

# The Southern District of California



As 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.

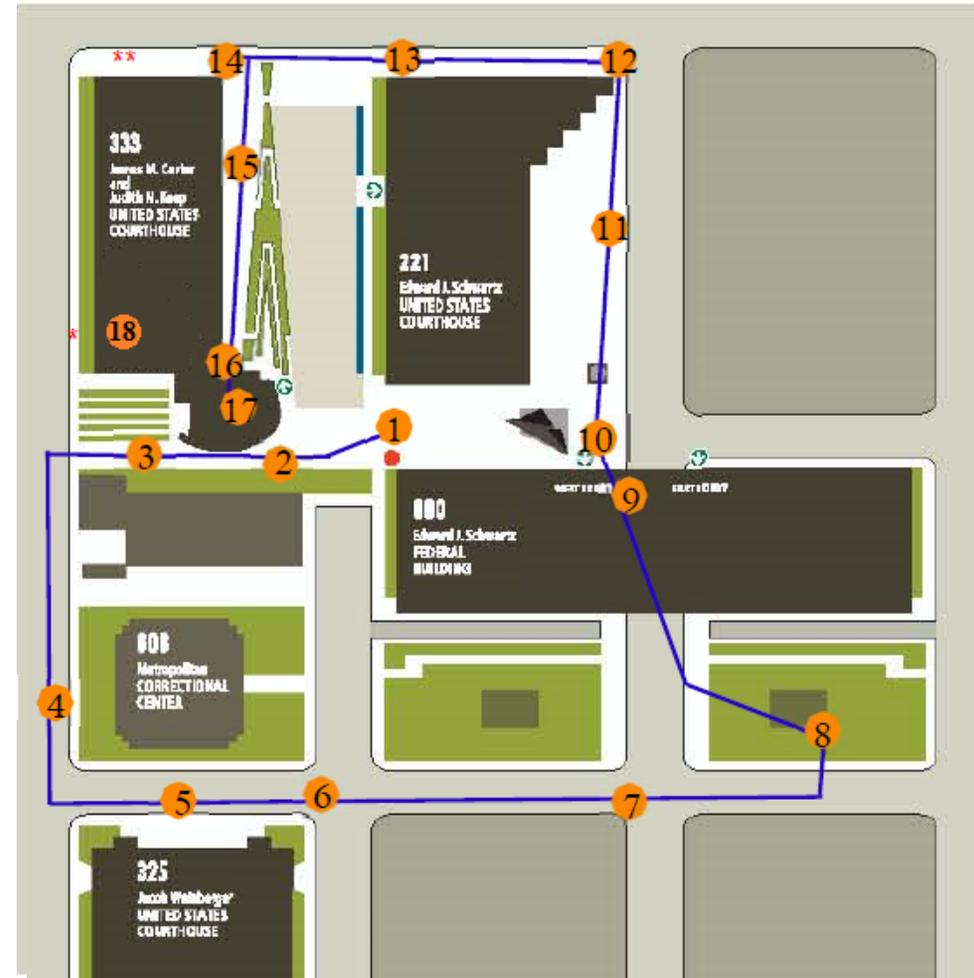
San Diego County is a major center for biotech research and wireless technology. This has resulted in a number of highly complex patent and intellectual property cases in our federal court. In 2011, the Southern District of California was selected to participate in a 10-year Patent Pilot Program designed 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.

**United States District Court  
Southern District of California  
Community Outreach Programs Committee  
casd.uscourts.gov**



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

### JOHN RHOADES FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR



Points of Interest are numbered above and identified inside this booklet.

## 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.



Hon. John S. Rhoades introduces the design for the James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep U.S. Courthouse to the public and media during a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony on the site of the future building. —August 25, 2006.

"I remain cautiously optimistic, that eventually a courthouse will be built. It may be late, but there will be a courthouse. Last night, while thinking about what is going on and trying to figure out the agendas and motivations of the agencies and people involved, I was reminded of T.S. Eliot's poem, "The Hollow Men."

"Between the idea  
And the reality  
Between the motion  
And the act  
Falls the Shadow"

There are many shadows in this project. That is what makes it so interesting."

—Hon. John S. Rhoades, 2005

## 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.



## Intermission

\* 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 *Intermission*. 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. *Intermission* 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.



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## The John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center Plaza



Our tour begins at the former intersection of Union and E streets, at the center of the pedestrian plazas linking the campus of the John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center. Views from this spot to the north, south, east, and west all reveal the grid layout of the real estate venture known in 1850 as "New Town" San Diego. When California was admitted to the Union in 1850, San Diego was a dusty little settlement of small adobe and wooden structures huddled on a barren landscape, cut off from the rest of the country. That year, chief U.S. surveyor Andrew B. Gray mapped out 160 acres of waterfront land they called New Town. The town was laid out in a series of 56 mostly square blocks, small in size to maximize the number of desirable corner lots in the development. The present-day John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center occupies five blocks at the northeastern corner of the original New Town development, and one block of a later addition. The small size of each block in New Town led to the eventual closure of streets throughout the downtown area in order to create parcel sizes large enough to accommodate the modern structures of downtown San Diego today.

