

# NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## RECENT PROJECTS

### NINTH CIRCUIT COURT HOUSE CELEBRATED

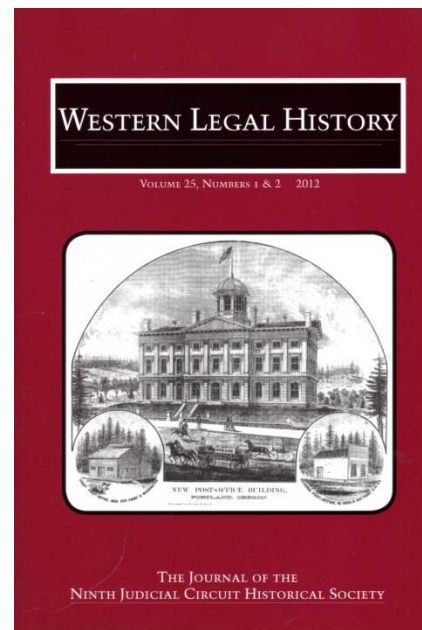
- The oldest active federal courthouse west of the Mississippi, Portland's Pioneer Courthouse, was celebrated in a special program on October 23, 2014. Professor James Mooney of the University of Oregon School of Law recounted the life and career of Oregon's first district judge, Matthew Deady to over 100 guests in the building's courtroom.

Attendees were given copies of the special issue of *Western Legal History* devoted to the history of the courthouse. This special issue features an article on Matthew Deady, an oral history of Judge John Kilkenny, who led preservation efforts in the 1970s, an article by Circuit Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, and a historical photo essay.

### PIONEER COURTHOUSE PROGRAM VIDEOTAPED

- The NJCHS engaged CWF Media to videotape the October 23<sup>rd</sup> program in its entirety for ultimate

distribution to the Ninth Circuit and interested high schools.



## ***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 an exhibit the NJCHS sponsored at the Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, from June 2 to August 7, 2014.

The exhibit traced the impact five Mexican-American families had in bringing suit against four Orange County, California school districts for segregating their children from other students in the 1940s.

The Ninth Circuit upheld the lower court's decision in favor of the plaintiffs, becoming a major precedent in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954.

NJCHS Board Member Circuit Judge Mary Schroeder and featured short talks by Gonzalo Mendez, Jr., and Beverly Gallegos, who related how their parents brought the original lawsuit in 1946. Circuit Judge Mary Murguia, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, spoke about the significance of *Mendez v. Westminster* to her personally and to the nation.



*Mendez v. Westminster* Exhibit at Browning Courthouse



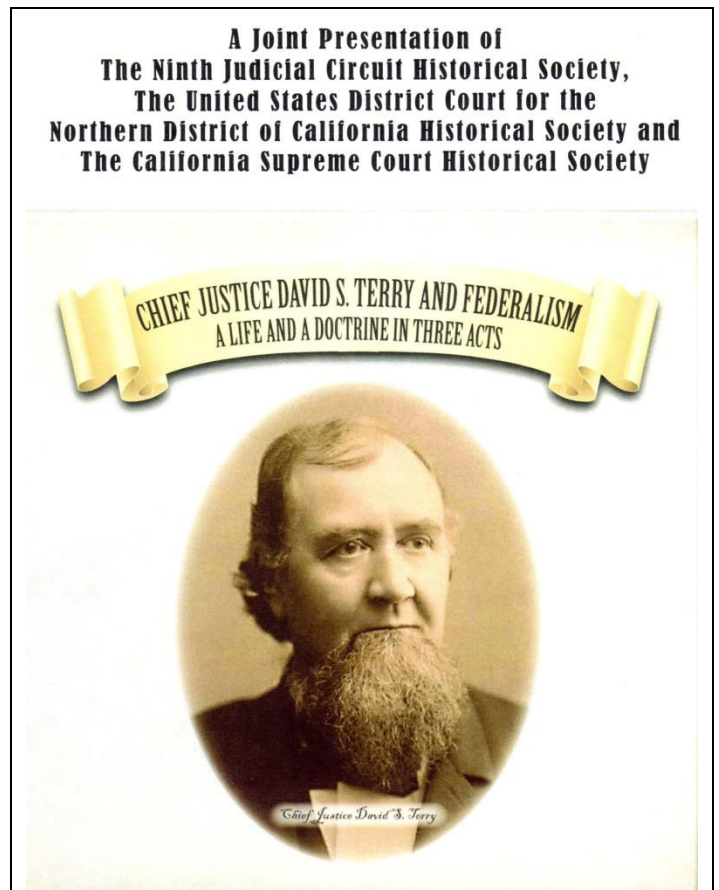
Circuit Judge Mary Murguia & Adult Children of Mendez Case Litigants

## **NJCHS JOINS WITH CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR FEDERALISM PROGRAM**

● On June 6, 2013, in Los Angeles, the NJCHS and the California Supreme Court Historical Society 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).

The program was held in the Ronald Reagan State Office Building in Los Angeles. Over 150 attendees, many receiving MCLE credit, enjoyed the program, which featured judges from the U.S. District Court and the California Court of Appeal reading original documents about Terry's duel with a U.S. senator, his 1856 clash with the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, and his 1889 assault on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Field.

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



Event Panelists from U.S.D.C. Central District of Calif. & Calif. Court of Appeal





## 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 in October 2014.

The panel featured water laws experts Donald Pisani, University of Oklahoma, Tanis Thorne, University of California-Irvine, Jason Robison, University of Wyoming, and Peter Reich, Whittier Law School.

The session was in honor of the late water law historian Norris Hundley, Jr., a professor of history at UCLA. for over thirty years. Hundley’s book *The Great Thirst: Californians and Water*, is considered the seminal work in the field,

*Western Legal History* is publishing these papers in a special issue in Fall 2015.

