



2020 WRITING COMPETITION VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

Virtual Roundtable Participants —

Top, left to right: Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, recently retired Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar, Competition Chair Selma Moidel Smith, and Society President Richard H. Rahm. Bottom, left to right: Winning authors Taylor Cozzens, Gus Tupper, and Brittney M. Welch. (*Published in the San Francisco and Los Angeles editions of the Daily Journal on September 24, 2020.*)

FOR THE FIRST time, the California Supreme Court Historical Society met by video conference to congratulate the 2020 winners of its annual Selma Moidel Smith Student Writing Competition in California Legal History. The three award-winning students introduced themselves and presented summaries of their papers. Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye responded, “All of us will benefit because of this inspired writing. I’m greatly excited and inspired by your minds.”

First place was won by Taylor Cozzens of the University of Oklahoma History Department for “Ronald Reagan v. CRLA: Politics, Power, and Poverty Law.” He receives a prize of \$2,500.

Second place was awarded to Gus Tupper, 2020 graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Law for “Breaking California’s Cycle of Juvenile Transfer.” He receives a prize of \$500.

The third-place winner is Brittney M. Welch of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law for “Stop! Turn the Car Around Right Now for Federalism’s Sake! The One National Program Rule and How Courts Can Stop Its Impact,” which discusses federal preemption of California’s clean air standards. She receives a prize of \$250.

Praising the high quality of the winning entries, Selma Moidel Smith, competition founder and editor-in-chief of the society’s annual journal, announced that all three papers will appear in this year’s volume of *California Legal History*.

The chief justice concluded by saying, “All of these issues come to us at the Supreme Court, and this is what moves policy forward, so thank you for this opportunity. I’m excited and impressed.”

This year’s judges, all of whom are legal historians and professors of law, were: Stuart Banner, UCLA School of Law; Christian Fritz, University of New Mexico School of Law (Emeritus); and Sara Mayeux, Vanderbilt University School of Law, who was the first-place winner of the competition in 2010.

The annual competition is open to students enrolled in a school of law or graduate program in history. Papers are required to be original, unpublished scholarly writing on any aspect of legal history that deals significantly with California, in any time period from 1846 to the present.

The complete video of the virtual roundtable is available at: <https://youtu.be/ToP6rkZpaxU>. ★