

# CALIFORNIA LEGAL HISTORY MANUSCRIPTS IN THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY:

*An Update*

PETER L. REICH\*

## INTRODUCTION

The Huntington Library in San Marino, California, is one of the two primary repositories of California history manuscripts, along with UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library.<sup>1</sup> A key component of the Huntington collection is its materials on California legal history, which have been used for numerous scholarly publications.<sup>2</sup> In 1989, the Huntington published

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\* Professor of Law and Sumner Scholar, Whittier Law School; J.D., UC Berkeley, Ph.D, UCLA; past chair of the Legal History Section of the Association of American Law Schools; and past vice-chair of the California State Bar Committee on History of Law in California. This survey could not have been completed without the assistance of the wonderful Huntington Library staff, particularly Bill Frank, Curator of Hispanic, Cartographic, and Western Historical Manuscripts, Associate Curator Jennifer Goldman, and Chief Cataloger Brooke Black. The author dedicates the essay to the memory of Martin Ridge, late Director of Research at the Huntington and tireless supporter of California legal historical scholarship.

<sup>1</sup> See John C. Parish, *California Books and Manuscripts in the Huntington Library*, 7 HUNTINGTON LIBR. BULL. 1 (1935); Archibald Hanna, *Western Americana Collectors and Collections*, 2 W. HIST. Q. 401 (1971).

<sup>2</sup> See GORDON M. BAKKEN, *PRACTICING LAW IN FRONTIER CALIFORNIA* (1991); MIROSLAVA CHÁVEZ-GARCÍA, *NEGOTIATING CONQUEST: GENDER AND POWER IN CALIFORNIA, 1770s TO 1880s* (2004); DAVID J. LANGUM, *LAW AND COMMUNITY ON THE*

*California Legal History Manuscripts in the Huntington Library: A Guide*, compiled and edited by legal historian Gordon M. Bakken (hereinafter *Guide*). The current essay updates the *Guide* by including materials catalogued or acquired since its production, as well as some that were omitted due to the definition of “legal history” it employed.

Before discussing specific materials, a few words regarding the role of legal historical theory and organization are in order. A recent study of legal history’s disciplinary development divides the field into “classical,” “liberal,” and “critical” approaches.<sup>3</sup> The first focuses on the intellectual history of doctrine and institutions, the second emphasizes the integration of law with society and the economy, and the third asserts law’s contingency and inconsistency over time.<sup>4</sup> Assuming that scholars applying such different methodologies may conduct research in the Huntington, I did not want to restrict excessively the parameters of legal historical materials, and have thus attempted to capture as broad a range of sources as might conceivably be useful.

In terms of organization, the *Guide* categorized manuscripts into twenty-six subject areas, with additional subdivisions, and summarized the collections in alphabetical order. Many of the categories were extremely narrow, and some then-extant collections were omitted, such as the Frank Latta materials, because they were “not specifically law related.”<sup>5</sup> In the interests of inclusiveness, as well as of providing latitude for a wider use of documents, I have created six groupings: Business Enterprises, Courts and Judges, Government Offices, Land, Natural Resources (mining, oil, and water), and Law Firms and Lawyers. Each entry includes a brief description of the person(s) or institution generating the manuscripts, the types of materials included, their quantity, and whether there is a finding aid. It should be noted that a number of these collections are only semi-catalogued; for further information the researcher should consult one of the Huntington’s superlative curators.

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MEXICAN CALIFORNIA FRONTIER: ANGLO-AMERICAN EXPATRIATES AND THE CLASH OF LEGAL TRADITIONS, 1821–1846 (1987); JOHN PHILLIP REID, *LAW FOR THE ELEPHANT: PROPERTY AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR ON THE OVERLAND TRAIL* (1997). See also the author’s modest contribution to this literature, Peter L. Reich, *Dismantling the Pueblo: Hispanic Municipal Land Rights in California Since 1850*, 45 AMER. J. LEGAL HIST. 353 (2001).

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Rose, *Studying the Past: The Nature and Development of Legal History as an Academic Discipline*, 31 J. LEGAL HIST. 101, 117 (2010).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 118, 120, 121.

