

TEN UNPUBLISHED SPEECHES BY JUSTICE CARLOS R. MORENO

EDITOR'S NOTE

During Justice Carlos Moreno's tenure on the California Supreme Court (2001–2011), he was frequently invited to speak to civic and legal organizations. The collection of papers donated by Justice Moreno to the Department of Special Collections at the Stanford University Libraries lists more than two hundred such speaking events. From these, ten speeches are published here for the first time, selected to represent the principal topics that he discussed.¹

Most recently, on April 10, 2019, Justice Moreno was honored by the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library with a Beacon of Justice Award at their annual Award Gala. He was introduced by Los Angeles attorney Jesse M. Jauregui, whose words of tribute also serve as a fitting introduction to these speeches by Justice Moreno.

— SELMA MOIDEL SMITH

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CARLOS R. MORENO
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT
2001-2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	INTRODUCTION OF JUSTICE CARLOS R. MORENO BY JESSE M. JUAREGUI	74
I.	ADDRESS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF MEXICO ON THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM	76
II.	ACCESS TO JUSTICE	83
III.	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COURTS	88
IV.	<i>MENDEZ v. WESTMINSTER</i> AND SCHOOL DESEGREGATION	93
V.	STANDING THE TEST OF TIME: USING DIVERSITY AS THE FOUNDATION FOR JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING	106
VI.	LANGUAGE ACCESS IN COURT	119
VII.	ON SELF-ESTEEM AND LIFE'S OPPORTUNITIES	123
VIII.	PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT	128
IX.	"JUSTICE FOR ALL SEASONS"	134
X.	THE STATE OF THE INITIATIVE PROCESS AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF CRIMINAL LAW	139

*Introduction of***JUSTICE CARLOS M. MORENO**

JESSE M. JAUREGUI*

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and good evening. I came to the library about a month ago to meet members of the board and to hear about the programs that have been developed and are offered. As I left, there was a line of people waiting patiently for help with their applications for asylum. Among the many was a young woman with a toddler in her arms. In her face, I saw apprehension if not fear, but I also saw the face of hope.

That moment reminded me of a story Justice Moreno had told me, the story of a young Mexican immigrant woman, a widow, crossing the border. Little did anyone know that she would later bear a son who would go on to become a justice of the California Supreme Court and this country's ambassador to Belize.

Carlos Moreno has been an inspiration and a role model to many of us. From his days at Yale, to the bench, to service as a diplomat, and now as a mediator, every stage has become one more episode to add to the narrative arc of the American Dream. But Carlos is a true "Beacon of Justice" because he has always mentored and embraced those who came after him.

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There are several lawyers in this room besides myself who have benefited from his mentoring, who because of his encouragement were willing to travel the road less traveled and take the path he left for us to follow. In that sense Carlos is both Robert Frost and Yogi Berra.

Justice Moreno's brilliant legal skills are surpassed only by the humility of his person and the integrity of his character. But if there is any virtue you should know him by, it is his compassion. The Rawlsian concept of justice as fairness and the need to include every member of society as a party to the social contract, no matter what their background, is evident in his approach to the matters that came before him.

His words in *Strauss v. Horton*, his now notable dissent in the Prop 8 decision, resonate with the understanding that “even a narrow and limited exception to the promise of full equality strikes at the core of, and thus fundamentally alters, the guarantee of equal treatment Promising equal treatment to some is fundamentally different from promising equal treatment to all.”²

At the entrance to this library — a library Carlos visited as a young lawyer — is the following inscription: “This library is dedicated to serve those who labor in the faith that ours is a government of laws and not men.” Justice Moreno has kept that faith and has demonstrated his commitment to a government of laws and not men.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pride and honor that I present to you the Honorable Justice Ambassador Carlos Moreno.

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² 46 Cal. 4th 364, 855 (2009).