



**Digital Commons@**  
Loyola Marymount University  
LMU Loyola Law School

Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review

---

Volume 30 | Number 3

Article 1

---

4-1-1997

## Introduction—Memorial Dedication to Otto Kaus

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/llr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

*Introduction—Memorial Dedication to Otto Kaus*, 30 Loy. L.A. L. Rev. 923 (1997).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/llr/vol30/iss3/1>

This Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@lmu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@lmu.edu).

## INTRODUCTION

### MEMORIAL DEDICATION TO OTTO KAUS

There is a difference between authority and leadership. Authority brings with it power and a title; leadership brings with it influence and respect. It is society's loss when those who are in authority lack the ability to lead. But it is a far different story when an individual who is in authority also has the ability to lead. Otto Kaus was one of those rare individuals who was a person in authority and also had the skills of leadership. Not only did he have both of these qualities, he had them in abundance. As a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court between 1961 and 1964, as presiding and associate justice of the California Court of Appeal between 1965 and 1981, and finally as an associate justice of the California Supreme Court between 1981 and 1985, Otto became recognized as one of the intellectual leaders of the California judiciary. It is California's gain that Otto influenced so many lawyers and judges in this state.

Others in these tribute pages will undoubtedly catalogue Otto's many judicial accomplishments. They will write more incisively and more eloquently than I about Otto's influence on his peers and on the development of the substantive and procedural law of the state. But as dean of his law school, I wish to recall Otto's impact in a more personal way.

Needless to say, I knew of Otto Kaus's reputation before I came to California to accept the position of dean of Loyola Law School. Thus, I was a bit apprehensive when I first met Otto. I needn't have been. Otto just grasped my hand and said: "Whatever I can do for the school, just ask." His disarming manner, his sincerity and his genuine interest in the law school won me over instantly.

In 1995-1996, the law school celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. I decided to research and write a short history of the law school, as a way of paying tribute to the many individuals who built the law school into the superb institution it has become. As I began to write the history, Otto's name kept appearing over and over again. If I asked a faculty member about some past event, the

faculty member would most likely say to me, "Speak to Otto about that—he'll remember the details." If I asked an alum who were the closest advisers of Father Joseph Donovan, the legendary regent of the law school for over forty years, the name Otto Kaus would be number one or two on almost every list. If I asked an attorney who was Loyola Law School's most distinguished graduate, more likely than not, I would hear Otto's name mentioned.

I learned of Otto's death very soon after it had occurred. I called several of Otto's law school colleagues and friends to tell them the sad news. From every one of them I heard the same refrain—Otto was special; a hard working lawyer and jurist, a master at crafting legal arguments; a person willing to help others think through important issues; a person who was always courteous and gentlemanly.

In Otto one could always feel the sense of order; the sense of elegant thought; the sense of scholarship that imbued his native Vienna. Goodbye Otto—you helped make Loyola Law School into the great institution it is today. We will miss you. We will probably not see your likes again for a very long time.

*Dean Gerald T. McLaughlin*