<sup>5</sup> GUIDE at 2.

## BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

**BANNING COMPANY RECORDS, 1859–1948.** Transportation business instrumental in developing Los Angeles, Wilmington, and Santa Catalina Island. Includes legal papers, correspondence, letter books, ledgers, and account books. 12,104 items, with finding aid.

**BERNAL FAMILY PAPERS, 1849–1896.** Landowning family in San Francisco Bay area. Includes legal contracts, mortgages, title deeds, and promissory notes. 67 items, with finding aid.

**THOMAS ANTHONY “TONY” FORSTER COLLECTION OF FORSTER FAMILY PAPERS, 1849–1921.** 1833 British immigrant to California, John Forster, married into *Californio* Pico family, engaged in multi-year litigation over Santa Margarita land grant. Includes correspondence, business, and legal papers. 147 items, negatives and microfilms of 11 diary volumes.

**GUERRA FAMILY COLLECTION, 1752–1955.** Prominent *Californio* family, particularly in Santa Barbara. José Antonio de la Guerra y Noriega commanded the Santa Barbara Presidio, 1815–42. Includes facsimile copies of land, legal, personal, and political papers; originals in Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library. 4,179 items, with finding aid.

**LOS ANGELES TIMES COMPANY RECORDS, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, 1911–1980.** Newspaper and business and politics during the twentieth century. Legal documents regarding 1911 Los Angeles Times bombing trial, antitrust, labor, and tax cases. 6 boxes, oversize scrapbook, with finding aid.

**OREÑA FAMILY PAPERS, 1838–1955.** *Californio* landowning family linked to the de la Guerras of Santa Barbara through marriage of Spanish immigrant Gaspar Oreña. Includes land claims, land grants, title deeds, and litigation documents. 65 items, with finding aid.

**PROTEST FILED ON BEHALF OF PALMER, COOK, & COMPANY, BANKERS, 1854.** San Francisco notary public’s official protest filed for creditor bank against defaulting debtor, and original loan agreement. 2 pages.

**STONEMAN FAMILY PAPERS, 1891–1920.** Henry Stoneman, Civil War general and California governor, 1883–87, led family involved in various financial and real estate matters. Includes legal, financial, and transactional documents. 72 items, with finding aid.

**CALIFORNIA GRAND JURY (NEVADA COUNTY).** Indictment of Julia Moore, Sept. 19, 1859. Charge that defendant Moore murdered pregnant victim Lucy Nuttall by causing her to “miscarry, abort, and bring forth the said child . . .” 7 pages.

## COURTS AND JUDGES

**WALTER ELY PAPERS, 1944–1984.** Judge of U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1964–84, who decided cases on censorship, education, feminism, immigration, labor relations, offshore drilling, and racial discrimination. Includes case files, internal court memoranda, county, state, and national documents. 68 cartons, uncatalogued.

**PEIRSON M. HALL PAPERS, 1925–1979.** Judge of U.S. District Court, Southern and Central Districts of California, 1942–79; who also served as U.S. attorney, 1933–37; in U.S. Reparations Mission to Japan, 1945; and on Uniform Air Crash Legislation Committee, 1968–75. Includes correspondence, documents relating to opinions and air crash legislation, litigation in Southern California, 1920s. 16 boxes, 15 scrapbooks, semi-catalogued.

**IRVING HILL PAPERS, c. 1950s–1998.** Judge of U.S. District Court, Southern and Central Districts of California, 1965–98. Includes correspondence, documents relating to opinions, trial notes, attorney discipline, judicial committee work, community activities. 51 boxes, 2 sacks, semi-catalogued.

**HOFFMAN, OGDEN, LETTER TO OGDEN HOFFMAN, SR., FEB. 15, 1851.** U.S. district judge, Northern District of California and District of California, 1851–91, prominent in deciding land grant cases. Letter to father describing cases and scenery in San Francisco. 1 letter, photocopy.

**LOS ANGELES AREA COURT RECORDS, 1850–1899.** Trial-level local courts in Southern California after the American takeover. Includes cases and case files dealing with civil, criminal, and probate matters, as well as those of justices of the peace and county justices, registers of actions, minutes, dockets, and miscellaneous records. 2,159 boxes, 295 bound volumes, with finding aid.

