

THE TRAGEDY OF ROSE BIRD

By Gerald F. Uelmen

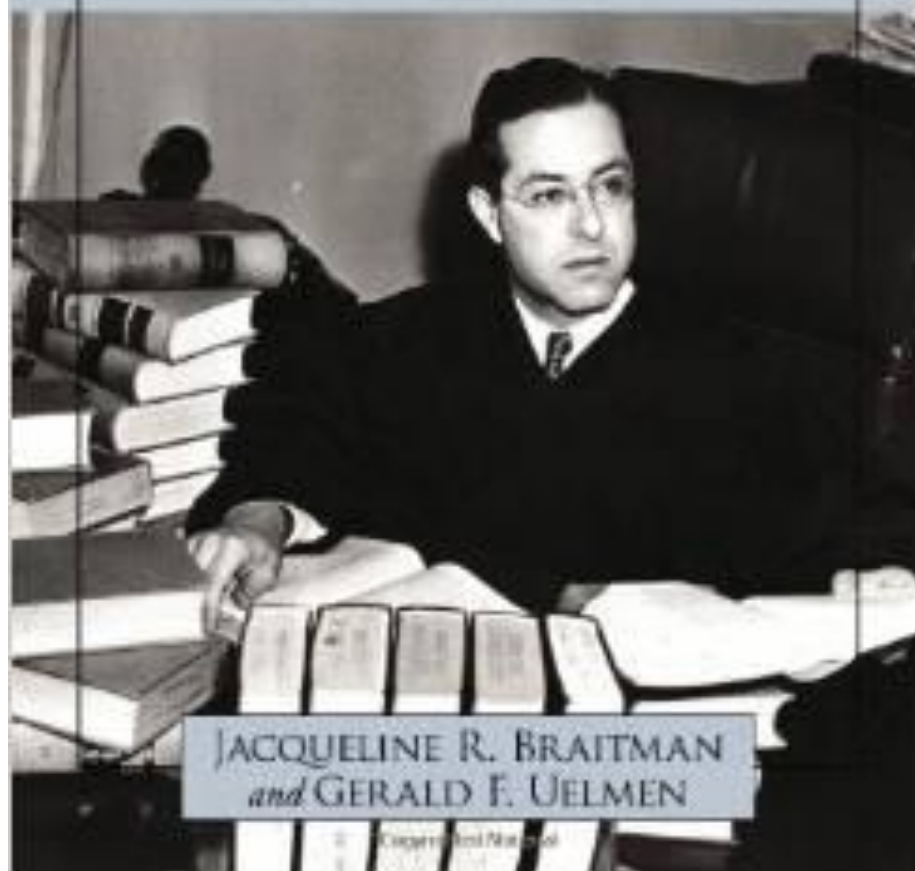
Professor of Law

Santa Clara University School of Law

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JUSTICE STANLEY MOSK

*A Life at the Center of
California Politics and Justice*



JACQUELINE R. BRAITMAN
and GERALD F. UELMEN

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After her defeat, in her farewell remarks, Rose Bird said:

"How am I taking this? My answer is, just like a man."

She then added:

"It is possible to have a house of justice, not a house of puppets. It's not a house of politicians, not a house of powerful interests, but in fact, a house of justice. And most importantly, not a house of death, but a house of justice."



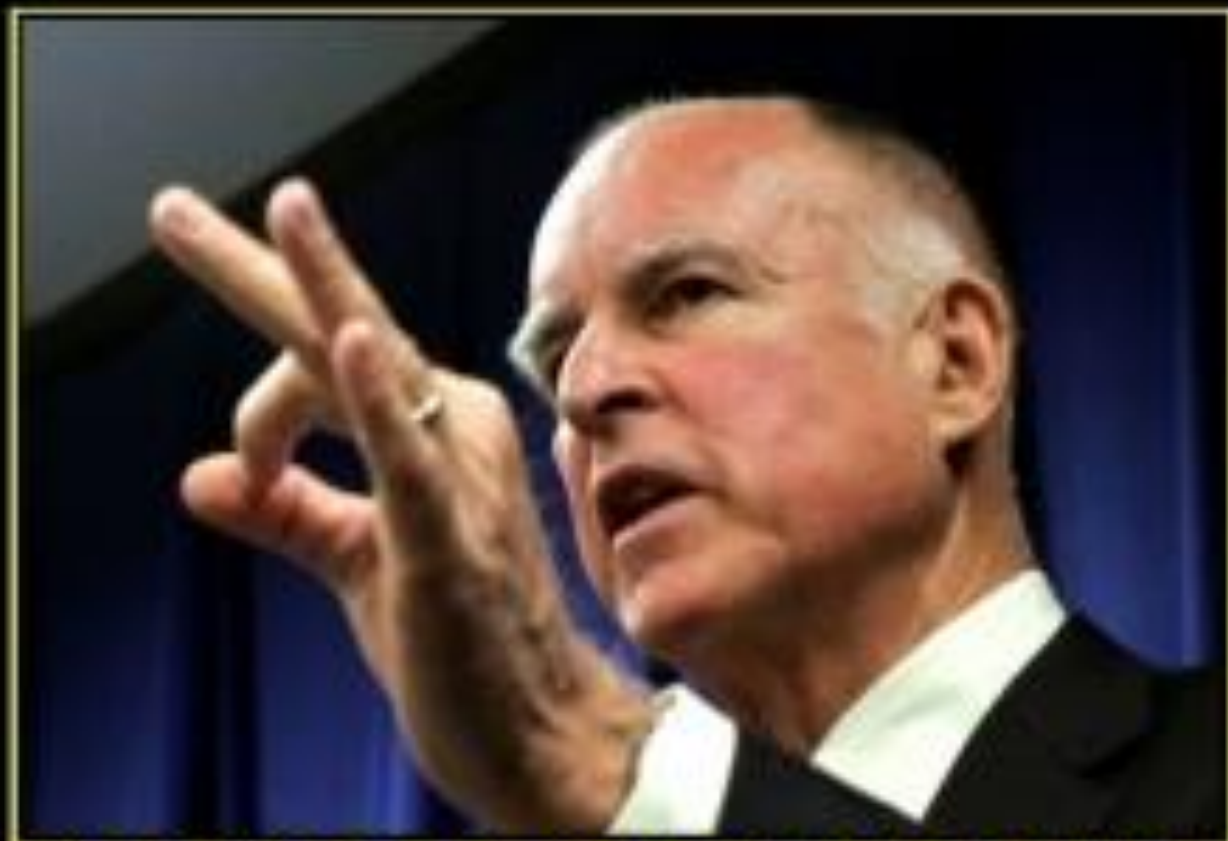
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CALIFORNIA DEATH JUDGMENTS AND DEATH ROW POPULATION

