A Conversation with Abraham Lincoln

150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

Court of Appeal
Third District
State of California

California State Fair & Exposition (Cal Expo)

The Court of Appeal, Third District, State of California, has developed a live, civic education and public outreach program, which will be held at the California State Fair & Exposition (Cal Expo), from July 12, 2013 - July 28, 2013. (http://www.courts.ca.gov/3dca.htm; http://www.calexpo.com) The live "Conversation with Abraham Lincoln" will be conducted on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at Center Stage.

The program builds on the court’s experience from programs it did at Cal Expo in 2004 and 2005. In 2004, the court did a program commemorating the 50-year anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. In 2005, the court presented a program for the centennial celebration of the California Court of Appeal. This kind of programming by the Third Appellate District may become an annual event at Cal Expo, with a different theme connected to the courts, civil liberties, and to the rule of law. The concept may be replicated in local county fairs by the state’s 58 superior courts. More than 15 million people attend Cal Expo and these other fairs each year.

Fairs are special. Lincoln thought so, too. In 1859, he recognized the civic import of fairs when he said they are “becoming an institution of the country; they are useful in more ways than one; they bring us together, and thereby make us better acquainted, and better friends than we otherwise would be.” (Presidential Address, Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 30, 1859.)

Norton Parker Chipman, the first presiding justice of the Third Appellate District, 1905-1921, http://www.courts.ca.gov/2732.htm, had a link to fairs. In the late 1800s, he became president of the State Board of Trade, precursor to the California Chamber of
Commerce, and worked for twenty years to promote the interests of California. He extolled the importance of country fairs and agriculture, and advocated the use of technology to increase yields. He was involved in the World’s Fair.

California's trial and appellate judges are increasingly proactive with participating in, as well as conceiving and providing civic education and public outreach, narrowly and broadly, near, far, and in between. The Third Appellate District regularly encourages and enables interested people, especially students, to attend oral argument sessions to learn, first hand, what appellate justices do and how appellate courts operate, both in our Sacramento courtroom, the most beautiful in the state, and in high school gyms throughout the 23 counties in the Third Appellate District, the geographically largest in the state.

In the more than 10 years the Third Appellate District has conducted its outreach program, it has held at least one session of oral argument in high school gyms in most of its 23 counties. In recognition of this complicated civic education and public outreach program, in 2002, the Third Appellate District was awarded the Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts. (http://www.courts.ca.gov/5131.htm.)

Here is an outline of “A Conversation with Abraham Lincoln, 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.” It is still in production, so please feel free to offer suggestions.

A Conversation with Abraham Lincoln

The program will commemorate the 150-year anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Thirteenth Amendment, the Gettysburg Address and the 50-year anniversary of Martin Luther King’s I Have a Dream Speech. The public will be informed about: (1) The process of drafting the Emancipation Proclamation, passing the Thirteenth Amendment, and the political and social undercurrent of the time, (2) Lincoln’s relationship with Frederick Douglass, (3) Lincoln’s relationship with Norton Parker Chipman, the first administrative presiding justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District (see below), (4) Chipman’s relationship with Douglass, (5) King’s speech and a comparison between it and the Gettysburg Address, and (6) the California courts and their role in civil rights in California.

The connection between Lincoln and the California courts is Norton Parker Chipman, our court’s first administrative presiding judge. He was an abolitionist, Civil War officer and ultimately became a general in the Union Army. And he was a friend of Lincoln. After the war, he prosecuted the commander of the Confederacy’s Andersonville prison camp for war crimes. Later, he was elected to Congress, with the help of Douglass, to represent the District of Columbia. After serving in Congress, he migrated to California, where he started an organization that evolved into the California Chamber of Commerce, served as a California Supreme Court commissioner, and was ultimately appointed to the newly established California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, as its first administrative presiding justice.

This year’s program has three components, A Conversation with Abraham Lincoln, on Center Stage at Cal Expo, an opportunity to shake hands with Lincoln and talk with justices of our court at an exhibit in an exhibit hall, and a high school essay contest.

