

Editor's Preface to the Inaugural Issue

Since the earliest days of the California Supreme Court Historical Society's founding phase, its directors have pursued a plan to establish a journal of legal history that would present for its members and for a wider public scholarly work on the California Supreme Court's history—and, more generally, on the history of California's legal and judicial system. The present volume brings to fruition that plan.

The history of California law has not languished, by any means, for it has been pursued by scholars in the state's universities and law schools; has been advanced by publications of the California Historical Society, the Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for Northern California, and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Although the emphasis is upon federal law, there has been much of interest to students of California legal history in the last-mentioned organization's fine journal, *Western Legal History*.

Still, despite the efforts of many individuals and organizations over the years, there are many very serious gaps in the history of California law. We lack judicial biographies of even some of the most important figures in the history of the state's courts, including its Supreme Court; and we also have serious need for topical studies that will reveal the full richness of the courts' historic contributions to legal change and law's relationships with social, economic, political, and cultural change in California history. More particularly, there is a need for monographic studies that can become the building blocks for the broad synthesis of California legal development that might one day, one hopes, be advanced by a full-scale history of the California Supreme Court—a highly interesting project that is on our Society's future agenda.

Hence it is with a sense of commitment as well as pride that the Society presents this first issue of its *Yearbook*. This volume contains, first of all, a set of original articles by established scholars, including several authors who are among the leading contributors in recent years to research on California legal history. In addition, this volume includes some materials that originally appeared in the first three issues of the Society's *Newsletter*; they are reprinted here in order to give them a more

permanent format that is also convenient to our readers, many of whom have not had access to the newsletters.

The Society has been most fortunate in the opportunity to join with the Institute for Governmental Studies (IGS) Press of the University of California, Berkeley, in this venture. The press, which will serve as publisher of the *Yearbook*, is well known to students of California government, history, and politics for the many monographs, conference volumes, bibliographical materials, and anthologies that it has published. Headed by a distinguished former journalist with long experience in publishing, Gerald Lubenow, the press has a veteran editorial production staff expert in scholarly publications.

The principal work of substantive editing for this inaugural issue has been done in the Center for the Study of Law and Society, at the Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley. I wish to thank Dean Herma Hill Kay of Boalt Hall and Professor Robert Kagan, director of the Center, for their continuing support of this project. Kiara Jordan of the Center staff has provided expert editorial coordination and substantive assistance. One of the authors represented here, Amy Toro, has also played an invaluable role as an editorial and research assistant. Several academic colleagues have also served as referees of papers, and their services are very much appreciated. Lynn Holton of the Judicial Council and the staff of the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, have extended invaluable assistance on research and pictorial matters.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of Maria Wolf, editor, and Pat Ramirez, publications coordinator, both of the IGS staff.

A special note of thanks is owed to Robert Warren, Esq., of Los Angeles, president of the Society, to Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas, and to Bernard Witkin, Esq., and other members of the Society's board of directors, for their encouragement of the scholarly work that the Society seeks to promote. Lee W. Cake, Esq., the Society's executive director and now editor of its newsletter, has been of great help also to the editorial effort.

All of us involved in this project are confident that the *Yearbook* will develop into a significant forum for writings on California legal history that will be of enduring interest and importance to the Society's members and to the scholarly community, as well as to members of the California bench and bar and to the public more generally.

Harry N. Scheiber

NOTICE

It is expected that future annual issues of this publication will carry not only original articles on California legal history and biography, and on varied aspects of the Supreme Court's institutional history, but also on occasion important historical documents and pictorial materials on our subject areas. Potential contributors are urged to contact the editorial office at the Center for the Study of Law and Society, Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California 94720-2150.