Year	New Death Judgments	Death Row Population
1978	7	7
1979	20	25
1980	23	42
1981	39	80
1982	39	113
1983	35	143
1984	27	161
1985	16	159
1986	21	179
1987	25	203
1988	34	223
1989	33	247
1990	33	279
1991	26	305
1992	40	345
1993	34	374
1994	21	391
1995	38	426
1996	40	461
1997	40	493
1998	32	518
1999	42	558
2000	33	589

CALIFORNIA DEATH JUDGMENTS AND DEATH ROW POPULATION

Year	New Death Judgments	Death Row Population
2001	25	610
2002	17	618
2003	22	639
2004	12	642
2005	22	654
2006	22	662
2007	20	670
2008	20	669
2009	29	684
2010	26	699
2011	10	705
2012	13	712
2013	25	735



"TOUGH ON CRIME"

Two Words: Rose Bird Bwaaahaaaaahaaa. Rose Bird overturned 64 death sentences and struck down "Use a gun in a crime, go to jail" in CA before CA voters threw her out.) Nice Justice pick, Jerry!

fiftynine.com

COLUMN ONE : Rose Bird's Quest for Obscurity : Voted out in 1986 after a firestorm of controversy, the former chief justice of California is portrayed by some as a struggling recluse. Friends say she does not see herself as a tragic figure.

November 15, 1995 | MAURA DOLAN | TIMES LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

PALO ALTO — The tall, matronly woman with chin-length blond hair dropped in at an East Palo Alto poverty law clinic and asked if she could volunteer. She gave her name, but it rang no bells. Staff members assumed she was a bored homemaker and assigned her to the copying machine.

For months, the woman photocopied documents for the clinic's busy young lawyers. It took a tip from a law school dean to alert the staff to her identity: Rose Elizabeth Bird, the former chief justice of the California Supreme Court.

That this historic figure--the first woman to serve on the state high court--would one day find herself doing clerical work for lawyers who did not recognize her does not surprise her friends. Nearly 10 years after her humiliating ouster from the bench, Bird remains at the fringe of the legal community and, some say, of society.

She has become a reclusive figure, fearful at times for her safety and convinced that her public vilification makes it impossible for her to represent clients. She is not even currently licensed to practice law in California.

"People lose their fight," said her friend, former Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr., who appointed her to the court in 1977. "She's burnt."

Rose Bird Memorial Award

The Rose Bird Memorial Award was established in 2000 in honor of the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Rose Bird. Chief Justice Bird was one of the pioneers who founded CWL in 1974. She was a teacher, the first woman to serve in the California cabinet (Secretary of Agriculture). Justice Bird stood strong for her convictions and continued to champion the underdog. After leaving her position as Chief Justice, Rose Bird volunteered for the East Palo Alto Community Law Project. She died on December 4, 1999 after a long battle with breast cancer.

Each year CWL accepts nominees for the Rose Bird Memorial Award who are evaluated for excellence as a jurist and longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service and inspiration to women lawyers in California. Those eligible for consideration are from the northern portion of the State.

Past recipients:

Hon. Rebecca Wiseman (2014)
Hon. Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian (2013)
Hon. Diana Becton (2012)
Hon. Isabella Horton Grant (Posthumously) (2011)
Hon. Ramona Garrett, Solano County Superior Court (2010)
Hon. Peggy Fulton Hora (Ret.) (2009)
Hon. Emily E. Vasquez, Sacramento County Superior Court (2008)
Hon. Brenda Harbin-Forte, Alameda County Superior Court (2007)
Hon. Judith Ford (Ret.) (2006)
Hon. Alice Lytle (Ret.) (2005)
Hon. LaDoris Cordell (2004)
Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (2003)
Hon. Jacqueline Taber (Ret.) (2002)
Hon. Joyce Luther Kennard, California Supreme Court (2001)