

New CSCHS Board Members

KATHARINE J. GALSTON



NEW BOARD MEMBER Kate Galston has a weakness for historic courthouses. “Sometimes I get distracted in oral arguments wondering, is that an original light fixture? Or that’s a fabulous stained glass window.”

Her interest in history and old buildings led her to accept President George Abele’s invitation to join

the California Supreme Court Historical Society. They had worked together on an ABA group focused on improving bench–bar relations and the practice of law, subjects of deep interest for Galston.

A double major in classics and government at Dartmouth, Galston thought she was headed for an academic career after college but ultimately opted for New York University School of Law instead. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Reena Raggi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She practiced litigation and appellate litigation at Irell & Manella LLP and then at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP where she focused on labor and employment law.

Two years ago, she and Orly Degani opened their own appellate firm, Degani & Galston in West Los Angeles. “I saw opportunities to broaden my career,” Galston said of the move. The 40-year-old now describes herself as an “appellate generalist” with a caseload that includes wage and hour class actions, arbitration disputes, intellectual property, entertainment, employment discrimination, family law, trusts and estates, real estate, contract interpretation, bankruptcy, constitutional law, criminal law, and complex business disputes.

She “loves” the research and writing required of appellate law practice and the ability to “go in depth on an issue” and understand the legislative history of a statute. “You don’t have time for that in trial practice,” she said.

Her skill and focus has led Galston to be named to *Los Angeles* magazine’s list of Southern California “Rising Stars” in appellate law multiple times in recent years, most recently in 2015. She was also included in

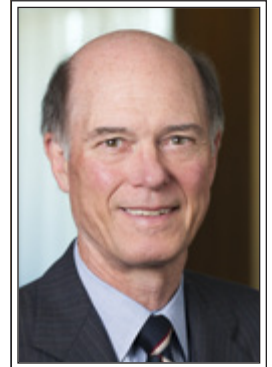
the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers In America* in the area of appellate practice.

In her off hours, Galston, the mother of two school-age sons, serves on the board of directors of the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law where she does outreach and helps with fundraising. The Los Angeles legal services organization protects victims of domestic violence and works to improve the wellbeing of children living in poverty.

She recently became chair of the American Bar Association’s Council of Appellate Lawyers and serves on its executive board. She has worked with the education committee of the Appellate Judges Education Institute, a non-profit that educates state and federal appellate judges nationwide, and is also an active member of the Appellate Courts Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. ★

GEORGE S. HOWARD

GEORGE HOWARD first became interested in the history of the California Supreme Court while a law student at the University of Virginia during the 1970s. “I read several of [Chief Justice] Roger Traynor’s opinions,” he recalled, and “watched the court evolve.”



Howard, who joined the California Supreme Court Historical Society board of directors in June, moved to California shortly after graduation, arriving just a month after Chief Justice Rose Bird was sworn in. He’s never left.

Howard is a partner at Jones Day in San Diego where he’s practiced labor and employment law on the management side since 2007.

A Philadelphia native, Howard’s father was an executive with Westinghouse during a period when the company experienced a number of strikes. Philadelphia was a strong union town in the 1960s when Howard grew up, so when working summers as a newspaper reporter, he covered labor issues. Howard’s interest in the field was cemented in law school by influential labor law professor Frank McCulloch,

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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 long-time 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.