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Clara's Legacy

Premiere Ceremony
Friday, June 13, 2008
Clara Shortridge Foltz
Criminal Justice Center
Los Angeles, California

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About Clara Shortridge Foltz

In 1878, Clara Foltz became the first woman lawyer in California and one of the first in the country. Her story attracted nationwide publicity partly because she was a suffragist and a single mother of five children. Poor people accused of crime were often her clients, which led her to the idea of public defense. She launched the public defender movement in 1893 at the Chicago World's Fair. Though public defense is her greatest legacy, Foltz made other significant contributions to the criminal justice system. She believed that prosecutors should be ministers of public justice and was the first woman deputy district attorney in Los Angeles. Active in prison reform, Foltz was the first woman appointed to the Board of Charities and Corrections.

For more information, go to <http://womenslegalhistory.stanford.edu>.

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“I am a woman and I am a lawyer – and what of it? I came into the practice of my profession under the laws of this state, regularly and honestly, ... and I have come to stay. I am neither to be bullied out nor worn out.”

– Clara Shortridge Foltz

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Clara's Legacy
Planning Committee

Hon. Samantha Jessner, Co-chair
Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County

Patricia Phillips, Esq., Co-chair
Phillips Jessner LLP

Arthur L. Alarcón
Rebecca Banyas
Nicole Bershon
Dana Blackwell
Mary Hearn
Henry Hernandez
Robert Kalunian
Matt Krasnowski
Alex Luna
John Van Whervin

Special Thanks
Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

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Clara's Legacy Premiere Program

Welcome

Arthur L. Alarcón, Senior Circuit Judge
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Remarks

Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Supervisor, Los Angeles County

J. Stephen Czuleger, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County

Steve Cooley, District Attorney, Los Angeles County

Michael Judge, Public Defender, Los Angeles County

Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Gretchen Nelson, President, Los Angeles County Bar Association

Nicole Bershon, President, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Barbara Babcock, Professor and Foltz Biographer, Stanford University

Remarks and Tour

Susan Schwartzenberg, Artist, San Francisco

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About Clara's Legacy

In the lobby and terrace of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center is a series of artworks on the life and ideas of Clara Shortridge Foltz.

In the north hallway, a visual biography of imaged glass spans the window wall. At the east end of the corridor, a glass door with integral imagery suggests the opportunities Ms. Foltz made possible. Two tapestries also hang in the north hallway. One is from a photograph of Ms. Foltz taken after she passed the California Bar; the other is a cover of *The New American Woman*, a magazine she published.

Moving through the building's central elevator corridor are two images of Ms. Foltz, introducing her presence in the most traveled area of the Foltz Center.

Across the lobby, an enlarged portrait of Ms. Foltz spans two central window panels in the building's south window wall. A 1908 map of Los Angeles layered into the image quietly suggests her influence on the people and civic life of Los Angeles.

Bringing the tribute out of the building – on the north terrace are 10 benches with a monogram “CF” for Clara Foltz. Across two benches is inscribed, “No one should buy justice, in a land that boasts that justice is free,” reminding us of the rights of all citizens to have legal representation.

Together, the glassworks, tapestries and benches create a distributed commemoration – where visitors may encounter the many facets of Clara Foltz's life and legacy within the experience of moving through the building.

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About Susan Schwartzberg

Susan Schwartzberg is a visual artist who has exhibited her work internationally. Her recent projects include *Cento: A Market St. Journal*, which juxtaposed urban history with contemporary stories in an experimental guidebook, journal, and map. She co-authored *Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism*, and was co-designer of The Rosie the Riveter Memorial in Richmond. In 1998-99, she was a recipient of the Loeb Fellowship for Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University. Currently she is a senior artist at the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

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“Clara Foltz’s life is a story of perseverance – the very foundation of modern life. But it is also a poignant expression of the influence an individual can have on the course of history – and it is for this reason we want to position it in the path of everyday life.”

– Susan Schwartzberg