



2011 STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

First-place winner Mikelis Beitiks (CENTER) is congratulated by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye (SECOND FROM RIGHT), Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar (RIGHT), Society President Dan Grunfeld (LEFT), and Society board member Selma Moidel Smith, who initiated and conducted the competition — at the California Supreme Court, San Francisco, October 24, 2011.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM A. PORTER

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The California Supreme Court Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of its 2011 Student Writing Competition.

First place was won by Mike Beitiks of UC Hastings College of the Law, for “‘Devilishly Uncomfortable’: *In the Matter of Sic* — The California Supreme Court Strikes a Balance Between Race, Drugs and Government in 1880s California.” He receives a prize of \$2,500 and publication of his paper in the 2011 volume of the Society’s annual journal, *California Legal History*. His paper traces the origins and fate of an ordinance adopted in 1885 by the city of Stockton, the underlying purpose of which was to force the exit of local Chinese residents. (He passed the July 2011 bar exam.)

Second place was awarded to Jaime Massar of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, for “The Taco Truck Rush: Regulating the Commons in Boom Times.” (Photo not available.) Her paper proposes parallels between the use of public space by miners of the Gold Rush era and taco truck operators of present-day Los Angeles. (She passed the July 2011 bar exam.)

The third place winner is Pantea Rahbar of University of West Los Angeles School of Law, for “Federal Government Exceeds its Power to Regulate California’s



*Third-place winner
Pantea Rahbar*

State-Authorized Medical Marijuana under the Guise of the Commerce Clause.” Her paper discusses California’s marijuana laws in the context of federal regulation. (She will graduate in Spring 2012.)

The three distinguished judges, all of whom are American legal historians, were: Ariela Gross, Professor of Law and History, USC School of Law; Laura Kalman, Professor of History, UC Santa Barbara; and Chris Waldrep, Professor of History, San Francisco State University.

The competition was open to law students and to graduate students in history, political science, government, and related fields. Student papers may address any aspect of California legal history, ranging from the decisions and justices of the Supreme Court itself to local events of legal and historical importance, at any time from 1846 to the present. The winning papers are available on the Society’s website, www.cschs.org (at “History of the California Courts”). ☆