

OPENING REMARKS*

*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.

* 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."

2017]

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,¹ the Armenian Genocide victims insurance claims case,² the El Monte garment workers case,³ and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" case.⁴ 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-

1. United States v. Caro-Quintero, 745 F. Supp. 599 (C.D. Cal. 1990); Alvarez-Machain v. United States, No. CV 93-4072214oa0); A CaSHx),C.D.t ges have

II 0 04tes, No. CV 9Maa t18t case reTD0.0.27)cases es have
IC.D.t ges have