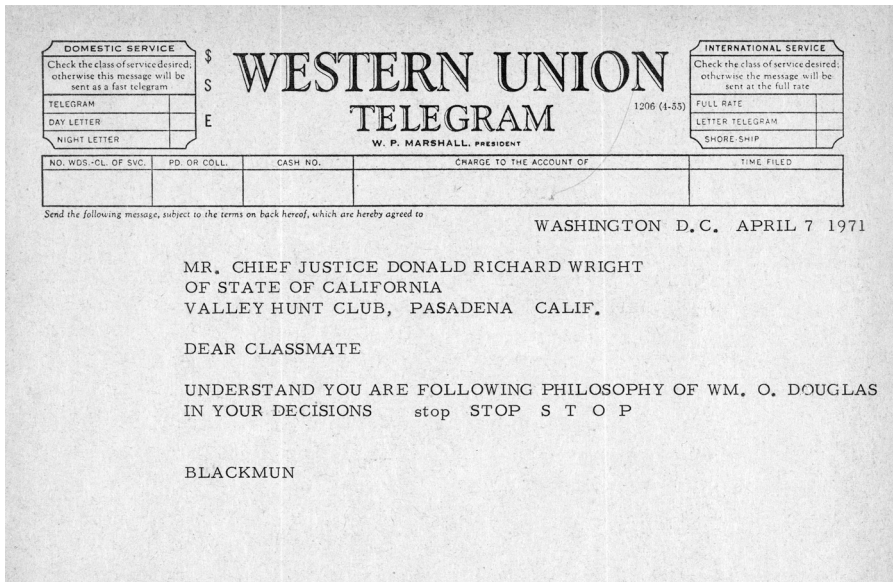
**TUOLUMNE COUNTY (CALIFORNIA) JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DOCKET, 1855–1857.** Court of local jurisdiction in gold country. Includes docket listing

information for each case heard by justices of the peace in Tuolumne County. 202 pages.

**PAPERS OF DONALD R. WRIGHT, 1933–1977.** Chief Justice of California, 1970–77, known for twice striking down death penalty. Includes correspondence with jurists and politicians, including Harry Blackmun, Warren Burger, William O. Douglas, and Ronald Reagan, meeting minutes, scrapbooks. 87 items, with finding aid. Includes message from Blackmun to Wright (see photo this page). The message reads:

UNDERSTAND YOU ARE FOLLOWING PHILOSOPHY OF WM.  
O. DOUGLAS IN YOUR DECISIONS stop STOP S T O P

Note that the message was not actually transmitted via the Western Union Company, but was typewritten on an order blank to borrow the context of a telegram. In telegram usage, the word “STOP” indicated the end of a sentence because punctuation was not used. Here, the word “STOP” was borrowed by Justice Blackmun as a device to indicate the increasing vehemence of his disapproval.



**MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE JUSTICE HARRY BLACKMUN OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT TO CALIFORNIA CHIEF JUSTICE DONALD R. WRIGHT ON A WESTERN UNION ORDER BLANK. SEE ABOVE FOR DESCRIPTION.**

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## GOVERNMENT OFFICES

**LETTERS OF JESSE WASHINGTON CARTER, 1941–1942.** Letters from Associate Justice Jesse Carter of the California Supreme Court to Superior Court Judge Herbert S. Gans and Ernest Besig, executive director of the ACLU of Northern California, dealing with beatings and harassment of Jehovah's Witnesses. 5 letters.

**PAPERS OF EDMUND D. EDELMAN, 1953–1994.** Los Angeles County supervisor, 1975–94. Correspondence regarding county government, public welfare, urban transportation. 1,118 boxes, with finding aid.

**PAPERS OF LEWIS GRANGER, 1851–1874.** Lawyer and politician who moved to Los Angeles in 1849, and to Oroville in 1857. Elected to California Assembly, later U.S. Land Office receiver. Includes business receipts, deeds, leases, litigation documents. 24 items.

