

MAP: HEART OF LOS ANGELES, 1931. JAMES H. PAYNE, LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## *A Legal Site-Seeing Tour of Downtown Los Angeles*

PART 3 OF A SERIES

BY BOB WOLFE\*

JOURNALIST AND ESSAYIST David Kipen says that Los Angeles may finally be entering what he calls its “mirror stage,” where it starts to recognize its own reflection.<sup>1</sup>

But it does not take a glass-clad skyscraper for a city’s buildings to reveal the stories of people who lived and worked within. L.A., as seen through the prism of its built environment, embodies the profound, the superficial, and even the *meh* of the American experience.

This is the third part of an ongoing series exploring a 10-square block of historic downtown Los Angeles to discover the city’s social realities, as told in appellate opinions, trial transcripts and lawyers’ screeds.

Here we look inside six Beaux Arts buildings, constructed over two decades on adjacent downtown streets. The stories they tell run the gamut of the L.A. experience: from racism, sexism, scandal and hucksterism to oversized personalities and transcendent accomplishment.

There’s more, much more, to dig.

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### 15 Continental Building



FORMERLY BRALY BLOCK, CALIFORNIA RESERVE BUILDING  
408 SO. SPRING STREET (JOHN PARKINSON, 1904)

## UNSAFE SECTS

The 175-foot-tall Continental Building was built shortly before L.A. enacted a 130-foot height restriction in 1905 (raised to 150 feet in 1911). As such, it remained L.A.'s tallest building (other than the 27-story City Hall) until voters rescinded the height limit in 1957.



In 1944, Arthur Bell (pictured) acquired control of the Continental Building through a purchase made in his wife's maiden name.

Bell was the chief spokesperson for the group Mankind United, which was founded during the heart of the Depression. Mankind United promised its adherents a 16-hour, 8-month work week at an annual salary of \$300, as well as an air-conditioned home, equipped with radio, television and swimming pool. The promised utopia would materialize only when 200 million people joined the group.

By 1939, Mankind United had attracted some 27,000 active members. But there was a hitch: Standing in the way, Bell believed, were the "Hidden Rulers," who secretly controlled the world's governments and wealth.

Not surprisingly, Bell opposed American involvement in World War II, which he viewed as part of the same worldwide conspiracy. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, he and 15 others were arrested and charged with sedition for encouraging mass draft evasion.

Following a five-week federal court trial, Bell and most of his fellow defendants were convicted, although Bell was allowed to remain free on bail during the appeal.

Bell turned around and sued some 50 governmental officials, including the head of the FBI's L.A. office, for violating his civil rights because of the warrantless search and seizure leading to his arrest.

Bell's federal damage suit initially was kicked out of court. Bell appealed the dismissal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he finally prevailed. On April 1, 1946, in an oft-cited opinion by Justice Hugo Black, the court held Bell's constitutional claims to be justiciable because they presented "serious" questions of law and fact. Such issues "must be decided after and not before the court has assumed jurisdiction over the controversy."<sup>2</sup>

Bell ultimately lost on remand when U.S. District Judge William Mathes dismissed his case on the merits, finding no federal statutory authority for such damage suits against federal agents.<sup>3</sup>

In the meantime, Bell reorganized Mankind United as a vast religious cooperative under the name Church of the Golden Rule. Using his wife as a proxy, he bought more than \$3.6 million in assets, including a beach club, cheese factory, dairy, auto repair shops, hotels — and the Continental Building. The money for the purchases came from tithes by church members.

Bell's acquisitions drew the attention of the California Attorney General's office, including Deputy Attorney General Warren Olney III. Olney charged that Bell had drawn more than \$1 million in cash in one year alone, without providing any documentation "to show where it came from or how it was spent."<sup>4</sup>

In October 1945, the superior court appointed a receiver to manage the church's assets and conduct an accounting. Bell was sentenced to three days in county jail for contempt after refusing to cooperate with the receiver. The Court of Appeal dismissed Bell's appeal from the order removing him as president of the church and appointing a receiver.<sup>5</sup>

## Bell, 'The Voice,' Wins Sedition Case Reversal

The Continental Building was sold to Louis Newman in February 1946.

