



# Projects and Events

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## NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER EXHIBIT OPENS IN S.F.**

- The landmark desegregation case *Mendez et al v. Westminster School District et al* is the subject of a new exhibit the NJCHS is sponsoring at the Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, from June 2 to August 7, 2014.

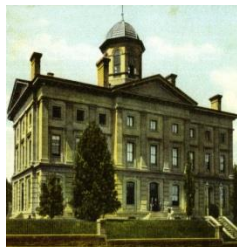
Titled “A Class Action: The Grass-Roots Struggle for School Desegregation in California,” the exhibit traces the impact five Mexican-American families had in bringing suit against four Orange County school districts for segregating their children from other students in the 1940s.

The case, in which District Judge Paul McCormick found in favor of the plaintiffs and whose decision was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit, became a major precedent in the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954.

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### **PORTLAND’S COURT HOUSE CELEBRATED**

- The oldest active federal courthouse west of the Mississippi, Portland’s Pioneer Courthouse, will be the subject of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *Western Legal History*. Completed in 1875, just 70 years after explorers Lewis & Clark visited the Oregon Coast, the courthouse originally housed the district court, a post office, and a customs house. Now it is home to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



This special issue features an article on the first judge, Matthew Deady, an oral history of Judge John Kilkenny who led preservation efforts in the 1970s, an article by Circuit Judge Diarmuid O’Scainnlain, and a historical photo essay. It will be mailed to members in summer 2014.



### **C.J. DAVID TERRY & FEDERALISM EVENT WELL ATTENDED**

- Last June 25<sup>th</sup>, the NJCHS co-sponsored a multimedia program exploring state’s rights and federalism as illustrated by notorious events in the life of California Supreme Court Chief Justice David Terry (1855-59).

Over 150 attendees enjoyed the program, featuring judges from the U.S. District Court and the California Court of Appeal reading documents about Terry’s duel with a senator, his 1856 clash with the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, and his 1889 assault on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Field.

Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a reception arranged by NJCHS Board member Rita Haeusler and her staff from Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP.