A Conversation with Abraham Lincoln will take place on the first Saturday of the State Fair, Saturday, July 13, 2013.
**Stage Performance**

The conversation with Abraham Lincoln will be conducted by the Honorable Vance Raye, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, who will interview Lincoln about the topics set forth above. Lincoln will, no doubt, express pleasure that Justice Raye, a descendent of Oklahoma slaves, now has Justice Chipman’s old job.

**Meet & Greet**

After the stage performance, Lincoln will walk to the Third Appellate District’s exhibit in the California Building (Building A), accompanied by an honor guard of military or law enforcement personnel. Fairgoers will be invited to follow Lincoln and visit the exhibit, where they will have an opportunity to shake Lincoln’s hand and talk with justices of our court.

Fairgoers will be given one or more take-aways, such as a copy of *Striving for Justice, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A History of the California Courts of Appeal* (a booklet produced by the judiciary for the Centennial Celebration of the Court of Appeal), to-be-determined books on Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, and, perhaps a Constitutional Rights Foundation publication. A coloring book on the Emancipation Proclamation published by the National Archives may be provided to children.

Justices of the court (and perhaps Lincoln) will sign the books as they talk to fairgoers. This part of the program partially replicates the program this court did in 2005 for the Centennial Celebration of the Court of Appeal and will provide a vehicle for enhancing the public’s understanding of California’s courts using the historically significant connection between Chipman, Lincoln and Douglass.

**Mr. Lincoln**

Jim Getty, a Lincoln scholar who works and resides in Gettysburg, will portray Lincoln. Funding for his appearance comes from the Administration of Justice Fund, Administrative Office of the Courts.

This is Getty’s website: [http://www.jimgetty.com](http://www.jimgetty.com)

These are links to Getty performances: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWrBnvJO5sE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWrBnvJO5sE) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8alzrdfJt8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8alzrdfJt8).

**The Exhibit**

Ideas for the exhibit are still percolating, but it will deal with the 150-year anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Thirteenth Amendment, the Gettysburg Address and the 50-year anniversary of Martin Luther King’s I Have a Dream Speech. Feel free to offer suggestions. Items we have thought of displaying include:

- California’s first printing of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Smaller replicas of the drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- A replica of the Thirteenth Amendment.
- Photos of and information about Lincoln, Douglass, and Chipman.
· Pages of California appellate decisions related to civil rights in California and other items related to those cases.

· The Gettysburg Address and King’s I Have a Dream speech and a comparison between the two speeches.

· A timeline of relevant civil rights-related events, highlighting the Emancipation Proclamation, the Thirteenth Amendment, the Gettysburg Address, and King’s speech, and noting relevant United States Supreme Court and California court cases and federal legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act 1964.

· A video loop on Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation.

· Information about California’s courts.

**Takeaways for Adults and Children**

On the following pages there are some photos of people lined up to speak with us at the 2005 program. At that program, we signed and distributed hundreds of copies of *Striving for Justice, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A History of the California Courts of Appeal*. ([http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/coa100booklet.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/coa100booklet.pdf)) People seemed really happy to visit with the justices and to have something to take away with them. Justices and, perhaps, Lincoln, will again distribute copies of that excellent publication.


**Youth**

As you can see in the photographs of the 2005 program on the following pages, people lined up to talk with the justices. Many of the people with whom the justices spoke were children. Hopefully, they were inspired to learn more about the law and, perhaps, to become interested in being justice system professionals. Lincoln may well draw even more families this year.

An essay contest for high school students will be conducted, in collaboration with Sojourn to the Past ([http://www.sojournproject.com](http://www.sojournproject.com)). The winning essay and photograph of the winning essayist and his or her teacher would be featured prominently at the exhibit. The grand prize will be a Sojourn scholarship. “Sojourn is a unique, transformative, and empowering academic immersion program that takes 11th and 12th grade students from diverse academic, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds out of their schools on a ten-day moving classroom journey along the path of the Civil Rights Movement through five states in the American South.” We anticipate that cash prizes will also be available for runner up awards.
**Conclusion**

We expect this program will be a wonderful civic education learning experience for fairgoers and enhance their confidence in California’s justice system.

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