

## OPENING REMARKS\*

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*Susan Westerberg Prager*†  
& *Hon. George H. King*††

DEAN SUSAN WESTERBERG PRAGER: It is my privilege to welcome you all, bright and early this morning, to Southwestern, Los Angeles' second-oldest law school. Southwestern was the conception of John J. Schumacher, a visionary twenty-five-year-old who, more than 100 years ago, wanted to create a law school that would take advantage of the most modern teaching methods of the day. He wanted Los Angeles to have a law school that used the case method, so he was innovative from the beginning, and we would like to think that we have continued that tradition ever since.

Equally important, he passionately wanted a place where every person who was intellectually capable could study law, regardless of their gender, their race, or whether they were immigrants. That sounds rather normal to us today, but it was not at the time. His commitment to access is symbolized by the fact that Southwestern's first graduate was female. And remember, this was before women could vote in federal elections, so this was a radical act. She began, during law school, working in L.A.'s then-brand-new public defenders' office. After she graduated and was licensed, she went to that office and became the first female public defender in the nation.

Because of his mission of access, Schumacher created a law school where people who worked during the day could go to school at night, and people who worked at night could go to school during the day. To this day, of course, we have a wide variety of programs that are designed to accommodate everyone's circumstances. This is a place that has been innovative. It is no accident that Southwestern has the longest running two-year accelerated J.D. program in the nation.

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\* What follows is an edited and annotated transcript of the live introductory remarks made by Dean Susan Westerberg Prager and Chief Judge George King on March 18, 2016 during the Southwestern Journal of International Law's symposium, "The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, 1966-2016: International Context."

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Over the decades, successive generations of immigrants have studied here, and we are also very proud that Southwestern continues to be one of the most racially diverse law schools in the nation. It seems particularly appropriate to mention that it was Southwestern graduates who achieved a number of “firsts” related to the judiciary. The first one that I will mention is actually here today. Judge Ron Lew became the first Chinese American Federal District Court judge in the continental United States. The first Native American judge appointed in California is a Southwestern graduate, as is the first Latina trial court judge in the nation. The first African American appellate justice in the nation, who is female: the wonderful Arleigh Woods, who continues as a member of our board, and is a former chair of our board. I could go on and on. Of course, our graduates include the remarkable man who, while a police officer, attended Southwestern at night. He became the first African American to serve as mayor of a major American city, that was not Washington D.C., and remains to this day, Los Angeles’ longest serving mayor, Tom Bradley.

It is also my privilege to welcome you to this remarkable building. Bullock’s Wilshire was the conception of an innovative businessman, John Bullock, who through this site and this building created the first department store in the nation built in a suburb. Students laugh when I talk about this being a suburb, but I hope that you will come up to the dean’s office today at some point, and come out on the terrace and look at downtown. And as you will see it is a very long New Yorker’s walk to downtown, and no one in L.A. would think of walking it. I am told that there were some farm fields between here and downtown at the time the building was constructed. Southwestern, of course, has been amazingly sensitive to this 1929 art deco masterpiece.

My most important welcome today, by far, is to those who have made this symposium possible. I particularly want to thank the two groups recognized on your program cover. The academic co-sponsors include the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society and the Huntington-USC Institute on California & the West. The bar sponsors include the Beverly Hills Bar, the Federal Bar Association’s Los Angeles Chapter and the Orange County Chapter, the International Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar, the International Law Section of the California State Bar, and, of course, the International Law Section of the ABA. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our law firm sponsors who have made it possible for a number of students to attend, and for many judges to attend—O’Melveny & Myers and Manatt Phelps & Phillips for their leadership gifts, and Hadsell Stormer & Renick,

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DLA Piper, and Jones Day, for their significant gifts. We are very grateful to you all.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we would not be here together today without Professor Jonathan Miller. He is the person who remembered the vibrancy of the program a decade ago, celebrating the fortieth anniversary. He is a very determined man, as some of you know. He has worked hard and thoughtfully to bring this about. He had an important collaborator however, and I believe that we could not have done this without the Central District's Chief Judge, George H. King. Judge King has offered, at every turn, wise advice and comments, and I think he has taken some flack because the theme of the conference meant that the program would not be as inclusive of the specialized aspects of the Central District. However, in this world of ever-increasing globalization, we chose to focus on the international aspects, and to use them to think about the history of this vibrant region.

Chief Judge King came to the judiciary with quite broad experience. He has a combined eleven years of civil litigation in business matters and four years of criminal law experience as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. That criminal law experience came in during the midpoint of his private practice experience. As a judge, his colleagues and others have appreciated his potential for leadership and the realization of that leadership. For example, he has been appointed to serve on important committees, and to chair them, for the Ninth Circuit and the Judicial Conference.