**PAPERS OF ALEXANDER POPE, 1932–2000.** Los Angeles lawyer and public administrator who held offices of Legislative Secretary to Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, 1959–61, Los Angeles Airport commissioner, 1973–77, Los Angeles County assessor, 1977–86. Includes administrative letters, memoranda, reports, and litigation documents. 369 boxes, with finding aid.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, 1844–1861.** Documents (some in Spanish) regarding development and history of San Luis Obispo County. Includes land appraisals, Committee of Vigilance materials, letters from prisoner and County Sheriff. 18 items, facsimiles of documents in San Luis Obispo Historical Society.

## LAND

*(Note: Many collections overlap with those in NATURAL RESOURCES)*

**PAPERS OF ALAMITOS LAND COMPANY, 1885–1907.** Land sale company organized during real estate boom of 1880s in Southern California, operated in Long Beach and Signal Hill areas. Includes business records, ledgers, and legal documents. 95 boxes, 95 maps, with finding aid.

**BRADBURY LAND PAPERS, 1855–1933.** Family and related company involved in land and water development in Southern California cities of Du-

arte and Monrovia. Includes correspondence, certificates of title, deeds, and contractual agreements relating to land sales and mortgages, leases, and water rights. 54 items, with finding aid.

**CROSBY, ELISHA OSCAR, LETTER TO J. WILCOXSON, MARCH 24, 1857, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.** Gold Rush pioneer, delegate to 1849 state constitutional convention, state senator. Letter refers to land grant litigation in late 1850s California, and to prominent figures such as landowner John A. Sutter and attorney Henry W. Halleck. 1 page.

**DERBY, GEORGE HORATIO, QUITCLAIM DEED FOR BEACH LOTS AT LA PLAYA, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, DEC. 10, 1853.** Prominent humorist and U.S. Army topographical engineer who mapped San Diego River. 2 pages.

**GRAHAME HARDY COLLECTION, 1849–1909.** Various legal, administrative, municipal and real estate transactions of railroad and mining interests, businessmen and cities in San Francisco Bay area, Northern California, Western Nevada. Includes legal proceedings, title deeds, mining reports, claims, construction of Nicaragua Canal. 85 items, with finding aid.

**HEARD, JOHN, LETTER FROM JOHN HEARD TO PETER H. BURNETT, 1850.** Sacramento resident's report to California's first governor on August 14, 1850, "squatter riots." Litigation over claims to Sutter land grant led to gunfight and attack on prison ship in Sacramento River. 3 pages.

**RECORDS OF KERCKHOFF-CUZNER MILL AND LUMBER COMPANY, 1883–1933.** Company owned mills and yards throughout Southern California, involved in legal dispute regarding purchase and division of Boschke's Island (or Smith Island) in San Pedro Bay. Includes business records, correspondence, maps. 113 items, 15 oversize folders, with finding aid.

**KROESEN, J. L., LAND CLAIM IN TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 16, 1851.** Claim for land near Eel River. 2 pages.

**LAND AND WATER TITLES AND AGREEMENTS: FACSIMILES, 1896–1907.** Agreements between various individuals and companies regarding land titles and water rights in Imperial and Mexicali valleys in California and Baja California, Mexico. 13 items, facsimiles of documents in San Diego County Recorder's Office.

**LOS ANGELES LAND PAPERS, 1850–1889.** Documents certifying sale, purchase, pre-emption, or surveying of land by Los Angeles County officials,

many referring to transfers from *Californios* to Americans. Some involve significant individuals such as Ignacio del Valle, Pio Pico, and Abel Stearns. Includes inventories of women's separate property, mortgage agreements, inheritances, wills, certificates of sale due to taxes owed, lawsuits, foreclosures, pre-emption claims, lease agreements, and miscellaneous legal documents. 237 items, with finding aid.

**MELLUS, FRANCIS, INDENTURE BETWEEN MANUELA AVILA AND FRANCIS MELLUS FOR LAND IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, MAY 28, 1857.** Salem, Massachusetts, merchant arrived in San Francisco, 1840, Los Angeles, 1850s, became state assemblyman, Los Angeles County supervisor. Deed for property, part of Rancho de Los Cuervos, including adobe house. 1 item.

