

Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor Inducted into California Hall of Fame

Roger J. Traynor, former Chief Justice of California, was inducted into the California Hall of Fame in ceremonies held in Sacramento on December 8, 2011. Governor Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown, Jr. presented the award to Joseph Traynor, one of the late Justice Traynor's sons. In his remarks preceding the formal presentation of the award, the Governor spoke eloquently of Justice Traynor's youth in a hard-scrabble mining town, his academic achievements as a student and later as a professor at the University of California at Berkeley and its law school, Boalt Hall, and his vision and leadership over 30 years as a member of California's high court. Governor Brown also recalled Justice Traynor's personal contribution toward his own early success:

I have a special fondness in my heart for Justice Traynor. He wrote a letter of recommendation for me to Yale Law School, which is the only reason — I think — I got in. I don't know whether he wrote it because he thought I was going to be a great legal scholar or because my father appointed him Chief Justice. But, whatever, I'm here. (The text of Governor Brown's remarks appears on the following page.)

Other notable Californians inducted into the Hall of Fame concurrently with Chief Justice Traynor included astronaut and moon explorer Buzz Aldrin, the legendary surf-rock band The Beach Boys, basketball superstar Magic Johnson, and celebrated novelist Amy Tan. Inductees to the Hall of Fame are men and women who have made lasting contributions to the state, the nation and the world in many walks of life including the arts, education, science, business and labor, athletics, philanthropy and public service. (A partial list of the 63 Californians already honored through inclusion into the Hall of Fame appears below.)



The 2011 California Hall of Fame ceremonies were held in Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium, a venerable building that has been the site of many gubernatorial inaugurations.

PHOTO CLIP COURTESY OF COMCAST HOME NETWORK

The California Hall of Fame, implemented in 2006 by former First Lady Maria Shriver, is a featured program of the California Museum. After each year's formal induction ceremonies, a photograph and an account of each inductee's life and accomplishments are added to the permanent exhibit installed within the Museum, which is located within the State Archives building in Sacramento, one block from the State Capitol.

Founded in 1998, the Museum is affiliated in a public-private partnership with the State Archives and the Secretary of State's Office, but receives most of its funding from private sources. The Hall of Fame and its glittering annual induction ceremony has become a landmark destination for visitors from throughout the State, and the world. ★

★ ★ ★ *Partial List of Members of California Hall of Fame* ★ ★ ★

ANSEL ADAMS	FRANK GEHRY	DOROTHEA LANGE	JONAS SALK
EDMUND G. (PAT) BROWN	A. P. GIANNINI	GEORGE LUCAS	LELAND STANFORD
DAVE BRUBECK	ANDY GROVE	WILLIE MAYS	KEVIN STARR
CESAR CHAVEZ	STEVE JOBS	ROBERT MONDAVI	JOHN STEINBECK
WALT DISNEY	HIRAM JOHNSON	JULIA MORGAN	LEVI STRAUSS
AMELIA EARHART	RAFER JOHNSON	LINUS PAULING	EARL WARREN
CLINT EASTWOOD	HENRY J. KAISER	RONALD REAGAN	ALICE WATERS

GOVERNOR BROWN'S REMARKS AT
CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME CEREMONIES
DECEMBER 8, 2011 (edited for length)

Welcome, everyone, to this great celebration in recognition of some of the finest citizens of California.

I have a special fondness in my heart for Justice Traynor. He wrote a letter of recommendation for me to Yale Law School, which is the only reason — I think — I got in. I don't know whether he wrote it because he thought I was going to be a great legal scholar or because my father appointed him Chief Justice. But, whatever, I'm here.

If the California legal system had a favorite son it would be Justice Roger Traynor. He was a scholar among scholars, a professor beloved by his students, and, of course, California's Chief Justice.

He was born in 1900 to Irish immigrants and raised in the rough-and-ready mining town of Park City, Utah. Traynor knew the meaning of a hard day's work. He also discovered a love of learning. With very little money but with lots of enthusiasm he arrived at the University of California. There he earned his PhD in Political Science and a law degree in the same year of 1927. He took the Bar Exam the same day as my father, who went to a night law school. . . .

After he passed the Bar Exam, he started to teach at Berkeley, teaching the first course in taxation. . . . He helped to create California's modern system of taxation: its sales tax, its car tax — he figured the whole thing out. We could sure use his help today.

He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1940 as an Associate Justice and then was elevated as Chief Justice in 1964. He served on the Supreme Court for over 30 years and authored 900 decisions. Some say he is the greatest jurist not to have been appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

In the tradition of Lord Mansfield, who abolished slavery in England, Justice Traynor was willing to use intelligence, humanity, and the authority of the judiciary to challenge existing assumptions. In 1948 he authored the first decision in the country to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriages. That was *Perez v. Sharp*. And in 1963 he created a new rationale, one that has been universally adopted by other states, establishing the principle that businesses must be responsible to the public when their products cause harm.

Justice Traynor was a champion of people's rights. He was a careful jurist; didn't always agree with one position, one interest, or one ideological positioning. But he was a wise person who saw the judiciary as a co-equal branch of government that had its own power and responsibility to make sure that our framework of law worked, was just, and adapted to the ever-changing times in which we live. Justice Traynor — a very fitting first inductee. ★



Statewide coverage of the Hall of Fame ceremonies was provided by COMCAST Home Network. The images above show (TOP TO BOTTOM): Gov. Brown delivering his formal induction address; the Governor receiving the Hall of Fame medal from Staff Sgt. Richard Aller, California Army National Guard for presentation to Joe Traynor, one of Justice Traynor's sons, who is approaching the podium; and Joe Traynor, accepting the medal on behalf of his father, speaking to the audience of over 750 and recalling his father's emphasis on the importance of hard work.

PHOTO CLIPS COURTESY OF COMCAST HOME NETWORK

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE ROGER J. TRAYNOR: IMAGES FROM HIS LIFE



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE ROGER J. TRAYNOR: IMAGES FROM HIS LIFE



PAGE 12, CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

Traynor as Chief Justice, formal portrait.

Traynor the scholar: Roger Traynor was a member of the faculty at Boalt Hall for ten years, beginning in 1930. This photograph was taken at Boalt in 1940, shortly after his nomination to the California Supreme Court.

Four-year-old Roger Traynor in his Park City, Utah hometown.

Traynor as a student at Park City High School.

Traynor the family man: With his son Joe, on the Berkeley Municipal Pier, circa 1944.

THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Justice Traynor leading a discussion on American legal principles in Salzburg, Austria in 1956. The prestigious Salzburg Seminars were held for many years in the aftermath of World War II to provide European opinion leaders an opportunity to learn about America from American judges, journalists, labor leaders, corporate executives, university professors and government officials.

Traynor the teacher: Lecturing at Hastings College of the Law in the 1970s, after his retirement as Chief Justice.



ALL PHOTOS ON PAGES 12–13 COURTESY OF THE ROGER J. TRAYNOR MEMORIAL COLLECTION AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW