

## CSULA Emeriti Faculty Biography

**Name:** Donald O. Dewey  
**Department:** History  
**Academic rank:** Professor  
**Year appointed:** 1962      **Year retired:** 1996  
**FERP Years:** 1996-2002  
**City of residence:** La Canada – Flintridge



**If you desire to share your email, web page and/or social network addresses, please list the relevant information:** [dodewey@calstatela.edu](mailto:dodewey@calstatela.edu)

**Birth Place:** Portland, Oregon  
**Birth Year:** 1930      **Marital status:** Married since 1952  
**Spouse:** Charlotte N. Dewey

**Family information:** Daughter Catherine Dewey, son Scott Hamilton Dewey, daughter Leslie Freirich deceased in 2008. Two grandchildren, Gordon Freirich and Nathan Neville.

<b>Colleges or Universities Attended:</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Degree</b>
Lewis and Clark College	1948-1949	
University of Oregon	1949-1952	BA in Journalism
Brigham Young University	1954-1955	
University of Utah	1955-1956	MS in History
University of Chicago	1957-1960	PhD in History

<b>Teaching Experience:</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Institution</b> University of Chicago	1960	1962
California State University, Los Angeles	1962	2002

### **Courses taught:**

- Introductory US History (250 and 202A)
- The New Nation
- The Federal Union,
- Jeffersonians and Jacksonians
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- American Constitutional History
- Seminar in Early American History.

I taught at least one class every year that I was Dean, except for the first two years.

### **Scholarly / Creative Activity:**

I resigned as an editor with the goal of making myself a better journalist by studying history. Instead I emerged with two degrees and by then was an historian. Since then most of my publications and scholarly presentations at conferences and at other universities have focused on

the U.S. Constitution, James Madison, and the Supreme Court. Examples are: 19 essays in Robert A. Rutland, *James Madison and the American Nation, 1751-1836: An Encyclopedia* (Simon and Schuster, 1994); chapters on early Supreme Court justices in Melvin I. Urofsky, *The Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary* (Garland Publishing, Inc., 1994); Urofsky's *A Biographical Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court: The Lives and Philosophies of the Justices* (C.Q. Press, 2005); and essays on the Supreme Court and Supreme Court Justices in Paul Finkelman, *Encyclopedia of the New Nation* (The Gale Group, 2005). My grants have all involved the transmission of constitutional knowledge to secondary and middle school teachers.

**Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):**

**Agency or Company**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Managing Editor, Condon, Oregon, Globe Times	1952	1953
City Editor, Ashland, Oregon, Daily Tidings	1953	1954
Assistant Editor, The Papers of James Madison, Chicago	1959	1960
Associate Editor, The Papers of James Madison, Chicago	1960	1962
Dean of Letters and Sciences, CSULA	1970	1984
Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, CSULA	1984	1996
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Trinity College of Graduate Studies	2000	2006

**Awards, Honors, Professional Recognition:**

- CSULA Outstanding Professor Award, 1975-1976
- Nominated by faculty committee for 1989-1990 CSU Outstanding Professor Award. The President refused to forward the nomination, purportedly because he did not agree that an administrator should be eligible for this award. The committee declined to submit another nominee.
- Keynote address at National Institutes for Health program on Academic Research Enhancement Awards at Bethesda, Maryland, in 1990.
- Alumni Award of Merit from CSULA Alumni Association, 1975.
- Executive Committee of Pacific Coast Branch of American Historical Association, 1970-1973.

**Citations of Selected Publications, Presentations and/or Creative Activities:**

- Associate Editor, *The Papers of James Madison, Vols. I-III* (University of Chicago Press, 1962-1964).
- *Marshall Versus Jefferson: The Political Background of Marbury v. Madison* (A. A. Knopf, 1970).
- *Union and Liberty: Documents in American Constitutionalism* (McGraw-Hill, 1969).
- *James Madison, Defender of the Republic* (Nova History Publications, 2009).
- *That's a Good One: Cal State LA at 50* (CSULA, 1997).
- *Invitation to the Dance: An Introduction to Ballroom Dance* (RSVP Press, 1991).
- "Professor Dorothy Parker," *Southern California Quarterly* (Spring 2007).
- Project Director of six grants from National Endowment for the Humanities and two from American Historical Association.
- *Becoming Informed Citizens: Lessons on the Constitution* (Regina Books: 1994, 1996).

- Essays and chapters in encyclopedias on Supreme Court Justices, on James Madison and on “The New Nation.”
- “Truly the Weakest Branch; The United States Supreme Court, 1789-1803,” in Roberto Martucci, ed., *Constitution & Revolution aux États-Unis d’Amérique et en Europe* (Macerata, Italy: Laboratorio di storia costituzionale-Macerata, 1995).

**University Service:**

- Thirty-one consecutive years in the CSLA Academic Senate, followed by 13 more as Emeritus Senator. (I promise not to exceed fifty.) Elected to every office.
- CSU Academic Senate, 1971-1977.
- President of the CSULA Emeriti Association, 2000-2003; Vice President 1999-2000.
- President of California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, 2006-2009, Vice President 2005-2006, and member of State Council since then.
- Chair of CSULA Faculty Affairs Committee and Committee on Committees, 1965-1968.

**Personal commentary:**

1970 was a unique year for me. I had previously declined election as Senate Chair and appointment to Assistant Dean and Associate Dean positions because I was unwilling to assume such responsibilities until I was a Full Professor; and besides I was working hard on two books. Then one of them was published in 1969, a second one in 1970, and I was promoted in 1970, so in June I accepted election as Senate Chair. In August when I scheduled a meeting with President Greenlee to discuss fiscal support for the Senate, he surprised me by asking me instead to become Dean of Letters and Sciences. This was the first time that I was surprised by an administrative appointment, in part because I had not been an applicant for the position. The President wanted a commitment to serve for five years. I promised only three, an issue that became moot as decades rolled on.

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