**MILLS, MINNIE TIBBETS, THE MAN AND THE TREE: EPIC OF THE NAVAL ORANGE AND LUTHER C. TIBBETS, 1942.** Daughter of Luther C. Tibbets, who planted first navel orange tree in Southern California and was president of Riverside Land and Irrigating Company. Includes unpublished monograph on crops, land company, and legal troubles causing property loss, and two volumes of court transcripts. 3 typescripts.

**PAPERS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PINTO BASIN, CALIFORNIA, 1924–1932.** Real estate development of Pinto Basin, Riverside County, by several development companies. Includes correspondence discussing litigation between business entities. 16 items.

**LAND CLAIM OF EDWARD POTTER, MAY 3, 1854.** Claim made before Judge K. H. Limmish in Los Angeles, describing boundaries and bordering ranch belonging to Los Angeles County District Attorney Lewis Granger. 1 page.

**COLLECTION OF RANCHO SESPE, 1829–1944.** Mexican land grant in Santa Clara Valley, Ventura County, subject of claim before California Land Commission, and against various squatters. Includes copies of legal documents submitted by Carrillo family to Commission in order to prove title. 412 items, with finding aid.

**COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS CONCERNING RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA, 1856–1864.** Related to lawsuits over confusion in land titles in Red Bluff, Tehama County. Includes letters, lawyers' arguments, citizens' petitions, 1859 map of city showing various land titles. 12 items, facsimiles.



**SAN FRANCISCO (CALIF.) DISTRICT, BLOTTER B: DISTRICT RECORD OF LAND GRANTS AND DEEDS IN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 1847–1849.** Includes grants and deeds signed by various San Francisco *alcaldes* in early American period. 63-page bound volume.

**SANTA CLARA LAND PAPERS, 1849–1890.** Estates and land transactions of prominent *Californio* citizens, including Pablo de la Guerra, Juan Sepúlveda, Robert Stockton. Includes depositions, powers of attorney, wills, leases, indentures, and plats. 136 items, with finding aid.

**TAYS, GEORGE, CALIFORNIA LAND GRANT RESEARCH MATERIALS FOR WILLIAM W. CLARY, 1938.** Independent researcher hired by Clary, an O'Melveny & Myers partner, to investigate Mexican land grants in Bancroft Library. Includes letters and notes on land acquisition in pre-Conquest Southern California boundary litigation in 1820s. Example of legal historian at work: Tays complains that a document copyist, "leaving out all the details . . . left me in a state of futile rage." 5 items.

## NATURAL RESOURCES (MINING, OIL, AND WATER)

**PAPERS OF JAMES B. AND KATHERINE M. CLOVER, 1855–1990.** James B. Clover owned Mono County land, defended against Los Angeles's eminent domain case to condemn land and accompanying water rights for city use. Los Angeles eventually won its suit. Includes correspondence, legal documents, reports, publications, and clippings. 5,941 items, 102 oversize folders, with finding aid.

**RECORDS OF THE CONSERVATIVE WATER COMPANY, 1900–1967.** Water supply company in Watts, Los Angeles area. Includes correspondence regarding public health, financial, legal issues. 310 items, with finding aid.

**PAPERS OF O. S. DAWSON, 1873–1911.** Relates to three mining companies, two in California (Bodie and Sonora) and one in Nevada. Includes correspondence and documents regarding mine management, debts, purchases. 146 items, with finding aid.

**A HISTORY OF ESCONDIDO AND ITS WATER AND POWER DEVELOPMENT, SEPT. 1932.** Unpublished manuscript focuses on irrigation and development

of hydro-electric energy, discussing reservoirs, disputes with neighboring localities, and legal battles over water supply. 16 pages.

**CONTRACT WITH ELIAS G. GRANGER, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 10, 1856.** Contract between various parties concerning sale and transfer of Los Angeles water canal property. 1 item.

**PAPERS OF JOHN R. HEINLEN, 1864–1907.** Lemoore, California, landowner involved in property disputes with irrigation companies and individuals over river boundaries and water rights. 79 items, with finding aid.

**FRANK F. LATTA COLLECTION: SKYFARMING, 1802–1982.** Historian, curator of Kern County Museum, researched San Joaquin Valley development and dry farming (“skyfarming”). Includes documents on irrigation, canals, water rights. 17, 230 items, with finding aid.

