



Save the Date

Thursday, March 28, 2024
12 - 1 p.m. CST

McCarthyism vs. Clinton Jencks

In 1957, Clinton Jencks made history when the Supreme Court overturned his conviction in a landmark decision that led to the Congressional Jencks Act. Clinton Jencks was a decorated war hero that took on the Mexican American fight for equal rights in New Mexico's mining industry. He drew the attention of the government in the famed Empire Zinc strike at a time when the post war anti-communist hysteria was at its peak. Jencks was charged with filing a false affidavit saying he was not a member of the Communist Party. In this historic trial before a jury in El Paso, Texas, Jencks was convicted with evidence that hinged on witness statements of informers that the government refused to produce to the defense. The Supreme Court overturned his conviction and established the principle that witness statements from hidden witnesses could not be relied on unless they were made available to defendants. The *Jencks v. United States* (1957) case further exposes the systemic injustice that Mexican Americans faced in the court system that excluded women, Mexican Americans, other minorities, and workers from jury service.

Join us in a discussion with El Pasoan, Raymond Caballero to learn more about the longest trial of a single defendant in El Paso, Texas, the attorneys and parties involved, the impact of the *Jencks v. United States* (1957) decision, and its legacy today.



Raymond Caballero served as the 50th mayor of El Paso, Texas, from 2001 to 2003. He is the author of "Orozco: The Life and Death of a Mexican Revolutionary" and "McCarthyism vs. Clinton Jencks," and was recently inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters. Mr. Caballero was a founding partner of Caballero, Panetta and Ortega, and a former president of the El Paso Bar Association (1982-1983). He previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Texas (1969-1973), and as a Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice (1969-1973). Mr. Caballero is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso (BBA, 1963), University of Texas at Austin (JD, 1967), George Washington University (LLM, Taxation), and Harvard University (MPA, 1990).

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