experience."

In May of last year, Thomas Jefferson School of Law earned another honor and was ranked as the number one undervalued law school according to Paul Caron of Pepperdine University School of Law.

## PRISCILLA ASKAR 3L OBTAINS POST-BAR CLERKSHIP WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



Priscilla Askar 3L, has accepted a prestigious two-year post-bar judicial clerkship at the Immigration Court of Los Angeles through the Attorney General's Honors Program. The Department of Justice (DOJ) Honors Program is the largest and most prestigious federal entry-level attorney hiring program of its kind and eligibility is generally limited to graduating law students and recent law school graduates. Priscilla is one of 213 individuals who will join the DOJ through the Attorney General's Honors Program this year, selected from a highly competitive candidate pool of approximately 3,000 applicants.

This opportunity came on the heels of her previous summer internship with the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review in Los Angeles, through its Summer Law Internship Program (SLIP), where she researched and drafted court orders and memoranda

on pending motions including: asylum, withholding of removal, protection under the Convention Against Torture, and cancellation of removal. Askar says she gained valuable exposure to court procedures and effective advocacy strategies. "This experience gave me a lot of insight regarding immigration law cases because I really got to delve into a case and see the case from both sides."

Askar came to TJSL with a desire to work in public service in the field of immigration law and ambitiously sought out opportunities for experience by attending events and career panels. "I learned about the SLIP program during an attorney panel held by TJSL's Immigration Law Society during my 1L year and I marked my calendar for the program's next deadline." Application deadlines for government internships and the Attorney General's Honors Program can be completed almost one-

year or more in advance and are found in the University of Arizona's Government Honors and Internship Handbook on Symplicity. Reminders of deadlines are emailed weekly to students by the Thomas Jefferson Career Services Office.

A strong desire and commitment to immigration law throughout law school has brought Askar to where she is today. She began gaining experience early in law school by interning at the Casa Cornelia Law Center in her 2L year helping immigrant victims of serious crimes obtain visas. She is looking forward to carrying her previous internship experiences into her law career. "I am excited to develop an expertise in immigration law that will help me become a better advocate for people I will help in the future. I am also happy that I will be close to my family again in Los Angeles."

## GEORGE MILLER '08 A PROUD TJSL GRADUATE

"You are in a unique position to decide how to spend the next 30-40+ years of your life," said George Miller '08 when asked what he would say to current TJSL students. "There are many things you can do with your degree -- do what makes sense for you."

Miller, who graduated summa cum laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2008, says choosing TJSL was a fairly easy decision for him, "I visited the three law schools in San Diego and other schools in Southern California as well as around the country. Ultimately, I chose Thomas Jefferson because of its amazing faculty and staff. I attribute my success largely to the school's excellent professors."

While interning for a brokerage firm in college at the University of Texas, Miller says that is where he became interested in his area of law. "I liked securities and investments but was not interested in the sales side of the industry. So becoming a securities lawyer was the next best thing. I truly lucked out in joining Shustak & Partners, P.C., as there are few securities litigation firms in San Diego. The Thomas Jefferson School of Law Career Services Office played a critical role in helping me get to where I am today, as I was first introduced to my firm through an on campus interview event."

At Shustak & Partners, Miller's practice focuses primarily on securities arbitrations, business and corporate

litigation, judgment enforcement proceedings, and employment, bonus, contractual, and real property disputes. "Many of our cases are complex, multi-million dollar disputes. Our clients often come to us in crisis, facing problems that could destroy their business or life savings. There is nothing more rewarding than winning the battle and helping our clients move on with their lives."

Part of Miller's daily philosophy stems from this quote from former University of Texas Coach Darrell Royal, "I try not to make the same mistakes today that I made yesterday." Miller says, "There's a reason it's called the practice of law. Learn from your mistakes, give it all you got and you'll be fine."



## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

### ANDERS KAYE

#### Article

*Why Pornography is Not Prostitution: Folk Theories of Sexuality in the Law of Vice*, St. Louis U. L.J. (forthcoming 2015)

### MADLINE JUNE KASS

#### Presentation

Key Note Speaker, Seattle Journal for Environmental Law Annual Banquet and Volume Launch, Seattle Law School, Seattle, WA (April 16, 2015)

### MARJORIE COHN

#### Radio

Agent Orange: terrible legacy of the Vietnam War, Sounds of Dissent, WZBC, Boston, May 2, 2015.

Criminal charges against Baltimore officers for death of Freddy Gray, KOGO radio news, San Diego, May 1, 2015.

Drones and American exceptionalism, CounterSpin, FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting), national, May 1, 2015.

### SAMUEL W. BETTWY

#### Article

*Evolving Transnational Cinematic Perspectives of Terrorism*, 9 Persp. on Terrorism 42 (2015).

[View All Faculty Citations](#)

[View Legal Writing Competitions](#)

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[View Scholarships](#)



## THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW GRADUATION INFO

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015**

DOORS OPEN AT 9 AM

GRADUATION PROCESSION STARTS PROMPTLY AT 10 AM

**COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL**

750 B STREET

SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

# THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW

## ALUMNI & FRIENDS TAILGATE



# PADRES VS CARDINALS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015 3:30 P.M.

**RSVP** <http://alumni.tjssl.edu/events/rsvp.asp?eventid=411>

**\$28** TJSL STUDENTS **\$35** ALUMNI, FACULTY,  
STAFF AND GUESTS



Includes all-you-can-eat tailgate party  
access and a ticket to the game!