In 1947, the Ninth Circuit reversed Bell's wartime sedition conviction on the grounds that women had been purposefully and systematically excluded from the grand jury that indicted him.<sup>6</sup>

## 16 Citizen's National Bank Building



453 SO. SPRING STREET (PARKINSON & BERGSTROM, 1915)

## ALIEN DOCTRINES OF DEMOCRACY

Citizens National Bank Building opened its doors as the cornerstone of L.A.'s "Wall Street of the West" in April 1915.

Among the building's tenants was attorney J. Marion Wright (pictured), whose law offices were in Suite 830.



While at USC Law School (Class of 1913), Wright developed a lifelong friendship with a fellow law student, Sei Fujii (pictured), who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1903. But only Wright was admitted to the State Bar of California; Fujii, his foreign-born law school classmate (Class of 1911), was blocked from becoming a lawyer. California law granted bar admission only to people who were



eligible for citizenship and federal law then permitted naturalization only for “free white persons” and “persons of African descent.” The law gradually was extended to permit citizenship for persons born in the Philippines or China, but not to Japanese or Koreans.

Indeed, in 1913, the same year as Wright’s law school graduation, the California Legislature passed the Alien Land Law, prohibiting Japanese nationals from owning land in California.

During the next 40 years, Fujii, working as a journalist and legal consultant, and Wright, as lawyer, teamed up to fight racial restrictions against Japanese Americans.

One of their early battles involved healthcare. Severely ill Japanese patients often were denied admission to mainstream hospitals for fear they were a “menace” to the overall community. To address these unserved medical needs, five Japanese doctors sought to incorporate and to build and maintain a hospital. Frank Jordan, then California’s secretary of state, refused to issue a certificate of incorporation because the doctors, as Japanese-born immigrants, were not U.S. citizens entitled to own land.

Wright argued the doctors’ case before the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, and prevailed in both courts based on a liberal interpretation of a 1911 commerce treaty between the U.S. and Japan.<sup>7</sup>

In 1929, the 69-room Japanese Hospital opened in Boyle Heights with some \$129,000 in funds raised by the community. In 1962, the hospital relocated to a larger facility in Lincoln Heights.

In February 1942, Fujii was forcibly moved to immigration and detention camps in New Mexico in the wake of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

Upon Fujii’s release in 1946, he and Wright resolved to again challenge California’s Alien Land Law of 1913. In 1948, Fujii purchased a small lot in East L.A. for \$200 and filed suit to clear title so that he could build a home there.

The case ultimately ended up before the California Supreme Court. In April 1952, the Court, in an opinion by Chief Justice Phil Gibson, found the Alien Land Law to be an unconstitutional violation of the 14th Amendment. “[T]here can be no justification for a classification which operates to withhold property rights from some

aliens . . . solely because they are Japanese and not French or Italian,” he wrote.<sup>8</sup>

In 1954, following a change in federal law, Fujii, 72, became a U.S. citizen. Not even two months later, he died of a heart attack while eulogizing a man who had helped fund the Japanese hospital.

In May 2017, the California Supreme Court posthumously admitted Fujii to the State Bar, noting, “Fujii’s work [using the courts to advance the rule of law] in the face of prejudice and oppression embodies the highest traditions of those who work to make our society more just.”<sup>9</sup>

## Alien Land Law Illegal, Court Rules

Decision Permits Japanese to Own Property in State

### 17 Rowan Building



460 SO. SPRING STREET (PARKINSON & BERGSTROM, 1911)

### Bow Toxic

In 1905, Robert A. Rowan organized the R.A. Rowan Co. as a real estate development company. In 1910, Rowan partnered with the Chester Fireproof Building Company to construct a 10-story building, heralded by the *L.A. Times* as the “largest and finest of Los Angeles skyscrapers,” with over 3,000 tons of steel.<sup>10</sup>

The building was named after its primary tenant, the Title Insurance & Trust Company. It was renamed as the Rowan Building when the title insurance company relocated up the street.

One of the early twentieth century’s most prominent celebrity attorneys, W.I. Gilbert had his offices in Suite 535 of the Rowan Building. Gilbert represented Charlie

Chaplin's wife Mildred in their 1919 divorce, as well as Rudolph Valentino, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, James Cagney, and theater impresario Alexander Pantages.



Gilbert (pictured) also represented Clara Bow, the first "It Girl," one of the leading box office stars throughout the Twenties and the star of *Wings*, the Oscar winning best picture for 1929.

