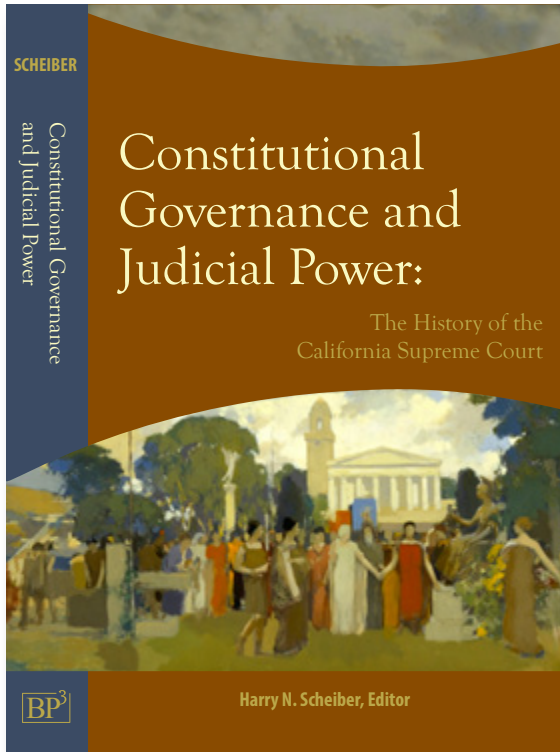


# A “Far-Reaching and Scholarly Text”

THE HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT



COVER DESIGN: MARIA WOLF.

IMAGE CREDIT: “THE COMMONWEALTH,” BY ARTHUR MATHEWS, THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART, GIFT OF HAROLD WAGNER.

A NEW BOOK, SPONSORED by the California Supreme Court Historical Society, is devoted to the remarkable history of the California Supreme Court.

Just as California is a national leader in politics, economics, technology, and culture, the California Supreme Court is one of the most important state courts in the country. Its doctrinal innovations have been cited by other courts — including the U.S. Supreme Court — and watched intently by the press and the public.

*Constitutional Governance and Judicial Power* tells the story of this important institution, from its founding at the dawn of statehood to the modern-day era of complex rulings on issues such as technology, privacy, and immigrant rights. This comprehensive history includes giants of the law, from Stephen J. Field, who became chief justice when his predecessor fled the state after killing a U.S. senator in a duel, to Ronald George, who guided the Court through same-sex marriage rulings

watched around the world. We see the Court’s pioneering rulings on issues such as the status of women, constitutional guarantees regarding law enforcement, the environment, civil rights and desegregation, affirmative action, and tort liability law reform. Here too are the swings in the Court’s center of gravity, from periods of staunch conservatism to others of vigorous reform. And here is the detailed history of an extraordinary political controversy that centered on the death penalty and the role of Chief Justice Rose Bird—a controversy that led voters to end Bird’s tenure on the bench.

California has led the way in so many varied aspects of American life, including the law. *Constitutional Governance and Judicial Power* gathers together the many strands of legal history that make up the amazing story of the California Supreme Court.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR



HARRY N. SCHEIBER is Chancellor’s Professor & Stefan A. Riesenfeld Professor of Law and History, Emeritus, at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. He also is director of the School’s Institute for Legal Research

and served previously as president of the American Society for Legal History. He is the author or editor of 14 books, is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has twice held Guggenheim Fellowships.

Most recently, in November 2015, he received the 2015 Berkeley Faculty Service Award of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (given to two professors each year among the 1,700 fulltime faculty members) in recognition of an “extraordinary record of distinguished service” during his 35-year career at Berkeley, including “his many leadership roles at the School of Law, his contributions as member and chair of numerous Academic Senate and system-wide committees, and as an influential and devoted contributor to the academic legal profession at large.” Support for his nomination came “from 22 senior scholars who represent all areas of the campus,” culminating in the announcement that “Professor Scheiber admirably fulfills the criteria of this award by significantly enhancing the quality of the campus as an educational institution and community of scholars.”

## LIST OF CHAPTERS

CHAPTER 1: PIONEERS ON THE BENCH 1849–1879  
*Charles J. McClain*

CHAPTER 2: CREATING A COURT SYSTEM 1880–1910  
*Gordon Morris Bakken*

CHAPTER 3: THE AGE OF REFORM 1910–1940  
*Lucy E. Salyer*

CHAPTER 4: THE GIBSON ERA 1940–1964  
*Charles J. McClain*

CHAPTER 5: THE LIBERAL COURT 1964–1987  
*Harry N. Scheiber*

CHAPTER 6: THE LUCAS YEARS 1987–1996  
*Bob Egelko*

CHAPTER 7: THE GEORGE COURT 1996–2010  
*Molly Selvin*

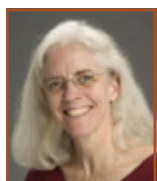
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“Comprehensive, thorough, and at times riveting, *Constitutional Governance and Judicial Power* is essential to understanding the legal history of the nation’s most populous state. In the capable hands of editor Harry N. Scheiber, these essays trace the court from its humble beginnings in a San Francisco hotel through pivotal debates over slavery, water, divorce, racial discrimination, immigration, the death penalty, and gay marriage. Through their skillful interweaving of legal and political history, we see the colorful and singular nature of California, whose great struggles often have been shaped, for better and for worse, by its Supreme Court.”

— JIM NEWTON, author of *Justice for All: Earl Warren and the Nation He Made*