## Site of the Capri/Albany Hotels



Through the latter part of the 19th century, the New Town block that eventually became the site of the Capri and State Hotels was dotted with wooden residential structures. By 1914, the three-story Albany Hotel had been constructed on the east half of the block. The hotel included a restaurant famous for its oysters. During construction of the Carter/Keep Courthouse, several truckloads of buried oyster shells were hauled off the site. The building was demolished in 2004.

## Site of the San Remo/Army-Navy YMCA/ State Hotel

Originally constructed near the time of the Albany in 1914, the three-story San Remo Hotel occupied the west side of the block. Around 1920, the San Remo Hotel became the location of the Army-Navy YMCA. By 1926, the YMCA had moved into its present location on Broadway and the building had been renamed the State Hotel. The State was demolished in November 2001 and the site was used for parking until construction of the new courthouse began in 2009. Remnants of the old YMCA basement swimming pool were unearthed during construction of the new courthouse.



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## Block 39: The State Street Neighborhood



After mapping out the town site for New Town along San Diego Bay, Andrew Gray, an Army surveyor, realized the potential value of the land. He purchased the property with partners and they gave the federal government two lots: Block 31, where the Army built a barracks and supply depot, and Block 39, where they hoped the government would build a post office or customs house. Instead, the Army stabled its horses there. Around 1900, the city wanted the new federal Post Office built on Broadway as part of a grand civic center. Instead, federal officials selected a site the government already owned: the Corral Block, ironically, the same Block 39 that Andrew Gray had originally intended for a post office. Block 39 still contained



Army horse stables, troughs and a few small wooden structures. The federal building destined to become the Jacob Weinberger U.S. Courthouse was constructed on the old Army corral in 1913. San Diego would wait another 100 years to realize a federal courthouse fronting Broadway.

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## 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 . . . ."

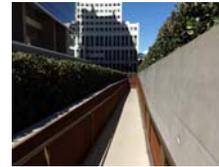
The building, now an historical landmark, was commissioned on April 5, 1913 as the U.S. Post Office and Customs House. It now houses the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. Additional information on the building can be obtained via the brochure "A Brief History and Tour of the Courthouse,"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

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## Hedge Wedge



San Diegan Robert Irwin is an internationally recognized artist known for playing with light, space and perception. *Hedge Wedge* is Irwin's living sculpture, a ramp of interlocking concrete and steel elements, topped by a green privet. As with the grand steps of historic courthouses, *Hedge Wedge* provides a



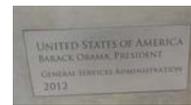
transition between the bustle of the surrounding city and the ceremonial space of the courthouse. This sculptural element required close collaboration between the buildings' architects, landscape designers, construction engineers, and others to become a reality. More than 1,000 plants for the piece were grown in a nursery over two years before they were planted at the courthouse.

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## James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep Courthouse with Cornerstone and Builders' Plaque



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.



The building cornerstone and the Registry of Builders and Designers are both located at the top of the entry ramp, near the main entry doors. The project provided over 1,500 jobs for each year of construction with over \$185,000,000 in salaries benefitting the local economy. The building achieved LEED Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council for environmental sustainability.



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## Broadway Display Windows



The original design for the Schwartz Courthouse façade along Broadway included recessed alcoves and planters. These elements proved to be unsightly and created maintenance and security issues. GSA, in collaboration with the U.S. District Court, reconfigured the alcoves in 2005 to create a dynamic, visual display of artwork, imagery, and famous historical quotes that embrace the themes of Freedom, Liberty, Equality and Justice for all. While enhancing both the “curb appeal” and security of the courthouse, the display areas also provide an educational opportunity for the public about the judiciary.



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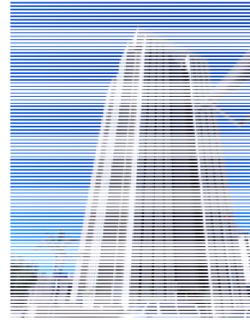
## Hotel San Diego



The six-story Hotel San Diego was built at the corner of Union Street and Broadway in 1914 with a southwest annex added in 1924. The construction of the hotel helped to establish the urban fabric of a growing city. Significant in its association with developer John D. Spreckels and architect Harrison Albright, the hotel was part of the building boom spurred by the Panama California International Exposition of 1915-1916 and was part of Spreckels’ plan to construct a series of seven large commercial buildings along Broadway to create a commercial corridor in the downtown area. 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. Through the years, the hotel was home to many civic groups and businesses, including the city’s first television station, KFMB, which began broadcasting from studios in the basement in 1949. Early broadcasters included Harold Keen and weatherperson Raquel Welch. In the mid-1950’s, the County constructed courtrooms on the second and third floors of the hotel. In 2000, the Hotel appeared in the Academy Award winning film, *Traffic*, starring Michael Douglas. 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.