On November 3, 1930, Daisy DeVoe, Bow's secretary and close friend, went to Gilbert's office in the Rowan Building and demanded \$125,000 "to keep my mouth shut" for "things that I know."<sup>11</sup>

DeVoe had just been fired by Bow's new boyfriend, cowboy actor Rex Bell, with whom she had been vying for Bow's attentions. In retaliation, DeVoe removed various checkbooks, letters, telegrams, jewelry, and other items from Bow's house.

Gilbert, in turn, contacted Bow and D.A. Buron Fitts. On November 25, 1930, a grand jury indicted DeVoe on 37 counts of grand theft from Bow.

DeVoe's sensational trial began in January 1931 with star prosecutor David "Debonair Dave" Clark calling a weeping Clara Bow and attorney Gilbert as witnesses. The trial revealed shocking details of Bow's promiscuous love life, profligate spending, visits from bootleggers, and drinking bouts with stars such as Gary Cooper and others. DeVoe, testifying in her own defense, said Bow had so many assignations with different men that "I can't remember."

After deliberating for 48 hours, the jury found DeVoe guilty on one count. Some jurors later told the press that the verdict was a compromise not only to punish DeVoe for her theft, but also as a rebuke of Bow's lifestyle. DeVoe was sentenced to 18 months in jail, and the Court of Appeal affirmed her conviction.<sup>12</sup>

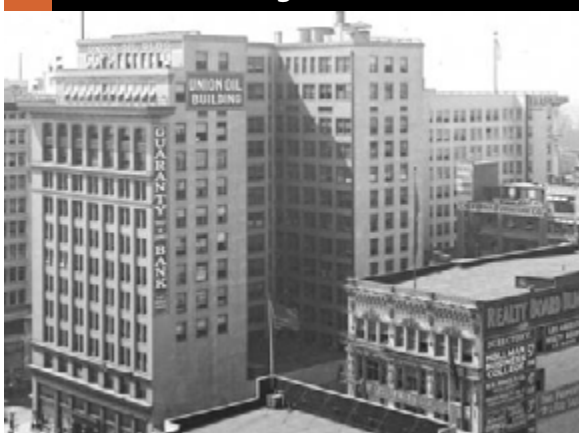
On January 16, 1931, Paramount announced that Bow no longer would be starring with Cooper in Dashiell Hammett's story *City Streets* "due to illness brought on by the trial."

Although Bow made a few more films, her career essentially was over.

Later that year, prosecutor Dave Clark himself was prosecuted for a double homicide concerning the murder of crime kingpin Charles Crawford and journalist Herbert Spencer. Clark turned to W.I. Gilbert, who successfully defended him.<sup>13</sup>

**DAISY DE VOE  
LOSES BATTLE**  
Rehearing Denied by State  
Supreme Court  
Appellate Court Decision  
Fully Upheld

## 18 Bartlett Building



FORMERLY UNION OIL BUILDING  
651 SO. SPRING STREET (PARKINSON & BERGSTROM, 1911)

### WELL-SCHOOLED

In 1911, this 12-story Beaux Arts office block was built to house the headquarters of the Union Oil Company.

Southwestern Law School began in 1912 when a small student group gathered at the Union Oil Building to meet with a tutor. According to its founder, John Schumacher, the school, which offered night classes, was geared toward working students who otherwise might not have a chance to become lawyers. The school began with three full-time instructors and four adjuncts, but soon grew to 150 students, with 22 instructors.

Southwestern's first graduate was a woman, Betty Trier Berry (pictured). Berry had earned a master's degree in mathematics from Columbia and went on to secure a Ph.D. in education from USC, where she became a fellow in educational research. In addition, Berry became the first woman in the U.S. to serve in a public defender's office.



Southwestern's second graduate, B. Rey Schauer, ultimately was appointed to the California Supreme Court, where he served for 22 years, from 1942 to 1964. Schauer was joined on the high court by two other Southwestern graduates, Paul Peek and Stanley Mosk.

In 1915, Southwestern outgrew its space and moved up Spring Street to the Wilcox Building.



### HAT TRICK

In October 1921, A.G. Bartlett, founder of the Bartlett Music Company, bought the Union Oil Building for \$3 million and renamed it after himself.

Eight years later, 24-year-old Gladys Towles Root, a recent USC law graduate, leased an office in suite 832 of

the Bartlett Building. Root began a solo practice because law firms were unwilling to hire women attorneys.

