

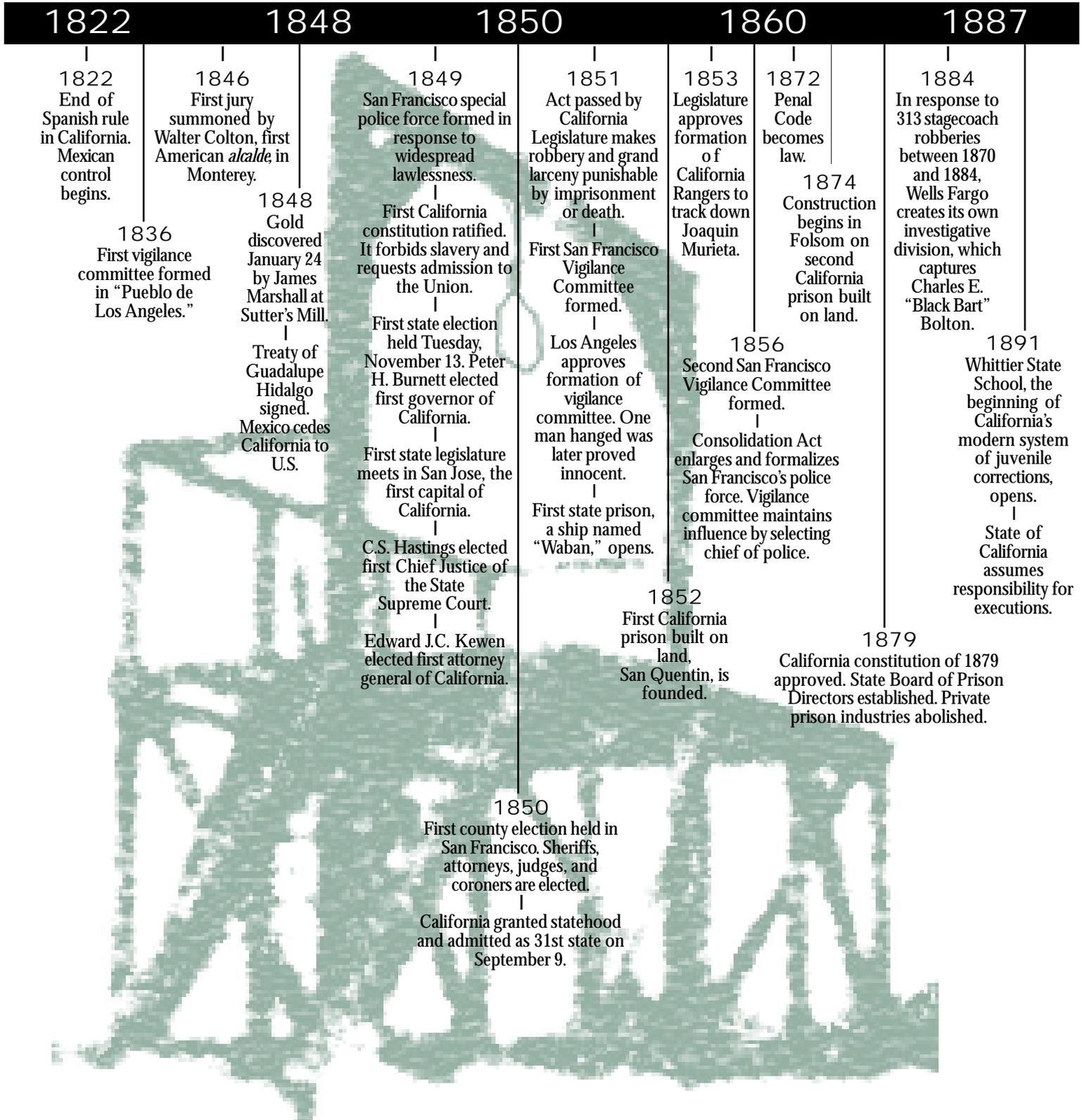
# California Criminal Justice Time Line

## 1822-2000



California Department of Justice  
 Division of Criminal Justice Information Services  
 Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER**  
 Historical Research: Adele Spears  
 Graphics: Rebecca Bowe  
 Editor: Tad Davis

1850 Population 92,597	1860 Population 379,994	1870 Population 560,247	1880 Population 864,694	1890 Population 1,213,398
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1822

1822  
End of Spanish rule in California. Mexican control begins.

|

1846  
First jury summoned by Walter Colton, first American *alcalde*, in Monterey.

1848

1848  
Gold discovered January 24 by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill.  
|  
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed. Mexico cedes California to U.S.