**FRANK F. LATTA COLLECTION: MILLER & LUX PAPERS, 1869–1939.** Land-owning company involved in litigation over San Joaquin Valley riparian rights. Includes agreements, correspondence with irrigation companies, lists of lawsuits, receipts, maps, ledgers. 78 boxes, 51 maps, 185 bound volumes, with finding aid. Several hundred boxes are unprocessed.

**NORTH BLOOMFIELD GRAVEL MINING CO. RECORDS, 1890–1891.** California company pioneered hydraulic gold mining, Nevada County, 1870s. Court-imposed restrictions forced monitoring of water-borne debris to protect downstream farmers. Includes correspondence discussing accounts of field superintendents and efforts to control runoff. 96 items, with finding aid.

**ROE, JAMES H., NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, 1900.** Notes on development of Riverside Valley water systems. 91-page typescript copy of original in Riverside Public Library.

**ROJAS, JOSÉ MIGUEL, LAWS OF THE CORSO MINING DISTRICT, INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 3, 1869.** Translation (from Spanish?) of miners’ laws, including claims and sales from district. 1 item.

**FINANCIAL RECORDS OF HARRY F. SINCLAIR, 1905–1960.** Oil tycoon involved in 1920s Teapot Dome Scandal, awarded non-competitive bids to California and Wyoming petroleum fields by Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall. (Fall papers also in Huntington.) Includes contractual agreements, affidavits, and other information related to legal claims, documents

related to Teapot Dome, tax records submitted in trials against Sinclair. 2,176 items, with finding aid.

**PAPERS OF THE VIRGINIA AND TRUCKEE RAILROAD, 1865–1906.** Railroad, built in late 1860s, connected Comstock Lode mines with quartz reduction mills and lumberyards. Includes business correspondence regarding mines and minerals in Nevada and California, pumping machinery, and water rights in Inyo County, California, and in Nevada. 40 items.

**WRIGHTWOOD PAPERS, 1922–1929.** Wright Ranch in San Gabriel Mountains converted from struggling cattle ranch and apple orchard to Los Angeles area vacation destination in 1920s. Includes correspondence of business associates and development consultants, legal and business documents, photographs of landscape and environment. 1922 Superior Court judgment allows water diversion by second user on any day when water was insufficient to reach crops on first user's land by six o'clock. 30 items, with finding aid.

## LAW FIRMS AND LAWYERS

**PAPERS OF JOHN DUSTIN BICKNELL, 1872–1914.** Counsel for Southern Pacific Railroad, and Los Angeles practitioner of land patent law. His firm merged in 1903 with Los Angeles lawyers Dunn & Crutcher, later Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher. Includes correspondence regarding rights of way with Colis P. and Henry E. Huntington. 9,802 items, 51 bound volumes, 6 rolls, with finding aid.

**LAW OFFICES OF CHOW & SING COLLECTION, 1949–1998.** San Francisco firm handling immigration cases and other matters of interest to Chinese immigrant and Chinese-American community. Founder William Jack Chow was first Chinese deputy district attorney for San Francisco, and president of Asian American Bar Association. Includes firm's business records (open), and case files (closed under rolling 75-year hold until 2024). 300 boxes, semi-catalogued, with brief summary.

**HOMER DANIEL CROTTY PAPERS, c. 1930–1972.** Partner, Los Angeles firm Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher, represented Ventura Land and Water Company, active in Los Angeles Bar Association, Huntington Library. Semi-catalogued, with biographical information sheet.

**DEPOSITION OF JOHN THOMAS DOYLE ON THE PIOUS FUND, 1903.** Attorney for archbishop of San Francisco and bishop of Monterey in successful case to recover Jesuits' Baja California mission fund from Mexico, decided by Permanent Court of Arbitration at Hague, 1902. Document concerns fee dispute between Doyle and Catholic Church. 35 pages.

**PAPERS OF WILLIAM I. FOLEY, C. 1903–1920.** Attorney in Los Angeles law firm with Henry T. Gage, California governor, 1899–1903. Includes legal documents and correspondence concerning, among other matters, a lawsuit by Aguirre family against San Francisco archbishop claiming interest in Pious Fund, and financial litigation. 84 items, with finding aid.

