



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR
IMPARTIAL COURTS

Public Forum: Preserving Impartial Courts in California
Secretary of State Auditorium
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Speakers' Bios

Mr. Jeffrey L. Bleich

Jeff Bleich, a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson in San Francisco, is the 2007–2008 president of the 211,000 member State Bar of California. Bleich, who specializes in complex civil litigation, appellate practice, media law, communications law, and intellectual property, listed working with the Legislature on budget issues as the top State Bar priority. During his one-year term, Bleich pledged to visit all nine State Bar districts and meet with judges; lawmakers; and local, specialty, and minority bars as part of an effort to regain trust in the bar that declined in the 1990s with the veto of a dues bill and a court decision preventing dues from being spent on anything but regulation of lawyers and the administration of justice.

Mr. Bleich, a graduate of Amherst College, received a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University and a law degree from Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley. Bleich is a prolific author and recipient of numerous awards. Past president of the Bar Association of San Francisco and a member of the California State University board of trustees, he has received the Judge Learned Hand Human Award from the American Jewish Committee, a special recognition award from the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco and has been named attorney of the year by *California Lawyer* magazine and is among the top 500 lawyers in the United States by Lawdragon.

Hon. Ming W. Chin

Associate Justice Ming W. Chin was appointed to the California Supreme Court in March 1996. He chairs the Judicial Council of California's Court Technology Advisory Committee, as well as the California Commission for Impartial Courts. He frequently lectures on DNA, genetics and the courts before, among other organizations, the American Bar Association's Judicial Division, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), the National College of Probate Judges, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee. Justice Chin serves on the National Academies' Committee on the Development of the third edition of the *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence* and is an author of *California Practice Guide: Employment Litigation* (Rutter Group 2006).

Hon. Gray Davis

Gray Davis was overwhelmingly elected the 37th Governor of California on November 3, 1998, winning 58 percent of the statewide vote. Despite a wave of Republican victories across the nation in 2002, Davis was re-elected to a second term. Throughout his tenure, Governor Davis made education his top priority, signing legislation to strengthen California's K-12 education system, increasing accountability in schools, and expanding access to higher education with a record number of scholarships and college loans. These reforms led to improvement in student SAT scores and to the improvement of student achievement scores for six consecutive years.

Prior to serving as Governor, Davis served one term as Lieutenant Governor from 1995 to 1998. During this period he focused on his efforts to keep jobs in California and encourage new and fast-growing industries to locate and expand in the state. He was also State Controller (1987–1995), State Assemblyman (1982–1986) and Chief of Staff to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. (1975–1981).

In 2006 Governor Davis served as a visiting fellow at the UCLA School of Public Policy, and he continues to speak before various academic and civic groups about his experiences as Governor, as well as share his perspectives on the current political debates facing our state and country. Today, Governor Davis is of counsel in the Los Angeles office of Loeb & Loeb LLP, a 300-attorney, multiservice law firm. In this capacity, he provides strategic advice and counsel to Loeb & Loeb and its clients on numerous matters and creates opportunities to expand the firm's client base through his extensive network.

Hon. Ira R. Kaufman

Presiding Judge Ira R. Kaufman of the Superior Court of Plumas County is currently serving a one-year term as president of the California Judges Association (CJA), the professional association that represents California's 2,800 active and retired state judges, justices, commissioners, referees and State Bar Court judges. Judge Kaufman is the organization's 76th president.

Judge Kaufman was appointed to the bench by Governor Pete Wilson in 1998, and has been Presiding Judge of the Plumas Superior Court since 2005. He presides over a general assignment calendar as one of the Plumas court's two judges. Before that, he contracted as one of the county's public defenders for 10 years. During that time, Kaufman also ran a private defense firm in Quincy, handling serious felonies and death-penalty cases. Before moving to Northern California in 1988, he was a partner for 13 years with the Long Beach criminal defense firm, Kaufman & Welch, which he founded. He received his law degree from California Western University School of Law in San Diego in 1972. Kaufman has cochaired and served many years on the CJA's Rural Judges Forum and also served on the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee.

Prof. Laurie L. Levenson

Laurie L. Levenson is Professor of Law and William M. Rains Fellow at Loyola Law School where she teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, ethics, antiterrorism, and evidence. She served as Loyola's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1996 to 1999. In addition to her

teaching responsibilities, Professor Levenson is also the Director of the Loyola Center for Ethical Advocacy. Professor Levenson was the 2003 recipient of Professor of the Year from both Loyola Law School and the Federal Judicial Center.

Prior to joining the Loyola Law School faculty in 1989, Professor Levenson served for eight years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles. While a federal prosecutor, Professor Levenson tried a wide variety of federal criminal cases, including violent crimes, narcotics offenses, white-collar crimes, immigration, and public corruption cases. She served as Chief of the Training Section and Chief of the Criminal Appellate Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office. In 1988, she received the Attorney General's Director's Award for Superior Performance.

Professor Levenson attended law school at UCLA School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University. In law school, she was the Chief Article Editor of the Law Review. After graduation, she clerked for Judge James Hunter III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Professor Levenson has provided legal commentary on several high-profile cases, including the presidential impeachment trial, the Enron prosecutions, the prosecution of Martha Stewart, the Rodney King beating trial, the Denny beating trial, the Menendez brothers murder trials, the O. J. Simpson and Scott Peterson murder trials, the Michael Jackson child molestation trial, and most recently, the Phil Spector murder trial. In February 2007, she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys. Professor Levenson has been quoted in more than 8,000 newspaper articles and has appeared on national and international television. Professor Levenson has worked as an expert legal consultant for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, and NPR.

Mr. Manuel A. Medrano

Manny Medrano is a reporter/anchor for KTLA News in Los Angeles, and a former Supreme Court/legal affairs correspondent for ABC News in Washington, D.C. Mr. Medrano has also worked for KNBC in Los Angeles, where he was a general assignment reporter, focusing on legal issues for NBC4's "Channel 4 News." There he provided legal analysis and commentary for the station's comprehensive coverage of the trials of O. J. Simpson, the Menendez brothers, Reginald Denny, and Rodney King, among others. In 1995 his coverage of the Simpson case earned him an Emmy Award and a Golden Mike Award.

Prior to joining KNBC, Mr. Medrano was a trial lawyer at the law firm of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal in Los Angeles, where he specialized in complex civil and white-collar criminal litigation. He also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Los Angeles U.S. Attorney's Office, where he successfully prosecuted the 1985 kidnapping and murder case of DEA agent Enrique Camarena. Mr. Medrano never lost a jury trial. In 1992 he received the U.S. Department of Justice Award for his performance on the Camarena case.

Since 1988 Mr. Medrano has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola Law School, the University of Southern California Law School, Pepperdine University School of Law and

Southwestern University School of Law. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Fluent in Spanish, Mr. Medrano is actively involved in numerous charitable organizations. A native of Texas, he resides in the Los Angeles area, and was named to Hispanic Business Magazine's "100 Influentials List 2005". Mr. Medrano is also a professional speaker who has spoken to corporations, non-profits, government agencies and universities across the country. He is also a member of the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts.

Hon. Thomas J. Moyer

Since becoming Chief Justice of Ohio in 1987, Thomas J. Moyer has been a leader in providing citizens with improved access to the courts through alternative dispute resolution, improved computer technology, court interpreter certification, and development of a family courts program, a comprehensive approach to resolving criminal and civil issues confronting families. He has been in the forefront of efforts to ensure the impartiality of judges and to improve the methods for selecting judges in Ohio. He has worked to develop legislative proposals to increase the reporting requirements for contributions made to judicial campaigns, and to increase the minimum professional qualifications required of judicial candidates. Chief Justice Moyer also works with lawyers and judges in other countries as they develop independent judiciaries.

Chief Justice Moyer received his law degree from Ohio State University in 1964 and served eight years as a judge of the Tenth District Court of Appeals in Franklin County, four years as executive assistant to the governor of Ohio, and eight years in the private practice of law in Columbus. In June 1989, he received the American Judicature Society Herbert Harley Award for improving the administration of justice in Ohio. In August 1995, he was named president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) for a one-year term.

Chief Justice Moyer chairs the Task Force on Politics and Judicial Selection for the Conference of Chief Justices and cochairs the CCJ Committee on Emergency Preparedness in the Courts. He is on the board of directors of the Justice at Stake campaign, a national movement to support fair and impartial courts. He also serves as vice-chair of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center, a national consortium to prepare judges for managing the resolution of disputes that present complex science issues.

Hon. Don Perata

California Senate President pro Tem Don Perata represents the vibrant and culturally rich 9th Senate District, including the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Dublin, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, Richmond, and San Pablo. After graduating from St. Mary's College of California, Senator Perata began a teaching career and from 1966 to 1981 taught a generation of students civics, English, and history.

