

SOUTHERN DISTRICT *of* CALIFORNIA

*A*s the trial courts of the federal government, district courts have limited jurisdiction over a wide variety of civil and criminal cases. There are 94 federal judicial districts grouped into 12 regional circuits. The Southern District of California, created in 1966, is part of the 9th Circuit and has jurisdiction over San Diego and Imperial Counties. The entire western boundary of the Southern District lies on the Pacific Ocean. The entire southern boundary of the District borders the Republic of Mexico. There are international ports of entry at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, Calexico, and Andrade. The San Ysidro port of entry is the world's busiest land crossing where over 14 million vehicles and 40 million people legally enter the United States each year.

San Diego is the 8th largest city in the United States with a population of over 1.3 million people. San Diego County has a population of more than 3 million; Imperial County has a population of 160,000. As a major urban center, the Southern District of California experiences the full range of legal and criminal activities present in any metropolitan area. Because of its proximity to an international border, the District continues to be a major corridor for both illegal immigration and illicit drug trafficking activities. It is not surprising that the Southern District ranks fifth in the nation in federal felony filings. The Southern District also handles the full range of civil litigation common in large cities.

San Diego County is a major center for biotech research and wireless technology. This has resulted in a number of highly complex patent and intellectual property cases in our federal court. In 2011, the Southern District of California was selected to participate in a 10-year Patent Pilot Program designed to enhance expertise in patent cases among U.S. District Judges. The five designated Patent Pilot Judges have handled 90.9% of the patent cases filed in the district since the program started. There has also been a 112.8% increase in the number of patent filings in that time. Nationally, the Southern District of California had the 10th most patent cases filed in 2015.

WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE



Presented by
The Community Outreach
Programs Committee of the U.S. District Court
for the Southern District of California

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THE LEARNING CENTER
of the
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

*"Building confidence in American justice through
education and understanding."*

ABOUT THE JUDGES



HON. JOHN S. RHOADES was born in 1925 in Havre, Montana. He received an A.B. from Stanford University in 1948 and a J.D. from University of California - Hastings College of the Law in 1951. He was nominated by President Ronald Reagan and served as a District Judge from 1985-2007. Judge Rhoades assisted in the renovation of the historic Jacob Weinberger Courthouse, and with the development of the Carter/Keep Courthouse project. Judge Rhoades served as a Navy pilot during World War II. He died in 2007.



HON. JACOB S. WEINBERGER was born in 1882 in Hungary. He received an LL.B. from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1904. He was nominated to the district court bench by President Harry S. Truman and began his tenure as a District Judge in February 1946. He was the first judge to sit full-time in the San Diego Federal Courthouse. He died in 1974.



HON. EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ was born in Seattle, Washington in 1912. He received his A.B. from the University of California in 1934 and his J.D. from the University of San Francisco Law School in 1939. He was nominated to the district court by President Lyndon Johnson and began his tenure as a District Judge in June 1968. He served as Chief Judge from 1969 - 1982 and was instrumental in procuring approval and funding for the federal courthouse which bears his name. He died in 2000.



HON. JAMES M. CARTER was born in 1904 in Santa Barbara, California. He received his A.B. from Pomona College in 1924 and his J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law in 1927. He was nominated by President Harry S. Truman and served as a District Judge from 1949-1967. Judge Carter urged Congress to create the Southern District of California. He then served as the Southern District's first District and Chief Judge from 1966-1967. He was appointed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1967, where he served until his death in 1979.



HON. JUDITH N. KEEP was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1944. She received her B.A. from Scripps College in 1966 and her J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1970. Judge Keep graduated from law school as its valedictorian, at a time when less than 5% of lawyers were women. She was the first female staff attorney at Defenders, Inc., where she represented indigent criminal defendants in federal court. She was nominated by President Jimmy Carter and began her tenure as the Southern District's first female District Judge in April 1980. She served as its first female Chief Judge from 1991-1998 and began the initial planning process for the Carter/Keep Courthouse. She died in 2004.

