



## President's Corner

BY KENT L. RICHLAND

Forgive my cynicism, but after thirty years of practicing law, I thought the only organizations California lawyers would support were those that would improve their bottom line. In fact, I'll never forget, when I first became president of the Board of Directors of the California Supreme Court Historical Society, what an acquaintance who headed a national organization of lawyers candidly told me. He predicted that the Society would never get much support from the legal community, mostly because it didn't offer enough opportunities for networking. Well, I was wrong, and so was he.

In the last few months, over eight thousand California lawyers have demonstrated their support for the Society in the most tangible way possible – by donating funds that will be used to support some of the least bottom-line-enhancing (but, we believe, most culturally enriching) projects imaginable. To those thousands of lawyers who have supported the Society via their State Bar fee statement checkoff or by renewing their memberships, I extend profound thanks, both on behalf of the Board and personally.

Those funds are already being put to excellent use. Within just the past few months the Society has undertaken sponsorship of a number of projects that will prove invaluable to the preservation and promotion of California's legal history. For example, the Society is funding completion of the California Judicial Center Library's archiving of the Stanley Mosk Collection, thus preserving for posterity the late Justice Mosk's voluminous personal and professional papers. The Society is also providing funding for the Bancroft Library Regional Oral History Office's in-depth interview of former California Supreme Court Justice Joseph Grodin. And the Society is sponsoring tours of the Supreme Court's historic (and present) home in San Francisco, as well as supporting reproduction and distribution to schools and other interested parties of a virtual tour of the Supreme Court produced by Society Board member Thomas Reynolds.

Although all of us are proud of what the Society is accomplishing, there is much more to be done if we are to continue to fulfill our unique mission of preserving and promoting the history of California's remarkable judicial system. For example, high on our agenda is completing a comprehensive history of the California Supreme Court that has been several years in the preparation. Once this project is published, we hope to disseminate the book widely to libraries and educators, so that the history of the

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## Blazing New Trails

BY DONNA C. SCHUELE

You'll probably notice a bit of a theme emerging in this Newsletter issue, of women trailblazers in California's legal and judicial history. That theme was consciously embraced at the rededication of the Los Angeles County Criminal Courts Building in honor of Clara Shortridge Foltz, as demonstrated in the beautifully produced program that we provided to members in 2002, compliments of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Here we reprint Society Board member Barbara A. Babcock's remarks delivered at that rededication.

California Court of Appeal Justice Earl Johnson embraces that theme as well in his tribute to Justice Mildred Lillie, who passed away in October, 2002, having served an unprecedented fifty-five years on the California bench. The same theme was chosen by Elizabeth Vrato in her book, *The Counselors: conversations with 18 courageous women who have changed the world*, containing interviews with select winners of the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, including our own California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard. Vrato's touching interview with Justice Kennard is presented in this newsletter also.

Yet the theme of trailblazing is fitting for the California Supreme Court Historical Society as well, as we move into a new era of increased visibility borne of the tremendous support we have received recently from the members of the California bar. I can only echo Kent Richland's heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable generosity that the lawyers of this state have shown the Society this year. We welcome these donors to membership in the Society, and we hope to meet many of you at the 2003 State Bar Annual Meeting. Your support has allowed the Society to move to the forefront of court-based historical organizations, not only in sheer size of membership, but more importantly in the significance of the projects that these donations have funded.

Additionally, the fee statement donations along with the increased support that our longtime members have provided this year are allowing the Historical Society to shore up its administrative framework and continue its popular programs held at the state bar meeting. For the first time, the Society has established an independent office, located in Woodland Hills and staffed by myself and Jim Yoppolo. Jim brings a wealth of development and nonprofit experience to the Historical Society. He was named 1998 Development Volunteer of the Year by LA Shanti where he served on numerous boards and

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committees. His years with Aid For AIDS were also quite successful in the fundraising and development arena. We are fortunate to have someone with his background helping to advance the Society's goals.

Meanwhile, I have been assembling a panel of nationally-recognized litigators and scholars for a continuing legal education panel at the upcoming state bar meeting in Anaheim. The program, entitled *Righting History's Wrongs: WWII Reparations Cases*, focuses on a series of cases alleging art theft and slave labor that are making their way through the state and federal systems in California and may ultimately be taken up by the United States Supreme Court. The program is scheduled for Friday, September 5th. We anticipate a full audience, so please indicate your interest in attending when you preregister for the state bar meeting.

On Saturday, September 6th, we will hold a Board of Directors meeting followed by an informal late-afternoon reception. We cordially invite those of you new to the Society to come meet not only the directors and fellow members, but especially the Justices of the Supreme Court.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Benjamin Field for providing the CSCHS with the opportunity to publish his book, *Activism in Pursuit of the Public Interest: The Jurisprudence of Roger J. Traynor*, jointly with the University of California Institute for Governmental Studies. Members at the Judicial level and above will receive a copy of the book as a benefit of 2003 membership, and we invite those at the Associate level to upgrade their membership to receive this fine work.

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*Crime in the City of Angels*  
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Once Upon a Time in Los Angeles – The Trials of Earl Rogers is available through the publisher, Arthur H. Clarke Company, P.O. Box 14707, Spokane, WA 99214-0707, and through retailers.

For The People is available through the publisher, Angel City Press, 2118 Wilshire Boulevard, #880, Santa Monica, CA 90403, and through retailers.

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Supreme Court becomes a standard part of California schools' social studies curriculum. And the Society is moving forward to create a web site that will provide an unparalleled resource for Society members, scholars and the public at large interested in the history of our state's judicial system.

These and other projects will require even broader support from the legal community. Consequently, in the next few months, we will be approaching law firms throughout the state – many of which have given crucial assistance to the Society in the past – offering them the opportunity to participate in the Society's renaissance by providing either general support or support of specific projects. And we believe law firms will appreciate the value of such participation, both because of the worthiness of the Society's endeavors and because the Society's higher profile will make more meaningful the public recognition they will receive for their support.

At a time when the economy is anemic and many nonprofit organizations are suffering as a result, the California Supreme Court Historical Society is fortunate to be entering an era of tremendous productivity. For that, I extend my gratitude and my deepest respect to the thousands of California lawyers who have made that possible.

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*Clara Shortridge Foltz*  
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and their children are all here today.

One of Clara Foltz's great-grandchildren, Truman Toland of Cincinnati, is an artist, and painted a picture of Clara when she was a young lawyer just starting out. This is the picture that has hung in my office for some time. Today the Toland family and I present it to the County of Los Angeles, to the people who administer and those who seek justice in this courthouse, to all who would dedicate themselves to the high ideals in the life of Clara Shortridge Foltz.

Professor Babcock's biography of Clara Shortridge Foltz is forthcoming from Stanford University Press. Additional information about Foltz can be found at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/WLHP>.