

EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE California Supreme Court Historical Society's bi-annual *Newsletter*. If you've reached this page, I trust you've found an article, hopefully several, that interested you.

I became editor this past summer but have been a member of the Society's board for several years. I am a legal historian by training and wrote my dissertation on the development of the public trust doctrine in state courts during the 19th and early 20th centuries. California law, for example, decrees that the state holds certain natural resources, like the coastline, in trust for public use. Far from arcane law, the doctrine has been at the forefront of recent heated battles over beach access and use up and down the state. That circularity — how the past pulls on the present — has continued to fascinate me.

I'm excited to head up the *Newsletter*. But it truly takes a village to produce this publication and we have a crack set of villagers here at the Society. Jake Dear, who heads the Chief Justice's legal staff and is the Supreme Court's chief supervising attorney, has graciously agreed to continue serving as associate editor; designer Em Holland produces the first-class layout that you see on these pages; and Publications Chair Selma Moidel Smith, who is editor-in-chief of *California Legal History*, CSCHS's academic journal, and is a former editor of this *Newsletter*, provides essential all-around advice and help.

We enthusiastically welcome your contributions to this publication. Our *Newsletter* typically includes a mix of serious if short historical articles along with news of the Society. Our range is California law and courts, broadly drawn — not just the Supreme Court. We welcome contributions from lawyers, jurists, and lay and professional historians, and we're a great outlet for something too small for a full-on academic article but interesting, even quirky.

Also, let me know if you've discovered a recent book on California legal history or courts that you'd like to review. And please tell us about your news. Have you changed firms? Made partner? Been elevated? Retired? Become involved in some new extra-curricular activity?

I look forward to hearing from you. Write me at molly.selvin@gmail.com. And thank you for reading.

— MOLLY SELVIN*

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