

J. Morgan Kousser, Brief Bio

Morgan Kousser (pronounced Cow' zer) is William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of History and Social Science at the California Institute of Technology and the author of *The Shaping of Southern Politics: Suffrage Restriction and the Establishment of the One-Party South, 1880-1910* (Yale Univ. Press, 1974) and *Colorblind Injustice: Minority Voting Rights and the Undoing of the Second Reconstruction* (Univ. of NC Press, 1999), as well as 47 scholarly articles, 83 book reviews or review essays, 26 entries in encyclopedias and dictionaries, 46 papers at scholarly conventions, and 73 talks at universities. *Colorblind Injustice* was co-winner of the 1999 Lillian Smith Award of the Southern Regional Council and of the Ralph J. Bunche Award of the American Political Science Association. Most of his work has concerned minority voting rights, the history of education, and the legal and political aspects of race relations in the 19th and 20th centuries. From 2000 through 2012, he was the executive editor of the journal *Historical Methods*. He has served on the editorial boards of *The Journal of American History*, *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Social Science History*, and *Historical Methods*.

Kousser has also served as an expert witness in 37 federal or state voting rights cases and a consultant in 12 others, and he testified before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1981 about the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. He was the principal expert witness on the intent issue for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund in the Los Angeles Supervisors' redistricting case, *Garza v. County of Los Angeles* (1990) and for the U.S. Department of Justice in *U.S. v. Memphis* (1991). *Garza* resulted in the election of the first Latino in 115 years to the nation's largest county governing body; the Memphis case resulted in the election of the first African-American mayor in the history of the city. He was also an expert witness for the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund in *Shaw v. Hunt* (1994), the North Carolina "racial gerrymandering" case, for the Justice Department in its Texas counterpart, *Vera v. Richards* (1994), and for MALDEF in *Cano v. Davis*, the 2002 California congressional and legislative redistricting case. His most recent testimony includes the Section 2 and Section 5 Texas redistricting cases and the 2012 Texas voter identification cases, and the 2014 North Carolina election law case, as well as at-large election cases under the California Voting Rights Act in Modesto, Hanford, Tulare County, Compton, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, and the Santa Clarita Community College District.

In 2008, he published the first comprehensive history of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, a 108-page article in the *Texas Law Review*.

His current projects include two books concerning judicial cases and state legislative actions on racial discrimination in 19th and early 20th century public schools, one on the first U.S. Supreme Court case on the subject (contracted with the University of Kansas Press) and another surveying all the local, state, and federal cases and laws (contracted with Cambridge University Press).

Educated at Princeton and Yale, he has been a visiting professor at Michigan, Harvard, and Claremont Graduate University. In 1984-85, he was Harmsworth Prof. of American History at Oxford. Since 1969, his primary affiliation has been with Caltech.

In 2011, he became the first professor from the Humanities and Social Sciences Division to win the Richard P. Feynman Teaching Award at Caltech. He was the 18th professor to win the award.