

THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

Historical Society

invites you to attend a special event

DIRECT DEMOCRACY: THE CAUSE OF CALIFORNIA'S PROBLEMS — OR THE SOLUTION?

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 7:00 pm
251 So. Main St., Downtown Los Angeles (Civic Center)**



The California Supreme Court Historical Society marks the centennial of the initiative process in California, with a symposium on its historical, legal and political legacy over the past 100 years – and a look into its future.

In October 1911, California voters enacted the modern system of direct democracy by approving Proposition 7, which established the initiative and referendum. In the same election, voters approved a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

CO-SPONSORS

ZÓCALO PUBLIC SQUARE / LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The promises of direct democracy are to promote citizen involvement and level the playing field of politics. But after a century of initiative and referendum in California, many wonder how level the playing field is, and whether ballot box legislation has advanced the cause of good governance, or only contributed to governmental dysfunction. In recent decades, dozens of initiatives have profoundly changed the state's budgeting process, its criminal justice system, its educational system, and the autonomy of local governments. What are the practical and legal limits of governing by initiative, and is California better or worse for it? When it comes to direct democracy, whose voice is being heard?



PANELISTS

Hon. Carlos Moreno, Associate Justice, Calif. Supreme Court (ret.)

Peter Schrag, author and columnist; former editorial page editor, Sacramento Bee

Joel Fox, political consultant; former president, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.

Robert M. Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies

Moderator: Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Programs, League of Women Voters

RSVP

Free, but reservations required. MCLE credit provided. Reception to follow.

To reserve, click [HERE](#) or go to <http://zocalopublicsquare.org> and click on "Upcoming"
Questions? Call CSCHS at (800) 353-7537 or email: director@cschs.org