

---

## 'I'm Looking for Real Wisdom'

PHILOSOPHICAL AND REFLECTIVE, GOVERNOR SWEARS IN TWO NEW JUSTICES

---

SACRAMENTO — After he was sworn in by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye for a fourth term on January 5, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown walked across the Capitol lawn to swear in the two newest justices he appointed to the California Supreme Court.

Justices Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar and Leandra R. Kruger took their oaths in the wood-paneled ceremonial courtroom on the sixth floor of the Stanley Mosk Library & Courts Building.

"Welcome to our building," said the Chief Justice, who presided. "This is a special place. I like to say it is a jewel of the judiciary — and we have many jewels."

She noted that the building was constructed to lure the Supreme Court to return from San Francisco to Sacramento.

"This beautiful courtroom was built for us back in 1928," she said. "But then Chief Justice William Waste came to Sacramento and said, 'What's the Court doing in the attic?' At that point all work ceased and a new courtroom was built on the first floor, very similar to the courtroom you see here."

The ploy didn't work. The Court's headquarters remains in San Francisco. But the justices return regu-

larly to hear arguments in the first-floor courtroom in Sacramento.

In introducing the Governor, the Chief Justice pointed out that he appointed approximately 900 judges during his first three terms.

"He has outdone himself with our latest two," she said, acknowledging the two new justices sitting beside her.

The Governor peppered his remarks during the swearing-in ceremony with references to his own history with the California Supreme Court, and alluded to his common bond with the newest justices as graduates of Yale Law School.

"Since there's been so much talk of Yale Law School, I have to tell you a little secret: how I got into Yale Law School," he said. "Justice [Roger] Traynor wrote a letter saying I was going to become a great legal scholar. I always felt that was the deciding factor that got me in."

Brown recalled his own time as a clerk on the California Supreme Court.

"I did get a little taste of the judicial branch when I served as a law clerk to Justice [Mathew] Tobriner in 1964," he said. "I really learned how to write by writing conference memos."

He noted the historic preeminence of the Court.

"California is somewhat of an international jurisdiction," he said. "We're doing things to influence the rest of the world. I would expect that our Supreme Court, by the quality and depth and wisdom of its opinions, will have a similar impact on courts throughout the country and maybe even throughout the world."

Brown cited with approval Justice Cuéllar's writings on administrative law urging that the practical effects of rules and rulings be considered.

"I like that," he said. "Because I want you to know what the hell the consequences are when you make all these rulings — very, very important. This is not some rarefied theological world. It's the real, ultimate, other branch of government, and we're here to govern a very complicated world."

He also lauded Justice Cuéllar's experience in regulatory policy.



*The ceremony was held in the courtroom built in 1928 to entice the Supreme Court to return from San Francisco to Sacramento.*

*Video: <https://youtu.be/OWI-14HRo4s>*

PHOTO: JAKE DEAR



**CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT IN ITS SACRAMENTO COURTROOM**

*Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye (CENTER) and (LEFT TO RIGHT) Associate Justices Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, Kathryn M. Werdegar, Carol A. Corrigan, Goodwin H. Liu, Ming W. Chin, and Leondra R. Kruger*

PHOTO: BOB KNAPIK

“God knows we’ve got too many regulations,” the Governor said, “so as many as we can get rid of, I’m all for it — except the ones I like.”

Brown noted the youthful age of his appointees. Justice Cuéllar was 41 when appointed, Justice Kruger 36.

“By the way,” he told Justice Kruger, “you’re two years older than I was when I was elected Governor. So you are a little late.”

He added, philosophically: “And I can tell you the world looks very different at 76 than it does at 36. Quite different. The trick is can you develop the insight and wisdom when you’re 36 not to do too many things that you will regret later in life when you’re 76.”

Brown noted the new justices were joining “a Court that is as diverse and as interesting and as reflective of California as I can possibly imagine.”

He responded to those who complained Justice Kruger was not really a Californian.

“This idea of coming from Washington — they say, ‘Why didn’t you pick a Californian?’ She is a Californian. Everybody in California came from somewhere else, anyway — even the native peoples 12,000 years

back. We’re always on a journey. We’re always immigrants of one kind or another.”

The Governor also discussed his approach to choosing new justices.

“What I’m looking for is real wisdom,” he said. “These problems that we’re facing are complicated. It’s not clear what are the right pathways. The implications are rather obscure in many instances. What I’m looking for is insight and growing wisdom over time so that we can create a measure of harmony in what is a very conflicted society. We do have our divisions, which some people call diversity, but it also is divisive. And how we can forge the respect for the law — that is really a challenging task.”

He added: “I think we are going to do very well in helping build the respect for the law, for the courts, for their independence, so that all of us — whatever our particular ideological or philosophical proclivities — at the end of the day are very thankful that we have honest, intelligent, and fair-minded people making sense out of the complexities.” ★

— THOMAS R. REYNOLDS