The California Supreme Court Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of its 2016 CSCHS Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition in California Legal History.

First place was won by Courtney B. LaHaie of Washington University in St. Louis School of Law for “A Model for Juvenile Parole Reform: California’s Youth Offender Parole Hearings Challenge the Modern Parole System and Apply the Fundamental Principles in Graham and Miller to the Release Decision-Making Process.” She receives a prize of $2,500 and publication in the 2016 volume of California Legal History, the Society’s annual scholarly journal.

Second place was awarded to John James Daller of UC Davis School of Law for “Equal Protection and California Public School Finance.” He receives a prize of $500.


The three distinguished judges, all of whom are professors and legal historians, were Laura Kalman, UC Santa Barbara, Department of History; Charles J. McClain, UC Berkeley School of Law; and Peter L. Reich, Whittier Law School.

First place winner Courtney B. LaHaie (center left) is congratulated by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye (left), Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar (center right), Society President George Abele (right), and board member Selma Moidel Smith (center), who initiated and conducted the competition — in the Chief Justice’s chambers at the California Supreme Court, November 15, 2016.

PHOTO: WILLIAM A. PORTER
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