



CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Review

- CHIEF JUSTICE TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE, *Chair*
 RICHARD H. RAHM, *President*
 DANIEL M. KOLKEY, *Vice President*
 KATHLEEN TUTTLE, *Treasurer*
 GEORGE S. HOWARD, JR., *Secretary*
 GEORGE W. ABELE, *Immediate Past President*
 SELMA MOIDEL SMITH, *Publications Chair*
 MOLLY SELVIN, *Review Editor*
 JAKE DEAR, *Review Associate Editor*
 CHRIS STOCKTON, *Director of Administration*

**CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| JOHN F. BURNS | THOMAS McDERMOTT |
| JOHN CARAGOZIAN | DAVID McFADDEN |
| JOSEPH L. CHAIREZ | JORGE E. NAVARRETE |
| HON. MING W. CHIN | EDWARD S. RENWICK |
| JOYCE COOK | KENT RICHLAND |
| JAKE DEAR | ALANA H. ROTTER |
| BERT H. DEIXLER | JASON RUSSELL |
| DAVID S. ETTINGER | PROF. HARRY SCHEIBER |
| HON. BARRY GOODE | MOLLY SELVIN |
| HON. JOSHUA P. GROBAN | JAMES SHEKOYAN |
| DAN GRUNFELD | SELMA MOIDEL SMITH |
| PROF. LAURA KALMAN | HON. KATHRYN M.
WERDEGAR |
| MITCHELL KEITER | |
| JENNIFER KING | ROBERT WOLFE |

**CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

4747 N. First Street, Suite 140
Fresno, CA 93726
Phone (800) 353-7537
director@cschs.org
www.cschs.org

SPRING / SUMMER 2020
TABLE OF CONTENTS

**When Supreme Court Staff Signed Opinions:
The Surprising Role That Commissioners
Played in Creating the Courts of Appeal**
JAKE DEAR 2

**Chief Justice Gibson Joined Hollywood Stars
to Testify at a Tax Evasion Trial**
DAVID S. ETTINGER 12

The Legal Activism of Carey McWilliams
PETER RICHARDSON 14

**Peter Hardeman Burnett’s Short but
Notorious Judicial Legacy**
GREGORY NOKES 16

**Justice Ming W. Chin — A Legacy of Public
Service, Civility, and Excellence**
JAMES LEIBSON 20

APPRECIATIONS

Legal Scholar Barbara Allen Babcock
SHARON DRISCOLL 22

**California Leads in Oral Histories of State
Supreme Court Justices**
LAURA MCCREERY 24

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Lives Ruined, but Was Justice Done?
JUSTICE MARIA E. STRATTON 26

Editor’s Note
MOLLY SELVIN 27

On the cover: Discovering an old album in the library archives with photos of 16 Court Commissioners led Jake Dear to research unveiling the origins of the California Courts of Appeal. *Photos: Jake Dear and newspaper archives. Photo montage by Suzanne Bean.*