
Chief Justice Rose Bird's Chambers Furnishings Donated

BY FRANCES M. JONES*

In a ceremony on June 7, 2011, chambers furnishings of Chief Justice Rose Bird were presented by Society President David L. McFadden to Frances M. Jones, Director of the California Judicial Center Library in San Francisco, in the presence of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, chair of the Society's board of directors. The gift consists of a three-piece desk set, acquired by the Society from an anonymous donor, which now constitutes the Library's first holdings formerly owned by Chief Justice Bird. (Please see accompanying photos.)

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MUSEUM — MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORY — ARCHIVES. These are the three distinct roles of the California Judicial Center Library (CJCL), and each role is essential for the development of resources for the study of California Supreme Court history at CJCL's Special Collections & Archives (SC&A). With generous support from the California Supreme Court Historical Society (Society), SC&A's collection has grown in size and scope in each year of the past decade.

Visitors to the library may enjoy a museum experience by viewing furnishings from the chambers or office working environments of Chief Justice Rose E. Bird (1977–1987), Associate Justice Stanley Mosk (1964–2001), and Bernard E. Witkin (1904–1995), widely regarded as California's premiere legal scholar. Objects from the collections are also exhibited in SC&A and include, for example, Chief Justice Phil Gibson's judicial robe and academic garb. Tours and library orientations are given weekly and visitors are welcome to schedule visits and tours at their convenience.

The first manuscript collection SC&A received was a major donation given by Fred and Ruth Searls, comprising papers of a nineteenth-century Chief Justice, Niles Searls (1887–1889). The Searls Papers are a resource for study of his law practice in California's gold country. With the passing of Justice Stanley Mosk on June 19, 2001, CJCL received its second major gift, his personal and professional papers, from his son, Associate Justice Richard Mosk, Second Appellate District, Division Five. The Stanley Mosk Papers, described in detail in an earlier article,¹ comprise the first and to date the largest manuscript collection, but other gifts continue to arrive. Collections received to date include:

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PRESENTATION CEREMONY

(LEFT TO RIGHT): *Frances M. Jones, Director, California Judicial Center Library receives the Deed of Gift from CSCHS President David L. McFadden in the presence of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.*

- Randolph V. Whiting, the twentieth Reporter of Decisions, (1917–1940), whose papers date from 1925 to 1940.
- Bernard E. Witkin, papers dated 1931 to 1995.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES, CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT:

- Frank C. Newman (1977–1982), papers 1917 to 1996.
- Otto M. Kaus (1981–1985), papers 1950 to 1995.
- Joseph R. Grodin (1982–1987), papers 1979 to 1987.
- Janice R. Brown (1996–2005), papers 1996 to 2005.

Although visitors to the library are always welcomed, online research into the collections has an important role to play. Online research is facilitated by CJCL's California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal database, accessible at <http://library.courtinfo.ca.gov/>. More than 5,000 entries in the database provide both general descriptions of the collections as well as item listings for fully processed collections; service data for all justices who have served on the California Supreme Court or the Courts of Appeal; and records created for transcripts of the oral history interviews that were conducted as part of the Appellate Court Legacy Project. A researcher interested in Justice Mosk, for example, can locate specific data for more than 3,000 folders of his papers, as well as citations to articles written about him and a list of oral history interviews where he is discussed.

The database makes it possible to search for and identify the dates of service for an individual justice, together with other descriptive data, including publications by or about the justice. As an example, a keyword search for Chief Justice Ronald M. George using his first and last names provides 19 results: articles he wrote, his service dates on the Second Appellate District and the California Supreme Court, and oral histories where his service was a topic in the conversation.



AT CHIEF JUSTICE ROSE BIRD'S DESK

(CSCHS BOARD MEMBERS, LEFT TO RIGHT): *Kristine Knaplund, Jake Dear, Incoming President Dan Grunfeld, Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar, John Burns, Selma Moidel Smith, President David L. McFadden, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Past President Ray McDevitt, Court of Appeal Associate Justice James Marchiano, Molly Selvin, and Superior Court Judge Barry P. Goode.* (BEHIND THE VIEWER IS THE MATCHING CREDENZA.)

Especially because its collections are unique, CJCL has an educative role. Carefully researched exhibits prepared and presented by SC&A staff educate the public about court history and about SC&A collections. Although most exhibits are located in the Archives Room, Earl Warren State Building in San Francisco, exhibits honoring Justice Stanley Mosk have appeared in Sacramento and Los Angeles.² The current exhibit, "African Americans and the California Courts," is a companion to "... And Justice For All: Celebrating 50 Years of Service by California African-American Justices, 1961–2011," sponsored by the California Legislative Black Caucus and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Brochures accompany and describe each exhibit. Past exhibits include:

- Civil and Uncivil: Constitutional Rights in California: The Early Legal History.
- Special Collections and Archives.
- Celebrating the Life of Stanley Mosk, 1912–2001, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Los Angeles (two permanent exhibits).
- Building Justice: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on California's County Courthouses.

- Common Ground/Terreno Común: Constitution and the Courts in Mexico and California.
- Celebrating the Life of Stanley Mosk, 1912–2001, Stanley Mosk Library & Courts Building, Sacramento.
- Striving for Justice: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Centennial Celebration of the Courts of Appeal.
- In Writing With Reasons Stated: The Reporter of Decisions and the California Official Reports.
- Celebrating the Life of Stanley Mosk, 1912–2001, Los Angeles County Law Library, Los Angeles.

SC&A owes its growth and continuation over the past decade in part to the generous support and interest of the Society. Member inquiries and requests are always welcomed, by phone to (415) 865-7170 or (415) 865-7522, or by email to archives@jud.ca.gov. ★

ENDNOTES

1. Frances M. Jones, "The Stanley Mosk Papers," *CSCHS Newsletter* (Fall/Winter 2008), pp. 14-17.
2. For details of the Los Angeles exhibits, see John C. Van Whervin, "Celebrating the Life of Stanley Mosk at the Mosk Courthouse," *CSCHS Newsletter* (Fall/Winter 2008), p. 15.