

our respect and attention. Chandler, Wells Fargo Bank's longstanding researcher for historical services, includes an excellent short discussion of the disputes over the validity of the Mexican land grants, the costs of the litigation, and the ways the prolonged uncertainty delayed agricultural development. He also discusses the impact of the Civil War, particularly federal concern about the state's loyalty to the Union, which was manifested in actions like the first use of Alcatraz as a prison to confine leading secessionists and the stationing of troops in southern California where pro-southern sentiments were strong.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, Chandler recounts, opportunities for African Americans in California improved. However, when the Democratic Party resurged in 1867, the state legislature failed to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment and "gleefully disapproved of and rejected the Fifteenth Amendment granting black suffrage." In describing the interplay of anti-negro and anti-Chinese sentiments, Chandler also discusses the ways federal action blunted some of the measures aimed at the Chinese. Finally, Chandler describes the first stirrings of federal environmental regulatory power as a federal judge acted to control the impact of hydraulic mining on rivers and farmland.

In short, *Taming the Elephant* has a great deal to offer. One of the editors' goals was to encourage our further reading and many of the authors provide rich footnotes to guide us. I urged Dick Orsi to share with us his favorite books on nineteenth-century California history, and he offered two: Sucheng Chan, *This Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture* (UC Press, 1989), which he regards as a superb work of fact-based history, and Gerald Nash's classic, *State Government and Economic Development: A History of Administrative Policies in California, 1849-1933* (Institute for Governmental Studies, University of California, 1964). Yet, much as Orsi admires these and many other works, with a twinkle in his voice he prefaced his recommendations with this tantalizing idea: "The best books on California history are yet to be written."

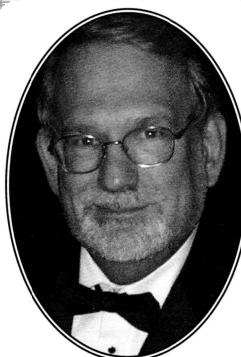
Susan Westerberg Prager is a professor of law and former dean at UCLA's School of Law and a member of the CSCHS Board of Directors. She teaches and writes in the area of California legal history.

Taming the Elephant is provided as a 2004 benefit of membership at the Judicial level and higher. If you have not yet received your copy, or you would like to upgrade your membership in order to receive a copy, please contact the CSCHS office.



DIANE YU reports that she received an honorary Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, from the City University of New York in May 2004. Yu is the Chief of Staff and Deputy to the President of New York University and is the highest ranking woman and person of color in the university administration. She also serves as Chair of the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession. As an out-of-state member of the Society, Yu writes, "My husband Michael and I do miss California friends and weather, but are enjoying our lives here nonetheless. Great cultural benefits are everywhere."

MAGDALENA REYES BORDEAUX was featured on the cover of the September 2004 issue of *Los Angeles Lawyer* magazine, in which she authored an article explaining how bankruptcy attorneys can assist debtors who are victims of identity theft expunge a fraudulent bankruptcy from the public record.



In January 2004, NORMAN PINE was honored by the Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles as that organization's Appellate Lawyer of the Year for 2003.

Congratulations to the members of the CSCHS Board of Directors and Advisory Board who have been named as Superlawyers for 2004! Named in the area of appellate practice are VICKI DEGOFF, ELWOOD LUI, KENT RICHLAND, and DOUG YOUNG. Named in the area of business litigation practice are JOHN DONOVAN, MAGGIE LEVY, and KEVIN O'CONNELL. ERIC JOSS was named in the area of labor and employment law. Also listed were MEL GOLDMAN and TOM ROSCH. The Superlawyers listing can be accessed at www.superlawyers.com.