As Root recalled, her first client chose her only because he saw her listing in the building directory. He sought to divorce his wife, whom he suspected of infidelity. What began as a marital dissolution case, however, turned into a homicide case when the client, having discovered his wife *in flagrante delicto*, shot and killed her two days later. (He is reported to have said the divorce would “take too long.”) Despite her inexperience, Root said she succeeded in getting the charges reduced to manslaughter.<sup>14</sup>

Root turned marital murders into a sort of specialty. In one year alone, she tried nine murder cases to verdict, five of which involved women who shot their husbands. She was an indefatigable worker, handling some 1,600 matters per year, with about 75 court appearances per month.

Root came to specialize in cases that many other attorneys would not handle, particularly sex crimes. In 1933, she represented five defendants in a widely publicized “white slavery” ring. She went on to defend alleged rapists, child molesters, prostitutes and Peeping Toms, recalling, in her mother’s words, that such people were “loose spokes on the wheel of life.”

According to the *L.A. Times*, Root “holds the distinction of having defended more sex offenders than any other attorney in the United States.” She aggressively employed a blame-the-victim strategy that is decidedly at odds with today’s “Me Too” movement. As she explained in a 1959 interview, many sex crimes “involve an element of co-operation, if not downright enticement, by the so-called victim.”<sup>15</sup>

Root (pictured) used flamboyant clothing, oversized hats (some as large as 12 feet in circumference) and



colored-coordinated hair to make a statement and distract jurors from the charges against her clients. Stanley Mosk, before whom she frequently appeared when he was a trial judge, described them as “deliberate attempts to be the focus of attention whenever she appeared in court.”<sup>16</sup>

In 1963, the *L.A. Times*, while reporting on a burglary involving Root’s possessions, noted that she had one consolation, “the burglar hasn’t taken [anything from] her large and distinctive collection of hats.”<sup>17</sup>

One of Root’s most sensational cases involved the 1963 kidnapping of 20-year-old Frank Sinatra, Jr., son of the famous singer. Root, representing defendant John William Irwin, contended that the kidnapping was a hoax, and that the victim was a willing participant who engaged in a publicity stunt.

The hoax defense did not work; Irwin was convicted, although his conviction was overturned on other grounds, and he pleaded guilty on a superseding indictment.

In 1964, a federal grand jury indicted Root herself for suborning perjury and obstructing justice for concocting the hoax defense in the Sinatra, Jr. kidnapping. Root vigorously, but unsuccessfully asked the Ninth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court to dismiss the charges.<sup>18</sup>

In 1968, after a four-year fight, the government dropped its charges against Root. Barry Keenan, one of the co-defendants (not Root’s client), confessed in a 150-page affidavit that he made up the story about the hoax and was the prime mover behind the kidnapping.

Root died in 1982 at age 77 after suffering a heart attack in a Pomona courtroom while defending two brothers on a sodomy-rape case.

## Gladys Root Cleared on Kidnap Case Count

Indictment in Sinatra Jr. Case Dropped After 4-Year Fight by Flamboyant Lawyer

## 19 Pershing Square Building



448 SO. HILL STREET (CURTLETT & BEELMAN, 1923)

### LOVE FOR SALE

The 13-story Pershing Square Building opened to great fanfare in November 1924.

Multimillionaire oil and real estate developer John P. Mills had offices in the building for his company, John P. Mills Organization. Mills sold thousands of small plots of land to small investors, in \$400 units, claiming they would get rich from oil. Substantial litigation ensued when it turned out that many of these lots were dry. In defense, Mills characterized his representations as mere “expressions of opinion.”<sup>19</sup>

Mills gained his greatest notoriety in 1931 when arrested in the so-called “Love Mart” case. The diary of a woman named Olive Day came to light, revealing that she had a contract to deliver underage virgins each week to Mills.

Leslie White, an investigator for the D.A.’s office, waited in the parking lot outside the Pershing Square Building and arrested Mills when he got into his V16 Cadillac.

