Explore real court cases from the 1800s with surprising connections to today’s headlines.

Taken about 1875, this photo shows the two-story city and county jail at the right, in a yard behind the former city hall, courthouse, and county administrative offices. All but the jail were relocated to the Market House, a building financed by Jonathan Temple and seen at the upper left (with the clock tower).
Look at multiple points of view as you explore real cases from the 1800s with surprising connections to today’s headlines. Museum Director Paul Spitzzeri will share primary source material related to each case to help inform the discussion. ADMISSION IS FREE. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Call or visit our website for more information.

**Vigilantes and Vengeance: The Alvitre Family and Community Justice, 1853-1861**

Sunday, January 28, 2018 • 2 to 4 p.m.

The Alvitre family had three members lynched in less than a decade, one for an attempted assault on a member of the Workman and Temple families that epitomized local community justice. Reservations begin December 22.

**“Hang Kwen: He’s the Head of the Firm”: Lawyers of Los Angeles, 1850-1875**

Sunday, May 6, 2018 • 2 to 4 p.m.

Los Angeles’ lawyers were not usually trained in law schools and ran the gamut in terms of education and experience, but some of them were certainly colorful courtroom characters. Reservations begin March 23.

**Family Feud: The King Family of El Monte and Personal Justice, 1855-1865**

Sunday, August 12, 2018 • 2 to 4 p.m.

Southern chivalry was expressed in the extreme when the King family employed personal justice in gun battles in El Monte and Los Angeles, a decade apart, against fellow Southerners Micajah Johnson and Robert Carlisle. Reservations begin June 29.

**“Shoot Away, Damn You!”: Judges of Los Angeles, 1850-1875**

Sunday, October 21, 2018 • 2 to 4 p.m.

Like the town’s lawyers, judges in Los Angeles spanned the spectrum of modern standards of professionalism, from Benjamin Hayes’ sincere and solemn stances to William G. Dryden’s often outlandish outbursts. Reservations begin September 7.