FOUNDING DOCUMENTS



Each of the United States Courthouses in the John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center displays a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In the Carter Keep Courthouse, on the way into the Jury Assembly Room, visitors see a more modern depiction of the 225 year old documents that form the basis for our government.

THEN AND NOW — A HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SINCE 1966



On display in Jury Assembly Room 230, is a spectacular exhibit reflecting the 50 years the Southern District of California has existed as currently configured. The exhibit, unveiled in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration held in September, 2016, documents the transformation and growth of the Southern District of California through judgeships, buildings, news stories and historical cases. Five panels, each eight feet tall and five feet wide, are crafted to represent a decade of court history.

THE JACOB WEINBERGER UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE



The Southern District of California, as it is now configured, was created in 1966 when California was divided into 4 separate districts. Prior to 1966, the Southern District of California was centered in Los Angeles and the Weinberger Courthouse served as a satellite location for judges traveling from Los Angeles. The building was designed in 1906 by federal architects under the supervision of James Knox Taylor, chief architect for the treasury department. Taylor described the design for San Diego's new federal building as "an adoption of the Spanish Renaissance. The large windows are arranged so that they will open in the form of casements so that the entire area of the casement openings will be made efficient and an abundance of fresh air and light can be admitted"

The building, now an historical landmark, was commissioned on April 5, 1913 as the U.S. Post Office and Customs House. It now houses the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. Additional information on the building can be obtained via the brochure "A Brief History and Tour of the Courthouse," available in the lobby of the building.



Located on the east end of the first floor hallway is a portrait of Hon. Richard H. Chambers (1906-1994). Judge Chambers was a Ninth Circuit Judge for 40 years. His contributions to the Circuit's jurisprudence were very important but it was his relentless activism in the preservation of the Circuit's architectural treasures that helped create such stunning buildings such as the Jacob Weinberger Courthouse.

Also located on the east end of the first floor hallway is a portrait of Hon. John S. Rhoades (1925-2007).

Judge Rhoades was a District Judge for 22 years, who was instrumental in preventing the Weinberger Courthouse from being demolished. He presided over the renovations of the historical building and then worked diligently to get funding for the building of the Carter/Keep Courthouse. It is because of his tireless efforts to preserve San Diego's history while simultaneously advancing it into the future that the campus of the Southern District of California was named The John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center in his honor.



In the far east corner of the first floor is the portrait of Judge Weinberger (1882-1974) next to a curio filled with memorabilia that reflects Judge Weinberger's career. Judge Weinberger was the first resident judge in San Diego. In the curio visitors will see an Arizona flag which commemorates Judge Weinberger's service as one of five representatives elected to draft the constitution for the state of Arizona. Also depicted in the curio is...



The final exhibit located on the east end of the first floor is the time line illustrating the history of the building from Post Office and Customs House to U.S. Bankruptcy Court. It is framed in a custom built African mahogany frame...

Located on the first floor of the Carter/Keep Courthouse is an exhibit memorializing the illustrious history of The Hotel San Diego, which once stood on the land now occupied by the courthouse. The Hotel San Diego was one of the first truly modern hotels in the city and was also one of the largest reinforced concrete buildings in California at the time. By the turn of the millennium, the building had fallen into disrepair and was imploded on April 16, 2006 to make way for the new Carter/Keep U.S. Courthouse. District Judge John Rhoades had the honor of pushing the button to ignite the explosives causing the massive implosion. Inside the James M. Carter Courthouse in the lobby are memoirs of the process.



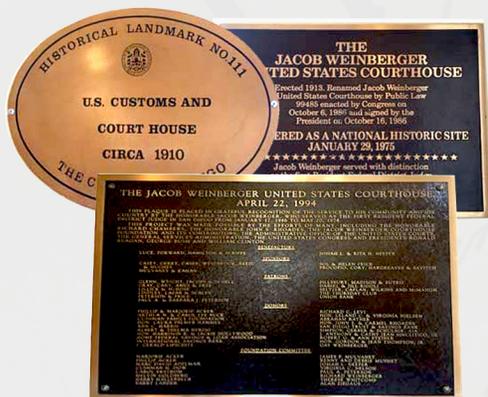
Also located on the first floor of the Carter/Keep Courthouse are two plaques reflecting the names of all the judges who have been seated in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Next to it, the judges of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal who have offices in the Southern District of California are named.



