who had chaired the National Labor Relations Board under President John F. Kennedy.

The practice has “been my bread and butter,” Howard noted, and undergone dramatic change in recent decades. “Employment law was initially just Title 7.” Employees could not yet bring claims for sexual harassment or discrimination, there was no family leave law, and wage and hour cases were individual claims. “All that has developed since.”

“I honestly don’t know how small companies keep up,” he said, noting that much of his job involves educating clients about changes in the law and their responsibilities as employers.

Howard, now 64, has been included in every edition of The Best Lawyers in America since 1993, and since 2005 has been listed annually in Chambers USA Guide as one of the leading labor and employment lawyers in California. He is a founding editor of The Rutter Group’s California Practice Guide — Employment Litigation and continues to serve as a contributing editor of that treatise. The La Jolla resident is also amicus coordinator and past chair of the Employers Group Legal Committee, a collection of 20 California employment lawyers who represent the interests of employers, as amicus curiae, in appeals of important employment and labor cases in state and federal courts.

Prior to joining Jones Day, Howard practiced with Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman and earlier, with Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP.

Howard’s interest in the development of California law and its courts is part of a larger passion for history. Among his recent reads are Lawrence Wright’s The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 and Hartford in World War I, authored by a friend. The father of two adult children, Howard does much of his reading in his Montana vacation home.

President George Abele persuaded Howard, a longtime friend, to channel some of his interest in history toward the California Supreme Court Historical Society. Howard’s reaction: “This is something I haven’t done. It should be kind of fun.”

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*

* Molly Selvin is a legal historian, former newspaper journalist, CSCHS board member and incurable enthusiast.