1849  
San Francisco special police force formed in response to widespread lawlessness.

|  
First California constitution ratified. It forbids slavery and requests admission to the Union.

|  
First state election held Tuesday, November 13. Peter H. Burnett elected first governor of California.

|  
First state legislature meets in San Jose, the first capital of California.

|  
C.S. Hastings elected first Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

|  
Edward J.C. Kewen elected first attorney general of California.

1850

1850  
First county election held in San Francisco. Sheriffs, attorneys, judges, and coroners are elected.  
|  
California granted statehood and admitted as 31st state on September 9.

1851  
Act passed by California Legislature makes robbery and grand larceny punishable by imprisonment or death.

|  
First San Francisco Vigilance Committee formed.

|  
Los Angeles approves formation of vigilance committee. One man hanged was later proved innocent.

|  
First state prison, a ship named "Waban," opens.

1860

1853  
Legislature approves formation of California Rangers to track down Joaquin Murieta.

1856  
Second San Francisco Vigilance Committee formed.

|  
Consolidation Act enlarges and formalizes San Francisco's police force. Vigilance committee maintains influence by selecting chief of police.

1852  
First California prison built on land, San Quentin, is founded.

1872  
Penal Code becomes law.

1874  
Construction begins in Folsom on second California prison built on land.

1879  
California constitution of 1879 approved. State Board of Prison Directors established. Private prison industries abolished.

1887

1884  
In response to 313 stagecoach robberies between 1870 and 1884, Wells Fargo creates its own investigative division, which captures Charles E. "Black Bart" Bolton.

1891  
Whittier State School, the beginning of California's modern system of juvenile corrections, opens.  
|  
State of California assumes responsibility for executions.

1900  
Population  
1,485,053

1910  
Population  
2,377,549

1920  
Population  
3,426,861

1930  
Prison  
Population  
7,071  
Population  
5,677,251

1940  
Prison  
Population  
8,180  
Population  
6,907,387

1904 1912 1924 1932 1940

1893  
California  
enacts its  
first  
parole  
law.

1905  
California  
State Bureau  
of Criminal  
Identification  
created to  
maintain  
records on  
wanted  
persons and  
those already  
in  
confinement.

1903  
Law enables  
counties to  
establish juvenile  
courts for  
delinquents and  
places restrictions  
on detention of  
juveniles with  
adults.  
California begins  
probation  
programs.

1909  
Law requires  
California counties  
to maintain  
separate juvenile  
detention facilities.

1910  
Alice  
Stebbins  
Wells  
becomes  
first  
policewoman  
in  
California  
and the U.S.

1911  
Law provides that no  
intoxicated person  
shall drive.

1914  
Los Angeles  
County creates  
Office of the  
Public  
Defender, the  
first of its kind  
in the U.S.  
Walton J. Wood  
becomes first  
public defender.  
Congress passes  
Harrison Act to  
regulate and tax  
production,  
importation,  
and  
manufacture of  
opium or coca  
leaves, their  
derivatives, etc.

1916  
August Vollmer develops  
first formal, academic law  
enforcement program.

1917  
California  
adopts  
indeter-  
minate  
sentencing  
system.

1920  
Volstead Act  
(Prohibition)  
takes effect.

1926  
Georgia P. Bullock  
elected judge of  
the Los Angeles  
Municipal Court.  
She is California's  
first woman to  
hold such a  
position.

1927  
Division  
of  
Narcotic  
Enforce-  
ment  
created as  
part of  
the State  
Board of  
Pharmacy.

1929  
California Highway  
Patrol created.  
California Crime  
Commission  
requests legislature  
to hire statistician  
for Bureau of  
Criminal  
Identification and  
Information (CII).  
CII formally  
organized in 1930  
and begins data  
collection from  
agencies.

1931  
Wickersham  
Commission cites  
need for more  
complete crime  
information.  
California becomes  
first state to  
establish a  
statewide reporting  
system to provide  
such data.

Act regulating sale,  
possession, and  
transportation of  
machine guns  
approved.  
California  
Legislature  
establishes Board  
of Prison Terms  
and Paroles.

1933  
Two lynched in  
San Jose's  
St. James Park for  
kidnapping and  
murder. Mob  
action praised by  
California  
Governor James  
Rolph, Jr.  
Prohibition  
repealed by 21st  
Amendment to  
U.S. Constitution.