Beginning in 1986, Don Perata was elected twice to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and then to the California Assembly in 1996. During his tenure, he fought to ban "Joe Camel" and other marketing aimed at children. He introduced legislation (Assembly Bill 23) to close the

loophole in previous assault weapons ban legislation, and co-authored legislation for mental health parity, which became a model for the entire country. Senator Perata was elected to the California State Senate in 1998, and has been unanimously elected President pro Tem three times.

Senator Perata was a key force in the success of the historic infrastructure bonds to rebuild California's roads, schools, levees and housing, passed by the voters in 2006. He authored breakthrough global warming legislation, which requires California utilities to contract for cleaner sources of energy. Senator Perata also secured \$27 million annually for ovarian and prostate cancer research, and increased access to breast cancer screening for low-income women.

Senator Perata's experiences as a teacher and local representative shaped his legislative priorities. He continues to fight for increased public school funding, protecting our natural resources, environmental equity and social justice, and maintaining the quality of life for all Californians, especially our most vulnerable citizens.

Prof. Kathleen M. Sullivan

Kathleen M. Sullivan is a nationally prominent scholar and teacher of constitutional law. Author of the nation's leading casebook in constitutional law, she has published articles on federalism, religion, speech, equality, and constitutional theory. A professor of law at Harvard Law School before joining the Stanford Law School faculty in 1993, she is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Also an outstanding litigator who has argued before numerous appeals courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, she has been named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America.

From 1999 to 2004, Professor Sullivan served as the eleventh dean of Stanford Law School and the first woman dean of any school at Stanford. As dean, she made 15 faculty appointments, established the clinical faculty, renovated all 17 classrooms and the library reading room, launched numerous academic centers, started the L.L.M. program, and raised over \$100 million for the school.

Ms. Mary G. Wilson

Mary G. Wilson is the 17th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). A longtime resident of New Mexico, Ms. Wilson has been a league member since 1986. During her 20 years of service with the League of Women Voters, Ms. Wilson has held leadership positions at the national, state and local levels. In 2004, she was elected to a two-year term on the LWVUS and LWVEF boards. During this tenure, she served as LWVUS Board Advocacy Chair, and helped guide the League to its Democracy Agenda, an advocacy and public education effort to strengthen and renew the basic tenets of American democracy. From 1999 to 2001, Ms. Wilson was president of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. She has also served in various capacities on local and state league boards—state action, voter service, and study committees.

Professionally, Ms. Wilson is an attorney with 30 years of experience in diverse fields of practice, including estate planning, litigation, regulatory compliance, commercialization and privatization, corporate and environmental law, and employment law. As in-house counsel for two large private companies (EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, Inc., and Ecology & Environment, Inc.) and two federal agencies (U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), she has provided legal and policy advice to top management as well as directed both in-house legal staff and outside counsel.

As the owner of her own small business, Transitions to Tomorrow, Inc., from 1995 to 2003, Ms. Wilson provided advice on initiatives to privatize government services and to create commercial opportunities at downsized government facilities. In these capacities, she used her unique project planning and project implementation expertise. Since 1999, she has been a partner in the law firm Aungier & Wilson, P.C., an estate planning firm that serves clients in New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado. She is a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers and the American Bar Association. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Denver in 1975.

Hon. Pete Wilson

Bringing more than 30 years of dedicated public service as Governor of California, U.S. senator, mayor of San Diego, and California state Assemblyman, Pete Wilson is currently a principal in Bingham Consulting Group, based in the firm's Los Angeles office. He is also of counsel to Bingham McCutchen.

As Governor of California from 1991 to 1999, he is credited with leading California from the depths of recession to prosperous economic recovery. Insisting on strict budget discipline and rehabilitation of the state's then-hostile environment toward investment and job creation, he provided for market-based unsubsidized health coverage for employees of small businesses and obtained antifraud measures that significantly drove down workers' compensation premiums by 40 percent. Under his leadership, California also enacted sweeping welfare reforms and historic education reforms.

After leaving office, he spent two years as a managing director of Pacific Capital Group, a merchant bank based in Los Angeles. He serves as a director of the Irvine Company, U.S. Telepacific Corporation, Inc., National Information Consortium Inc., and IDT Entertainment. He is a member of the board of advisers of Thomas Weisel Partners, a San Francisco merchant bank. He also served as chairman of the Japan Task Force of the Pacific Council on International Policy.