Mills was well-connected and politically savvy. That day, Mills not only was out on bail, but had hired Lucien Wheeler as his private detective to assist in his defense. Wheeler had been White’s boss at the D.A.’s office and was close to D.A. Buron Fitts.<sup>20</sup>

As Mills’ trial finally began in the fall of 1931, Fitts appeared in court to ask that all the charges against Mills be dropped. Judge Wilbur Curtis refused to do so. Nevertheless, Fitts declined to produce any evidence, leaving Judge Curtis no choice but to dismiss the case.<sup>21</sup>

It was later revealed that Fitts’ sister had sold a seven-acre orange grove in Claremont for \$18,500, twice its real value. The purchaser? Lucien Wheeler. The money for the purchase? It came from Mills himself.<sup>22</sup>

In November 1934, the grand jury indicted Fitts and his sister on charges of bribery and perjury. Fitts (pictured, with attorneys) hired famed defense attorneys Jerry Giesler and Joe Scott, among others, to defend him.



Fitts furiously tried to quash the indictment. His attorneys required all 50 superior court judges to testify at a hearing about how the grand jury was impaneled, claiming that Judge Fletcher Bowron, who was in charge of the grand jury, handpicked the panel “to clean up the District Attorney’s office,” which Judge Bowron purportedly believed was controlled by the mob.<sup>23</sup> Judge Bowron denied any bias or that he sought to influence the grand jurors.

Fitts’ efforts ultimately came before the California Supreme Court, which, after four hours of oral argument, allowed the prosecution to proceed.<sup>24</sup>

Fitts’ bribery trial began in January 1936. After long and sensational proceedings, involving over 100 witnesses, Fitts was acquitted, and reelected as D.A. However, four years later, reformer John Dockweiler defeated Fitts in his bid for a fourth term.

Judge Bowron went on to win election as L.A.’s 35th mayor in 1938 after the notoriously corrupt incumbent Frank Shaw became the first American mayor to be recalled from office.

In 1973, the 78-year-old Fitts committed suicide by shooting himself with the same gun that had been used in the unsolved murder of film director William Desmond Taylor in 1922.



ORIGINALLY PANTAGES THEATRE BUILDING; WARNER BROS. DOWNTOWN THEATRE  
401 W. 7TH STREET (B. MARCUS PRITECA, 1920)

### A LEGAL CUDGEL FOR THE (PANT)AGES

“Alexander, the Great!” heralded the newspaper headlines. On August 17, 1920, multimillionaire vaudeville magnate Alexander Pantages opened the ornate 2,000-seat Pantages Theatre. From his offices in the seven-story Beaux Arts structure, Pantages ran his ever-expanding show business empire as an extension of his domineering personality. A Greek immigrant, Pantages spoke in heavily-accented English, and never learned to write or read the language.

“Business before pleasure is a mighty sensible adage,” Pantages remarked. “But [to] combine business and pleasure is a better one.”<sup>25</sup>

Nine years later, the nation was riveted to a courthouse spectacle about how exactly Pantages combined business and pleasure.

On August 9, 1929, 17-year-old Eunice Pringle, a young dancer from Garden Grove, went to see Pantages to discuss a vaudeville booking for a singing and dancing sketch. Later that afternoon she ran outside the theater screaming “the beast!” She later told police that Pantages had raped her.

Pantages was found on the floor of his mezzanine office, coatless and with his clothes in disarray. But he told the police that it was Pringle who had attacked him, and that he was being blackmailed.

The 54-year-old, accompanied by his attorney W.I. Gilbert, was arrested and booked for assault and statutory rape. That same month, he sold the theater building to Warner Brothers. After a brief refurbishment, it reopened on September 27, 1929 as the Warner Brothers Downtown Theatre, with Al Jolson as the guest of honor.

Pantages' rape trial began several days later. It drew screaming newspaper headlines in the U.S. and internationally. Both Pringle and Pantages testified, with Pringle photographed holding the semen-stained red dress she was wearing at the time of the incident (pictured). Several of the jurors appeared to be crying while Pringle was on the stand.



On October 27, 1929, after 25 days of testimony, the jurors, seven women and five men, returned a guilty verdict. Superior Court Judge Charles Fricke sentenced Pantages to 50 years in San Quentin state prison.



On June 7, 1930, after Pantages had been incarcerated in the county jail for nearly a year, the California Supreme Court ordered that he be freed on a \$100,000 bond, concluding that the "overwhelming weight of evidence" established his life to be at risk because of ill health.

