

Justice Lies In The District: The U.S. District Court, Southern District Of Texas, 1902-1960

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begins with an analysis of promotional activities to encourage railroad construction and tax revenues in the post-Civil War period. Chapter 3 moves on to New Jersey's relationship with industrial corporations and the development of what Grandy calls the state's chartermongering strategy. This strategy was enormously successful, and the state received a flow of corporate licensing revenues that allowed for reduction or elimination of direct taxes and for substantial increases in public spending. No competitive advantage, of course, goes unnoticed by competitors, and other states began to erode New Jersey's position as the premier incorporation state. The fiscal (and political) virtues of New Jersey's corporation policy were recognized and emulated. Delaware, for reasons outlined by Grandy in chapter 4, soon proved to be a most formidable competitor, and the state attracted new incorporations. Absent national corporation law, the states could compete by offering innovative legal structures for corporations. New Jersey attempted to maintain its competitive position by lowering licensing and franchise fees, but these actions lowered state revenues and the political attractiveness of the state's preferential incorporation policy. In a series of reversals in its laws after 1913, New Jersey lost its dominant position in the market for incorporations. Chapter 6 considers some of the lessons of this economic history for current discussions of the efficacy of state incorporation law.

This is a very complete, well-written, and persuasively argued book that I highly recommend. Christopher Grandy provides new insights into the political origins of government in the economy, as well as valuable lessons on the economic effects of government competition in a federal system.

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Justice Lies in the District: The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, 1902-1960. By Charles L. Zelden. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1993. Pp. 312. \$49.50.

Think of Texas jurisprudence, and what comes to mind? Judge Roy Bean, perhaps, who once fined a corpse \$40 for carrying a concealed weapon. But the law east of the Pecos was, according to Charles Zelden, far more deliberate than Bean's eccentric brand of justice. By examining the records of the Southern District Court of Texas for the period 1902 to 1960, Zelden concludes that this federal court actively promoted southeast Texas's economic development. Because judges focused their attention on private matters, the court served as institutional linchpin for Houston's business community. Not until after 1960, says Zelden, did the court shift its concentration to social reforms and economic regulations.

Although the vast majority of federal lawsuits are resolved by trial courts, few chronicles of lower federal courts exist. Zelden therefore sheds light on the workaday world of federal law. Vivid illustrations center around Mexican land grants (pp. 15-19), cotton transportation (pp. 104-9), lumber industry regulation (pp. 113-15), and the valuation of subsurface minerals on land condemned for military bases (pp. 155-61). Zelden segments his analysis chronologically, using the world wars and the Depression as interval markers.

Zelden adopts a Holmesian perspective: as he views it, verdicts reflected the institutions and issues of the day, as well as judges' own experiences. By weaving together economic, social, and political conditions, Zelden provides a rich backdrop for various lawsuits. For example, nearly all World War I draft evasion cases involved Hispanics; only 4 of 304 disputes had defendants with Germanic surnames. Zelden speculates that Mexican-Americans failed to register because endemic discrimination gave them little desire to support the war (pp. 63-64).

Unfortunately, despite its treasure trove of anecdotes, this work suffers from

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the Texas Judicial District, the Galveston court had jurisdiction over the whole state. On February 21, , the state was divided into two. of Judicial Management in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, of American History SP - EP - VL - 91 IS - 1 N2 - As Steven Harmon. Justice Lies in the District: The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, In a new federal district court court was established. Results 1 - 50 of Justice Lies in the District The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, by Zelden, Charles L. ISBN: List.

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