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## Metropolitan Correctional Center, San Diego



The Metropolitan Correctional Center, San Diego (MCC San Diego) is the United States federal administrative detention facility in San Diego which holds up to 1048 male and female prisoners of all security levels. It is operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, a division of the United States Department of Justice. Most prisoners held at MCC San Diego have pending cases in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. MCC San Diego also holds prisoners serving brief sentences. The 23-story building is connected via secure underground passageways to both the Schwartz and Carter/Keep Courthouses.

MCC San Diego opened in December 1974 and represented the first shift within the Bureau of Prisons to a new generation of high-rise prison buildings, along with MCC New York and MCC Chicago.

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## The Edward J. Schwartz Courthouse and Federal Office Building



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 building a unique earth tone coloring.

The building complex includes two large landscaped areas, including an urban park covering parts of two city blocks on the south side of the Federal Building. In 2008, the lawn area of the south plaza was replaced with artificial turf, saving 1.4 million gallons of water each year.

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## 9/11 Memorial Garden



The 9/11 Memorial Garden, envisioned by the U.S. Attorney's Office and installed by the General Services Administration, pays tribute to the victims and first responders who stepped forward to assist at the tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001. It includes a selection of red, white and blue flowers, symbolizing the patriotic spirit of our nation. The garden is identified by a commemorative plaque which dedicates the garden to those who were lost. It includes a quote by Pierre Auguste Renoir: "The pain passes, but the beauty remains." The memorial garden's commemorative plaque was unveiled by the mother of 9/11 victim Timothy Ray Ward, at a 10th Anniversary remembrance event held on September 11, 2011. Over 200 people attended the event, including four family members of victims killed in the 9/11 attacks.



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## Front Street Art-in-Architecture



Two commissioned works of 20th Century art can be observed while passing through the Front Street portal of the federal building. Through the glass on the west side, Bruce Beasley's *Axial Incidence*, is 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 part of a project to display contemporary art in federal buildings in the 1970s. This effort has since 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.



Through the glass on the east side of the portal, the paintings *Navajo Shepherd* and *Refuge*, by Emery Donaldson Horsky, are displayed above the building entry station. The paintings depict a distant mountain range in the American Southwest.

While a resident of Canoga Park in the 1930s, Horsky was active in the Federal Art Project, the visual arts arm of the depression era Works Progress Administration, which operated from August 29, 1935 to June 30, 1943. This work was commissioned in 1941. For many years, both paintings were installed at the Naval Training Center in San Diego.

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## Excalibur



Also through the Art-in-Architecture program and in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts, GSA commissioned Beverly Pepper's sculpture, *Excalibur*, which is displayed in the plaza. The piece consists of three steel triangular forms angled so as to appear to reach across the ground and toward the sky.

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## The Edward J. Schwartz Courthouse Plaza



The second "park" developed along with the Schwartz Courthouse is the plaza running along the west side of Front Street. This plaza includes the E Street Mall and the area immediately adjacent to the courthouse. Originally, the main public entry to the courthouse was centered on the plaza with a moat-like recess on either side to allow daylight down to the basement level of the building. Today, the plaza and green space provide a respite from the bustle of downtown activity. Two notable features of the plaza are the large bird bath element on the south end and the steps down toward the Schwartz Courthouse. In its day, these steps made the Schwartz Courthouse one of the very few courthouses to be entered by descending from the sidewalk. Through the years, this space has also been the scene of many citizen expressions of free speech, so essential to our democracy.



The dedication ceremony of the Edward J. Schwartz Courthouse and Federal Building took place at the south end of this plaza on October 6, 1976.

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## Schwartz Courthouse Cornerstone



After nearly two years of planning, construction on the Schwartz buildings began in November 1972. The contract was awarded to general contractor Huber, Hunt & Nichols with a bid of \$36.5 million. During the Cornerstone Ceremony on October 29, 1974, Mayor Pete Wilson said the new Federal complex was the "anchor of the Horton Plaza redevelopment program" for downtown and the L-shaped structure covering three city blocks would spur vital redevelopment efforts and be a "stimulus to the renaissance of downtown San Diego." The cornerstone covers a rectangular, copper



time capsule filled with news clippings of the progress of the Federal complex, the cover sheet of the contract, ceremony program, commemorative postage stamps, current local newspaper, a dated Federal court calendar, two photos of the model of the building, and seeds from trees growing near the complex.