**HONG FAMILY PAPERS, 1764–2006.** Immigration firm founded by You Chung Hong, first Chinese American to pass California bar exam, advocate for repeal of Chinese Exclusion Acts, founder of Los Angeles's New Chinatown. Eldest son Nowland Hong served as deputy city attorney of Los Angeles; chief counsel, Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners; and private practitioner. Includes documents on business and community activities, immigration case files (some open on rolling 75-year hold), coaching books, political activities. 350 boxes, with finding aid.

**LOCKWOOD, P. A., LAW LICENSE AND LETTERS, 1833–1860.** San Francisco attorney in 1850s, represented John C. Frémont and Biddle Boggs in subsurface rights litigation against Merced Mining Company. Includes letters regarding Merced case, Governor John G. Downey, and title request. 3 items.

**PAPERS OF LOREN MILLER, 1876–1903.** African-American journalist, civil rights activist, attorney, and judge in Los Angeles. Assisted Thurgood Marshall with 1954 case *Brown v. Board of Education* in U.S. Supreme Court, Los Angeles Municipal Court judge, 1964–67. Includes briefs and other legal documents regarding racially restrictive real estate covenants, correspondence with Tom Bradley, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Langston Hughes, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Thurgood Marshall, ACLU, NAACP, National Urban League. 10,454 items, with finding aid.

**COLLECTION OF HENRY WILLIAM O'MELVENY, 1885–1940.** Co-founder of oldest Los Angeles law firm with Jackson Graves, which later became O'Melveny & Myers, litigated land title and electric power cases, president

of various civic boards. Includes correspondence, business files, financial documents, and journals. Some missing years are in Graves Collection listed in *Guide*. 51 boxes, 52 volumes, 4 rolls, oversize items, with preliminary inventory.

**ROBINSON-FARRAND PAPERS, 1905–1958.** Lawyers representing Southern California banks and other institutions. Henry M. Robinson practiced in Los Angeles, George E. Farrand in Ventura, and both were involved with merger of First National and Security Pacific Banks. Includes correspondence, legal files, judicial opinions, legal documents, and research memoranda. 3,504 items, with finding aid.

**ROCKWELL COLLECTION, 1791–1871.** John A. Rockwell, attorney and land developer, Connecticut Whig politician who practiced law in that state, was county judge, congressman, and moved to Washington, D.C., where he litigated before U.S. Court of Claims. Treatise *Spanish and Mexican Law in Relation to Mines and Titles to Real Estate* (1851) was cited by parties and judges in numerous California and Southwestern land, mining, and water cases. Represented claimants in Fossat and New Almaden, California land grant cases. Includes correspondence and memoranda regarding various legal matters, real estate investments, and political issues. Approximately 3,000 items, with finding aid.

**PAPERS OF FRANK WHEAT, c. 1950–2000.** Los Angeles securities lawyer at Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher, political activist, and major proponent of 1994 California Desert Protection Act. Includes documents regarding legal career, presidency of Los Angeles County Bar Association, SEC commissioner under Lyndon Johnson, involvement in environmental issues. 154 boxes, with finding aid.

## CONCLUSION

Without question the Huntington Library's vast collections constitute an almost inexhaustible resource for writing California legal history. These materials await the patient researcher, whether he or she takes a doctrinal, institutional, contextual, or revisionist approach. John Phillip Reid, perhaps the most prolific of Huntington legal historians, recognized the Library's potential when he commented, "Were we to stop guessing and look

at the evidence, it could well reveal a source of social behavior previously unsuspected or deliberately ignored by historians.”<sup>6</sup> Using Overland Trail journals, Reid soundly rebutted the traditional stereotype that California Gold Rush pioneers had no respect for property rights.<sup>7</sup>

This brief survey is only a way station on the long (and perhaps never-ending) journey to archival illumination. But if it inspires and assists future scholarship of the caliber of John Reid’s, it will have served its purpose. ★

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<sup>6</sup> REID, *supra* note 2, at 10.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 363-64.