



cus on the nineteenth and the twentieth century American West. He is a graduate of the Stanford and Princeton Universities, and has offered many important works on the history of California and Los Angeles, among other places. Of course, the Central District has seen truly remarkable changes since it was first established by an Act of Congress, enacted on this very day, fifty years ago.

I would first like to turn to Judge Real to begin the discussion with his observations about those changes from his very unique ring-side seat. There is no one who has seen it like Judge Real has. Judge Real.

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was absorbed by the Central District, and the ten Southern District Judges were transferred to the new Central District. They were: Judges William Matthew, Thurmond Clarke, Albert Lee Stevens Jr., Charles Carr, Jesse Curtis, Avery Crary, Francis Whelan, Irving Hill, Andrew Hauk, and William Gray. Congress also appointed three more judges to the Central District: Judge Warren Ferguson, Judge Harry Pregerson, and myself.

This need for further division, and more judges, was largely due to the growing population, but many of these changes came as the result of the evolution of the Federal Bar, and the greater number of federal cases heard in this District. Most of my colleagues might not remember this, but in the years leading up to 1968, federal judges enjoyed the help of U.S. Commissioners. The U.S. Commissioners were appointed by the District Courts and had the authority to try and sentence individuals for petty offenses. In 1968, however, the Federal Magistrates Act<sup>1</sup> abolished the Office for the U.S. Commissioner and replaced it with the Office of U.S. Magistrates, who carry much more jurisdiction than the Commissioners.

Similarly, prior to bankruptcy judges, we had bankruptcy referees who were appointed by the District Court. But after 1978, the Bankruptcy Reform Act<sup>2</sup> abolished the Office of Bankruptcy Referee, and established the now bankruptcy judgeships, which in 1978, were appointed by the Court of Appeals. This is strange because they have no relationship to our Bankruptcy Court, which we appointed in the first place. By 1990, the Central District of California served over fifteen million people, and was met with more cases of federal jurisdiction. Magistrate and bankruptcy judges have been important to the efficiency of our federal court system and play an ever-increasing role in the cases that come through the Central District by assisting with the jurisdiction and reports of bankruptcy judges.

Another change that I have seen over the decades involves the passing of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.<sup>3</sup> Prior to this, between 1970 and 1984, I had a program in my courtroom called “the 120-day program” for non-violent criminal defendants, through which I was able to sentence them to probation instead of prison time. To make sure that these defendants were keeping out of trouble, I ordered that

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1. Fed. Magistrates Act of 1968, Pub. L. No. 90-578, 82 Stat. 1107 (1968) (codified as amended in 28 U.S.C. §§ 631-639 (2012)).

2. Bankr. Reform Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-598, 92 Stat. 2549 (1978) (codified as amended in 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-112 (2012)).

3. Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-473, 98 Stat. 1987 (1984) (codified as amended in scattered sections of 18 U.S.C. and 28 U.S.C. (2012)).



after I was appointed, the Central District added the first African American Federal Judge, west of the Mississippi, and that was Judge David Williams. Judge Williams actually had a fireplace put into his Spring Street chambers that, I am told, is still there today. Nine years after that, our first female judge, Judge Mariana Pfaelzer was appointed. We lost Judge Pfaelzer just last year after serving forty years on the bench. Today, many new and very bright women are now judges in the Central District. I have had the honor with working with some amazing people over the last fifty years, both judges and lawyers. It has been my privilege to serve the Central District of California, and I am confident that our judges, along with all of you, will lead this great district for the next fifty years. Thank you all.

MARC SELTZER: Thank you very much, Judge Real. There is no one who has your perspective, or your ability to see what has happened over the last fifty years. Now, I would like to ask Professor Deverell to add his comments to the discussion.

WILLIAM DEVERELL: Thank you. It is a real privilege to be here, just as it was to be involved ten years ago with the fortieth. Many thanks to Jonathan Miller and all the colleagues at Southwestern. It's a privilege to share the panel with Judge Real and Judge King. Note the astonishing changes in the fifty years, and in some respects, that is maybe the biggest takeaway—the demographic changes, and the social and cultural challenges. As historians, we try to provide a deeper context. So I thought what I would do with my remarks is to take a couple of leaps backward in fifty-year chunks, from 1966 back to the Progressive Era, and from that era back to the Civil War era to show the context of change in that long span of a century, perhaps a century and a half.

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lier moment. The kind of infancy of that era is, in the legal system, trying to get its arms around an incredibly roiling and challenging demography. The mid-60s is, of course, marked by the Voting Rights Act,<sup>8</sup> the Civil Rights Act,<sup>9</sup> and immigration reform. The Immigration Reform Act<sup>10</sup> of the mid-1960s, underneath the great umbrella of society, is part and parcel to this breathtaking demographic and diversity change across the district, across Southern California, and all the way onto the Mexican border. That social and cultural demographic change is akin, in many respects, to what California had done in the 1840s and 1850s, which was to put itself on the map.

Northern California is the fastest growing metropolis in the history of the world. In Southern California, the growth is more county-wide or multiple-countywide, and that growth in the post-Second World War period, the likes of which the country had never seen before, in many respects, is still continuing. The diversity of languages, and the diversity of social, cultural, ethnic, and national backgrounds have long been part of Southern California's history. In fact, it goes back to the incredible diversity of the indigenous peoples here, prior to contact. That diversity is only exponentially added to in the post-World War and post-Cold War period by virtue of the aerospace ingestion of brain-workers and others, as well as the continuing importance in Southern California of the oil industry (through the fairly recent past), and of course, Hollywood.

By the coming of the Great Depression, two of the five biggest industries that contributed to the United States GNP were the oil and film industries. Those were essentially brand new. Certainly, Hollywood was brand new, but oil had a little bit of a Pennsylvania background before it was found here. These industries rocketed the political economy here in the 1920s, but Los Angeles even before the 1920s was still an upstart place. It is entirely correct to visit the pre-war period as deeply agricultural. The San Fernando Valley was deeply agricultural well into the post-World War II period, but Hollywood and oil was beginning to draw an enormous workforce and created the cultural milieu for celebrity, fame, youth culture, et cetera. Aerospace, in some respects, was the next addition due to jet engine development at the tail end of the Second World War.

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8. Voting Rights Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-110, 79 Stat. 437 (1965) (codified as amended in scattered sections of 52 U.S.C. (2012)).

9. Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No 88-352, 78 Stat. 241 (1964) (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C. (2012)).

10. Immigration Reform Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-236, 79 Stat. 911 (1965) (codified as amended in 8 U.S.C. § 1151 (2012)).



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*FIFTY YEARS OF CHANGES IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT*

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The aerospace diversification of the economy was profound. Aerospace created all kinds of globalization, surveillance, and secrecy issues that were oftentimes adjudicated in federal courts. We still have that. The aerospace industry is still here. It has migrated largely up to Palmdale and Lancaster, but now we have SpaceX and the other important private aerospace industries. That kind of generation of deep and profound change, accompanied by millions and millions of people of diverse backgrounds, led to the establishment of judicial systems that, in some respects, lagged behind a lot of the infrastructural growth that marked the 1920s.

The preparation for the delivery of services, and the legal community and legal frameworks will follow, in many respects. The fifty years of the distinction of the Court clearly shows us that many of those issues, collisions and conflicts, will find a place to be adjudicated in the Federal Court system. It is just a phenomenally interesting place. It is ever-dynamic, and trying to pigeonhole it in moments of rupture, or periodization, is almost always proven false. Thank you.

