



# Projects and Programs

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## NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### 500+ SCHOOL KIDS TOUR *MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER* EXHIBIT IN SAN DIEGO

• More than 500 school children visited the award-winning traveling exhibit “A Class Action: The Grassroots Struggle for School Desegregation in California” during its display at the Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse in San Diego last fall. The children learned about 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 exhibit was displayed at the Edward Roybal Federal Building in Los Angeles in 2013.

The case, known as *Mendez v. Westminster*, became a major precedent in the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954.



as well as Court Architect Allen Leslein to the Santa Ana courthouse to be interviewed for a new video documentary. The NJCHS provided the videographer and lunch for the participants, who reminisced on tape about their involvement in creating the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, which opened in 1998.

The video was premiered last fall at the Orange County Federal Bar Association meeting and was enthusiastically received.



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### SANTA ANA COURT HOUSE HISTORY RECORDED

• The struggle to bring a federal courthouse to Orange County is the subject of a new video project the NJCHS has developed with the aid of District Judge Dave Carter.

In March, Judge Carter invited Judges Manuel Real, Terry Hatter, Dickran Tevrizian, Gary Taylor, Andrew Guilford, Bankruptcy Judge John Ryan, Magistrate Judge Arthur Nakazato, and former Congressmen Jerry Patterson and Christopher Cox



### NJCHS SPONSORS PANEL ON WATER LAW AT HISTORY CONFERENCE

• The NJCHS sponsored a panel on “The Legal and Physical Infrastructure of Southern California Water” at the Western History Association 54<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Newport Beach last October.

*Western Legal History* Vol. 27:2 will be guest-edited by Peter Reich, Whittier Law School and features his paper and those by Donald Pisani, University of Oklahoma, Tanis Thorne, UC Irvine, and Jason Robison, University of Wyoming.

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*We gratefully acknowledge the  
contributions of all our members.*