

GARO MARDIROSSIAN INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE CONSUMER ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES

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a freshman at UCSB, and their son Kevork is in the third grade. Ani and Nora are both exceptional student athletes, achieving numerous awards while attending Marymount High School in West Los Angeles. Kevork was recently named in a select group of "Athletes of the Year" in the Palisidian Post, the Pacific Palisades local newspaper, for his feats in football and basketball.

The Mardirossian's are the managing partners of Mardirossian

continue our efforts to defend the rights of the citizens of California while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and integrity," he said. Mardirossian's term as President will begin in 2010. Randy Mc Murray of the Cochran Law Firm was installed as President of CAALA and will serve in that capacity this year.

Several awards were presented by CAALA at the banquet, and included:

Justice Ronald George, Appellate Justice of the Year;

Charles McCoy, Trial Judge of the



and Associates, a six-lawyer boutique personal injury firm, where Mr. Mardirossian achieved multi-million dollar jury verdicts in several cases over his 27 year career. Notably, a \$24.85 million judgment rendered in the case of Dole v. County of Los Angeles in 1995 remains the largest police brutality verdict ever achieved in California.

"I am honored that my colleagues have the faith in me to lead this great organization of trial lawyers," said Mardirossian. "I am determined to work with the Board of Governors to

Year;

Gary Paul, Trial Lawyer of the Year, Jeffrey Ehrlich, Appellate Lawyer of the Year;

Antony Stuart, Ted Horn Memorial Award for significant contributions to the organization.

Mardirossian had the distinction of presenting Charles "Tim" McCoy, the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County courts, with his award, and offered words of praise for the new leader of the Los Angeles County's 600 judges.

after having done the shopping, lingers for a while or demands the check I give it, otherwise I don't", says a saleswoman in one of the CD/DVD shops of Yerevan. "I understand my boss. He says by paying so much money to the tax inspectorate small business will disappear."

Starting January 2009 there are two groups of tax payers - one group is a small business whose annual turnover should be less than about 58.5 million drams (about \$191,000) and they have to pay some 10-13 percent taxes. The second group representatives annual turnover should be above the mentioned number and they have to pay 30-35 percent from their revenue in taxes.

While kiosks and small shops may yet keep their receipts to themselves, some shoppers in supermarkets are intrigued by the chance to gamble on their shopping. Everyday during her

work break Anahit Stepanyan buys food at one of the supermarkets in Yerevan. "I take checks every day and have big hope that I'll win. My co-worker and have even decided what we will do if we win". With the introduction of the lottery is also coming closer monitoring by tax authorities.

First time violators of the law (whose prices included Value Added Tax) are fined 150,000 drams ((about \$490); second time the fine is doubled, with an additional 5-day suspension of business. A third violation would result in a 600,000 dram fine (about \$1,960) and 10 days suspension. Since the program came into effect January 1 at least two supermarkets, Nor Zovq and Yerevan City, have been cited and fined. According to the State Income Commission, by mid-January at least 16 shops had been found in violation, including five that received suspensions.

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Beverly Hills, California-Decorated trial attorney Garo Mardirossian was sworn in as President Elect of the Consumer Attorneys Association (CAALA) at the group's 60th Annual Installation and awards dinner at the Fish Beverly Wilshire Hotel on January 1, 2009.

CAALA (formerly known as the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association) was formed in 1949, and with nearly 1000 members is the largest association of Plaintiff's lawyers in the United States. Among its many goals, the influential group is active in the promotion of legislation intended to protect the rights and interests of consumers of the State of California.

Several members of the California judiciary were in attendance, including Donald George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and four justices from the California Courts of Appeal. Thirty-two judges and commissioners from the Los Angeles county court system were also present,

including Presiding Judge Charles McCoy, Assistant Presiding Judge Lee Edmon, Judge Zaven Sinanian, who sits at the Stanley Mosk courthouse in Downtown Los Angeles and Judge Gregory Keosian, who sits in the Van Nuys courthouse in the San Fernando Valley.

Also in attendance were numerous politicians, including Congressman Adam Schiff, California State Assemblyman Paul Krekorian and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo.

In 2000 Mardirossian was voted CAALA's "Trial Lawyer of the Year." Mardirossian has been on the Board of Governors for 15 years, and he will be the first person of Armenian descent ever to become president of the prestigious organization. Mardirossian and his wife Kathy have been married for 22 years. Their daughter Ani is a sophomore at UCLA, Garo's alma mater. Daughter Nora is

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Prior to joining the City Attorney's office, Amerian served as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Dickran Tevzizian. In this capacity, he worked on cases involving complex constitutional, civil rights, municipal liability, free speech, securities fraud, trademark and patent issues.

In addition to his work as a prosecutor, Amerian serves as a trustee of the George Ignatius Foundation, which has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Armenian educational, cultural, religious and humanitarian organizations throughout the world.

Continuing a family tradition, Amerian is part-owner and a member of the Board of Directors of the small business that his family built and has operated for 75 years. He and his family are proud of the fact that they still provide full health insurance for all of their employees and their families in an era when many do not. In addition, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts have named the business a "Good Corporate Citizen" three years

in a row for being especially environmentally responsible.

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Film Foundation, a non-profit educational and cultural organization dedicated to documenting and preserving the Armenian heritage in multi-media formats. He is an active member of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, serving on the church's Government Relations & Protocol Committee.

Amerian earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California, where he established the Justice Richard Amerian Scholarship Endowment which provides scholarship funds to deserving law students.

The election, which takes place on March 3, features five candidates. The top two will face off in a run-off election in May. To learn more about the campaign, visit his website: www.MichaelAmerian.com.

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