On April 2, 1931, the Supreme Court, by a 5-to-2 vote, issued a per curiam opinion reversing Pantages' conviction. The court found prejudicial error in the trial court's failure to introduce evidence of Pringle's "previous acts of unchastity," particularly since the prosecution repeatedly referred to "taking this girl's virginity" and violating "her girlhood."<sup>26</sup>

Pantages' retrial began in November 1931. Pringle again testified, but was subject to extensive (and for the most part unprintable and "particularly frank") cross-examination by Pantages' new lead defense counsel Jerry Giesler about her "moral life and friendships with other men."<sup>27</sup>

Giesler focused on Pringle's "association" and "compromising situations" with Nick Dunaev, a 40-year-old Russian bachelor, and her purported agent. Dunaev's landlady testified that Pringle frequently was in his apartment, including early mornings, and that she had been told by Dunaev's roommate they were "going to have a lot of money soon — enough to pay for a year in advance."<sup>28</sup> Dunaev was called to the stand as a hostile witness and grilled about his relationship with Pringle. Glaring at Pantages, he admitted that he "disliked Greeks."<sup>29</sup>

A weeping Pantages denied the assault, accusing Pringle of "framing" the incident to get him into a compromising position.<sup>30</sup>

The second jury acquitted Pantages, with one juror stating afterward that Pringle appeared to be the "victim

of a schemer," namely Dunaev.<sup>31</sup> Giesler, as Pantages' lead counsel, became the celebrity lawyer of choice.

According to a widely circulated urban legend (which has made its way into books, magazines, and Wikipedia), Pringle died of "unknown causes" in 1933 under circumstances suggesting poisoning. Pringle reputedly made a deathbed confession that she had been paid \$10,000 by Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. to smear Pantages. (At the time, Kennedy was trying to wrest theaters and business share from Pantages for his competing RKO studios.)

The story has been thoroughly debunked. As explained by Pringle's daughter, Marcy Worthington, Pringle died of natural causes in 1996 and never made any such confession. "The tone of his numerous letters to Pringle and other family members for many years afterward," says Worthington, "showed [Dunaev] to be no more than a friend and mentor."<sup>32</sup>

California's "rape shield" law, passed in the 1970s as one of the country's first, now precludes testimony about a victim's past sexual conduct to prove consent.<sup>33</sup>

In 1988, Wanis (Joseph) Koyomejian and other partners bought the Pantages Theatre Building for some \$16 million for use as a wholesale jewelry mart. But there apparently were other anticipated uses as well: in addition to collecting jewelry, the merchants used their armored trucks to pick up cartons of drug money — an estimated \$1 billion.

On March 7, 1989, Koyomejian, along with 30 other suspects, was indicted in the laundering scheme, called the largest in U.S. history. The government also moved to seize Koyomejian's interest in the Pantages Theatre Building in a civil forfeiture proceeding.

### U.S. to Seize Drug Ring's Building in Downtown L.A.



Koyomejian challenged the statutory basis for the government's use of secret video surveillance tapes to support the indictments. In July 1992, the Ninth Circuit, sitting en banc, upheld such tools as part of a domestic criminal investigation so long as they comply with the constitutional protections of the Fourth Amendment.<sup>34</sup> Following the Ninth Circuit decision, Koyomejian pleaded guilty to three felonies and accepted a 23-year prison term.

The Pantages name lives on in the 3,500-seat Hollywood Pantages Theatre, which Pantages built in 1930 at a cost of \$2.5 million. Pantages died in 1936, his empire in tatters. ☆

### ENDNOTES

1. David Kipen, *Dear Los Angeles: The City in Diaries and Letters 1542 to 2018*. New York: Modern Library, 2018, xv.
2. *Bell v. Hood* (1946) 327 U.S. 678, 682.
3. *Bell v. Hood* (S.D. Cal. 1947) 71 F.Supp. 813, 821. It took more than two decades for the U.S. Supreme Court to establish that constitutional torts could be actionable for

money damages. (See *Bivens v. Six Unknown Fed. Narcotics Agents* (1971) 403 U.S. 388.)

4. “State Attorney Complains He Can’t Find Church’s Church,” *L.A. Times*, Oct. 24, 1945. (Olney was the son of California Supreme Court Justice Warren Olney, Jr. and father of prominent newscaster and public radio journalist Warren Olney IV.)

5. *People ex rel. Kenny v. Christ’s Church of the Golden Rule* (1947) 79 Cal.App.2d 858.

6. *Bell v. U.S.* (9th Cir. 1947) 159 F.2d 247.