The Immigrants is a sculpture by T. J. Dixon and James Nelson located on the first floor in the lobby. It is located in the middle of the walkway letting the light from the windows and the suffused fluorescent light from the double-globe sconces adorning the walls to brighten the artwork up throughout the day. Judge Weinberger, himself an immigrant from Hungary, naturalized over 16,000 new American citizens.



Located within the Carter/Keep Courthouse, but visible from outside at the points marked on the map, are local artist Kim MacConnel's two large murals jointly known as Intermession. Impressed by the daylight that permeates the new courthouse, MacConnel sought to introduce dynamic shapes and vibrant colors to the public queuing area and juror lounge. Composed of 4-foot-square wooden panels, MacConnel's abstract geometries evoke impressions of textile designs, pottery and other decorative arts of Mexico, China, India, Africa and other places where the artist has traveled—and mirror the diversity of the jurors. Intermession is located in the Jury Assembly area of the Carter/Keep Courthouse in two sections. The first may be viewed in the Jury Check-in area and is also visible through the second floor window from the sidewalk along State Street. The second section is located above the Juror Lounge area, and is also visible through the second floor windows along the Broadway façade.



On the west end of the first floor of the courthouse are three plaques which certify that the Jacob Weinberger United States Courthouse is a historical landmark and shows a list of all the people who were involved in the process.

JAMES M. CARTER & JUDITH N. KEEP UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The architectural massing of the new federal courthouse combines a slender 16-floor tower, rising above a transparent building base, the overall equivalent of a 22-story office building. The ultra-thin massing incorporates sustainable design strategies to allow daylight into the entire building and offer natural ventilation on select floors. In juxtaposition to the rectilinear tower, the building lobby is an elliptical volume carefully positioned to be visible from all approaches to the site. The lobby serves to receive and direct staff and visitors to the multiple courthouse destinations. It is filled with filtered daylight from above and is animated by mezzanines of staff and visitor circulation. The traditional “lobby mural” is replaced by a 180-foot long south-facing ribbon window that frames a “mural garden” which changes with the seasons. The two-courts-per floor design eliminates long corridors and gives human scale to the procession from entry to courtroom. This activity is visible from the public plaza to express a dynamic and accessible judicial process.



ACRYLIC PRISM

Within the light-filled lobby of the Carter/Keep Courthouse is Robert Irwin’s nearly transparent 33-foot-high sculpture, Acrylic Prism. The sculpture is a highly polished obelisk, made of virtually transparent acrylic so it becomes a prism. In the sunlit lobby, when the light is overhead, you might not see the column at all. But when the sun moves, the prism refracts light and casts colors. “I had this idea to make an object that was nearly transparent, so that it would almost disappear,” Irwin said recently. But it never found its ideal environment. Built for a collector who died before it was done, the piece was installed instead in a shopping mall, where it was scratched, damaged and never lit properly, according to the Los Angeles Times. Damaged further in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, it waited in storage for years for an appropriate home. “No one could find an appropriate space three stories tall,” said Philip Handler, the former dean of the art school at CSU Northridge, who was given the task of trying to get the piece out of the basement. In 2005, as Irwin collaborated with the designers of the Carter/Keep Courthouse, the piece finally found a home.



REPLICA OPEN-CAGE IRON ELEVATORS

The beautiful open-cage iron elevators located in the Weinberger Courthouse are replicas of the original elevators. The gray marble stairs that wrap around the elevator towers are the original stairs.



