

The Keeper of Los Angeles' Lost Buildings

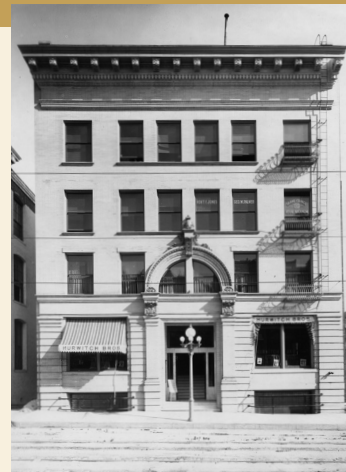
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES today is thick with the glass and steel towers typical of other urban centers. But look closely and you might also find stories of buildings now gone.

Bob Wolfe, appellate attorney and CSCHS Board member, is also an architectural archeologist, unearthing and illuminating the role of those lost buildings in L.A.'s legal history. Although Blanchard Hall (right) no longer stands, from 1953 to 1962 it housed the offices of *ONE Magazine*, which, as Bob documents, was the subject of a 1958 U.S. Supreme Court summary disposition regarded as pivotal to the eventual legal recognition of gay rights.

Bob discovered *ONE's* story as he put together the most recent in his series of legal history “walking tours.”¹ For two decades, Bob has led Public Counsel's staff, volunteers and board members around downtown Los Angeles. Last year's tour, online,² focused on cases that originated in the buildings surrounding downtown's Pershing Square.

In October, Public Counsel, the nation's largest provider of pro bono legal services, recognized Bob's work with one of its Pro Bono Awards. “Bob has crafted deeply researched CLE trainings and walking tours,” the group noted, “specifically designed to educate the legal community about important geographical sites and events in Los Angeles that are linked to our city's history of racism and evolving system of justice.”

— Molly Selvin, *CSCHS Review* Editor



Blanchard Hall, 232 S. Hill Street, 1910. (Public domain)

1. Portions of those tours have been published in this publication. See Bob Wolfe, “A Legal Site-Seeing Tour of Downtown Los Angeles, Part 1” (Fall/Winter 2017) *CSCHS Newsletter* 1–6, 25; Bob Wolfe, “A Legal Site-Seeing Tour of Downtown Los Angeles, Part 2” (Spring/Summer 2018) *CSCHS Newsletter* 15–22; Bob Wolfe, “A Legal Site-Seeing Tour of Downtown Los Angeles, Part 3” (Fall/Winter 2019) *CSCHS Newsletter* 10–17.

2. www.dropbox.com/s/lig5lyzlg5a7gj9e/LawWalk-PershingSquare-2022-07.08.mp4?