7. *Tashiro v. Jordan* (1927) 201 Cal. 236, *Jordan v. Tashiro* (1928) 278 U.S. 123.

8. *Fujii v. State of California* (1952) 38 Cal.2d 718, 733.

9. *Administrative Order 2017-05-17* (2017) S239690, 217 Cal. Rptr.3d 730; see also Sidney K. Kanazawa, “Sei Fujii: An Alien-American Patriot,” *Calif. Leg. Hist.* 13 (2018), 387–409.

10. *L.A. Times*, April 16, 1911.

11. “Bow Secrets Told At Trial,” *L.A. Times*, Jan. 15, 1931.

12. *People v. DeVoe* (1932) 123 Cal.App. 233.

13. See *CSCHS Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2018 at 17.

14. Richard F. McFarlane, “The Lady in Purple: The Life and Legal Legacy of Gladys Towles Root,” *Calif. Leg. Hist.* 6 (2011), 368–371.

15. “Sex Deviates Can Be Cured, Says Attorney,” *L.A. Times*, Aug. 13, 1959.

16. Quoted in McFarlane, *op. cit.*, 373.

17. “Gladys Root’s Valuables Taken,” *L.A. Times*, June 20, 1963.

18. *Root v. United States* (9th Cir. 1966) 366 F.2d 377, cert. denied (1967) 386 U.S. 912.

19. See, e.g. *Gater v. Skinner* (1930) 103 Cal.App. 448; *Peterson v. Donnelly* (1939) 33 Cal.App.2d 133.

20. Richard Rayner, *A Bright and Guilty Place*. New York: Doubleday, 2009, 152–153.

21. “Mills Freed in Girl Case,” *L.A. Times*, Sept. 16, 1931.

22. Rayner, *supra*, note 20.

23. “Judges Will Take Stand,” *L.A. Times*, June 4, 1935.

24. *Fitts v. Superior Court* (1935) 4 Cal.2d 514, 521.

25. “Alexander Pantages Is Here on Business,” *L.A. Times*, April 7, 1918.

26. *People v. Pantages* (1931) 212 Cal. 237, 249–50, 260.

27. “Young Dancer Affirms Story,” *L.A. Times*, Nov. 6, 1931.

28. “Witness Raps Pringle Girl,” *L.A. Times*, Nov. 17, 1931.

29. “Dunaev Scored by Witnesses,” *L.A. Times*, Nov. 19, 1931.

30. “Pantages Weeps on Stand,” *L.A. Times*, Nov. 20, 1931.

31. Taso Lagos, *American Zeus: The Life of Alexander Pantages*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., Inc., 2018, 167.

32. Michael Parrish, “A Myth Maker’s Clarification,” *L.A. Times*, June 16, 2002. Given the sharply conflicting testimony at the two Pantages trials where nearly

everyone was impeached, what actually happened on August 9, 1929 remains murky to this day. See *American Zeus*, *supra*, note 31, at 103.

33. *People v. Fontana* (2010) 49 Cal.4th 351, 354; see also Evid. Code § 782.

34. *United States v. Koyomejian* (9th Cir. 1991) 970 F.2d 536.

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MARION WRIGHT: USC School of Law, Class of 1913 album.

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LAW SCHOOL AD: *L.A. Times*, Aug. 16, 1914.

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GLADYS TOWLES ROOT: *Public Domain*. *L.A. Times* photographic archives. UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library, Dept. of Special Collections.

GLADYS ROOT HEADLINE: *L.A. Times*, Apr. 9, 1968.

PERSHING SQUARE BUILDING: *L.A. Examiner* Photographs Collection, USC Libraries Special Collection.

### PAGE 15, CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

LOVE-MARKET HEADLINE: *L.A. Times*, Mar. 6, 1931.

BURON FITTS & ATTORNEYS: *Public Domain*. *L.A. Times* photographic archives. UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library, Dept. of Special Collections.

PANTAGES THEATER: Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

### PAGE 16, CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

EUNICE PRINGLE: *Public Domain*. *L.A. Times* photographic archives. UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library, Dept. of Special Collections.

DRUG RING HEADLINE: *L.A. Times*, Mar. 8, 1989.

PANTAGES RETRIAL HEADLINE: *L.A. Times*, Apr. 3, 1931.

PANTAGES GUILTY HEADLINE: *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Oct. 28, 1929.