GSA FINE ARTS PROGRAM

The General Services Administration (GSA) is the custodian for artwork produced under the aegis of several public programs during the “New Deal”, notably the Works of Progress Administration (WPA). Three such pieces, commissioned in the 1930s, are now on display in the Weinberger Courthouse. “Gateway to the Desert”, painted by Esther S. Barney (c. 1935) is located on the second floor. The other two, “San Diego Harbor” (unknown artist) and “San Diego Mural” by Belle Baranceanu can be found on the east and west ends of the third floor respectively.



THE EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ COURTHOUSE & FEDERAL OFFICE BLDG.

The Edward J. Schwartz United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building were built in 1974 on the same land where U.S. District Judge Edward J. Schwartz once attended elementary school. Judge Schwartz was instrumental in procuring the approval and funding for these buildings. Combined, they are one of the few federal buildings dedicated during the administration of President Gerald Ford. They are also unique in that they were named after Judge Schwartz while he was still living.



The buildings were the first to be built in the Horton Plaza Redevelopment Project, a fifteen block area, which runs five blocks between Union Street to Horton Park and three blocks south of Broadway. The six-story Federal Building and its neighboring five-story courthouse have an exterior of precast concrete panels and bronze tinted windows. Crushed chips of Coldspring Corilian granite mixed with the concrete give the the building a unique earth tone coloring.

ART-IN-ARCHITECTURE

In the lobby of the Schwartz Federal Building is Bruce Beasley's Axial Incidence, displayed on a pedestal in the location of the former main entry to the building. Resembling a large piece of fine crystal, this piece was a part of a project to display contemporary art in federal buildings in the 1970s. This effort has grown to become today's Art-in- Architecture program, which requires 0.5% of all new building construction funds be set aside for public art. Across the street, through the glass on the east side of Front Street, the paintings *Navajo Shepherd* and *Refuge*, by Emery Donaldson Horsky are displayed. The paintings depict a distant mountain range in the American Southwest.



CHIEF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.



Located in the lobby of the Schwartz Courthouse is a portrait of Hon. John G. Roberts, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice Roberts was born in Buffalo, New York on January 27, 1955. He received an A.B. from Harvard College in 1976 and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1979. He was a law clerk for Judge Henry J. Friendly of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1979-1980 and then served as a law clerk for then Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist of the Supreme Court of the United States during the 1980 term. President George W. Bush nominated him as Chief Justice of the United States and he took his seat on September 29, 2005.

DISTRICT JUDGE EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ

Across from the electronic calendars on the first floor of the Schwartz Courthouse is a portrait of Hon. Edward J. Schwartz. Judge Schwartz was born in Seattle, Washington in 1912. He received his A.B. from the University of California in 1934 and his J.D. for the University School of Law in 1939. He was appointed to the District Court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968. He served as Chief Judge from 1969–1982 when he took Senior Status. Judge Schwartz died in 2000.



THE FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Each of the United States Courthouses in the John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center displays a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In the Schwartz Courthouse, next to the portrait of Judge Schwartz, are an example of prints that were circulated during the nation's Bicentennial Celebration which coincided with the dedication of the Schwartz Courthouse in 1976.



Opposite the display cabinet on the first floor of the Schwartz Courthouse is a plaque commemorating every magistrate judge who has served in the Southern District of California since its inception.



9TH CIRCUIT LIBRARY



On the third floor of the Edward J. Schwartz Courthouse, the 9th circuit library offers members of the bar and pro se litigants, with written authorization from a judge, a quiet place to research their legal issues as well as a venue to learn about the history of the courts.

On the fifth floor of the Schwartz Courthouse on the north end of the hallway is a series of photographs of the beautiful courthouses of the 9th Circuit.



CIVICS CONTEST WINNERS



On the south end of the fifth floor hallway in the Schwartz Courthouse, the winning essays of the district winners of the 9th Circuit Civics Contest from the past two years are on display. This contest, organized by the 9th Circuit in partnership with the district courts and local school districts, offers students an opportunity to reflect on issues of important civics topics. The Southern District of California hosts its own contest in conjunction with the 9th Circuit and offers cash prizes for first, second and third place winners. The winning essays and videos go on to compete at the Circuit level. Circuit winners have been invited to the opening session for the Ninth Circuit Judicial