After eight years as a magistrate judge, Judge King was named Chief Magistrate Judge. Just in a matter of months, President Bill Clinton appointed him as a Federal District Judge in 1995. Our only regret at Southwestern is that his judicial appointments caused him to be an adjunct at Southwestern only briefly in the period before the judiciary, so it is especially nice, in historical and other terms, to reconnect with him today. Judge King was an adjunct in our trial practice curriculum, and we are very grateful for his service to Southwestern's students.

In the fall of 2012, Judge King was elected Chief Judge of the Central District to succeed then Judge, now Justice Audrey Collins, who is on our program later today. While I am sure that Audrey—I should explain that I call her Audrey because long ago she was my student—was a tough act to follow, but it is clear to me that Chief Judge King has been, without question, more than up to that task. Chief Judge King.

CHIEF JUDGE KING: Thank you so much, Dean Prager. Those are exceedingly kind words. I hope there is a transcript so I can show it to my wife as proof. You know, actually, being Chief Judge isn't what it sounds like because if you are a presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, your colleagues actually have to like you and elect you in an open and fair democratic style election. Well, we don't do that kind of stuff in the federal court. You become Chief Judge because of age and seniority, and that is all there is to it; it is not some election. If I had to put it to an election, I'm sure my colleagues would never have chosen me, so it's a good thing that Congress took it out of their hands and provided it by statute.

Anyway, good morning everyone, and welcome to the symposium honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the United States District Court for the Central District California. On behalf of all the judges of the court, I would very much like to echo what Dean Prager said in thanking the academic bar association, and other private law firm co-sponsors of this very important program. Even more importantly, on behalf of the judges, I want to thank Dean Prager, as well as Professor Jonathan Miller, Southwestern Law School, all of its students, faculty, and staff, and the Southwestern Journal of International Law.

Throughout the day, there will be various panels that will specifically discuss cases that have been adjudicated in our court that have international significance, including the "Kiki" Camarena case,<sup>1</sup> the Armenian Genocide victims insurance claims case,<sup>2</sup> the El Monte garment workers case,<sup>3</sup> and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" case.<sup>4</sup> You might think the Don't Ask, Don't Tell case was really about domestic policy, but frankly, it is very clear the broader implications of that case reach far beyond the borders of our country. We also have a panel that will talk about the enormous contributions that some of our judges have made to the cause of the rule of law and the value of an independent judiciary in foreign countries.

It is interesting that our district has had so many cases of international significance, but when you look at the location and the demographics of our district, it becomes a little easier to understand why we are a leader on the cutting edge issues of international impor-

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1. *United States v. Caro-Quintero*, 745 F. Supp. 599 (C.D. Cal. 1990); *Alvarez-Machain v. United States*, No. CV 93-4072 SVW (SHx), 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23304 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 1999).

2. *Marootian v. N.Y. Life Ins. Co.*, No. CV-99-12073 CAS (MCx), 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 22274 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 3, 2001).

3. *Bureerong v. Uvawas*, 922 F. Supp. 1450 (C.D. Cal. 1996).

4. *Log Cabin Republicans v. United States*, 658 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2011).

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tance. The Central District of California is the most populous and most diverse district in the country. We serve more than nineteen million people in our district, which is roughly half the population of the state of California. If our district were a state, we would be the fifth most populous state in the country, just behind California, Texas, Florida, and New York.

In terms of our jurisdiction, we go from San Bernardino County, to Riverside, to Orange, to Los Angeles, to Ventura, all the way up to Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties (all covering more than 42,000 square miles, which is almost exactly the size of the state of Virginia). As far as diversity is concerned, we have people from virtually every country in the world. In some instances, the Central District is home to the highest concentration of people of certain heritages, outside their home countries. If you take a drive down the streets of the Central District, you are likely to run into places like Chinatown, Koreatown, Thai Town, Filipinotown, Little Bangladesh, Little India, Little Persia (also known as Tehrangeles), Little Saigon, Little Tokyo, among others.

Our cases reflect that diversity and highlight the intersection of, and conflict in and between, those cultures. But we always have been, and continue to be, well-suited to address those issues and cases, in part because our judiciary and our bench officers reflect the diversity of our district. Now, a lot has changed in the last fifty years in our district, and in a few moments, our first panel will explore some of those changes that have happened since our founding in 1966. We are incredibly lucky to have Judge Manuel L. Real on this first panel because he will be able to speak authoritatively about the history of our district, inasmuch as he was one of the original three judges appointed to the Central District in 1966—he is the only one of those three judges who still presides on our court. I am really looking forward to a wonderful day in this symposium. Thank you all for coming, and let's get going with our first panel.