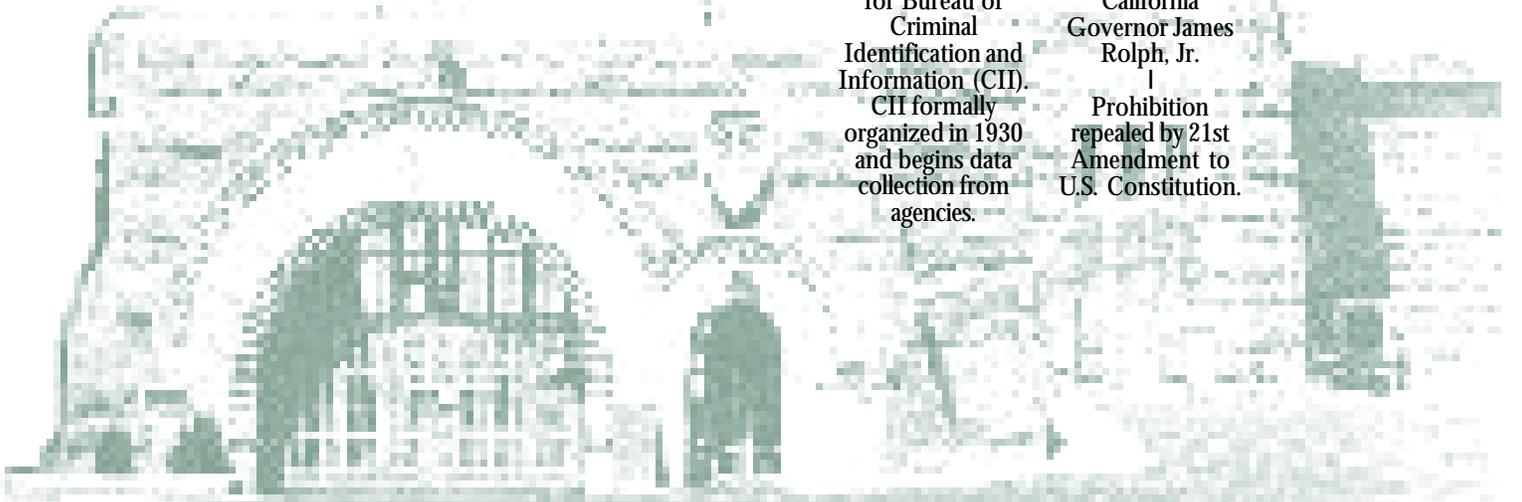
1935  
Comprehensive  
Motor Vehicle  
Act  
distinguishes  
between drunk  
driving  
resulting in  
death or injury  
and all other  
types; also  
increases  
penalties for  
recidivism.

1937  
Law authorizes use of  
lethal gas as means of  
execution in  
California.

1938  
First  
lethal  
gas  
execution  
carried  
out.

1941  
California Youth  
Authority created.  
First woman  
executed in  
San Quentin's gas  
chamber.

1942  
Last  
official  
hanging  
occurs.



Year	CCI Rate	Felony Arrest Rate	Felony Drug Arrest Rate	Prison Population	Population
1950	898.1	1,170.0	136.6	11,598	10,586,223
1952	898.1	1,170.0	136.6	11,598	10,586,223
1960	1,441.8	1,170.0	136.6	21,660	15,860,000
1970	2,987.1	2,049.8	769.4	22,399	20,039,000
1980	3,922.1	1,977.2	345.8	27,916	23,668,145
1990	3,443.0	2,490.5	627.9	99,145	29,557,836

**1945 1966 1971 1981 1990**

**1944** California's penal system restructured with Prison Reorganization Act. Departments of Justice and Corrections created.

**1945** Bureau of Criminal Statistics (now Criminal Justice Statistics Center) formed to collect criminal justice data.

**1952** Bureau of Criminal Statistics begins collecting data on felony crimes and arrests, superior court dispositions, adult commitments, Youth Authority wards, juvenile probation, and jail population.

**1960** Caryl Chessman executed at San Quentin. His execution for crimes less than murder reopens debate on death penalty.

**1963** U.S. Supreme Court rules that criminal defendants must have counsel and that illegally acquired evidence is not admissible.

**1966** U.S. Supreme Court rules that persons accused of crimes must be informed of their constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent, before being questioned ("Miranda rights").

**1967** Aaron Mitchell dies in San Quentin's gas chamber for the killing of a Sacramento police officer. He becomes the 194th person executed in the gas chamber in California.

**1969** "Use a Gun, Go to Prison" statute enacted by California Legislature.

**1971** Keldgord Report calls for restructuring of corrections in California with emphasis on community-based alternatives.

**1972** Death penalty ruled unconstitutional by California Supreme Court.

**1974** Public vote results in reinstatement of the death penalty in California.

**1976** Legislation decriminalizes marijuana; possession of one ounce or less becomes a misdemeanor.

**1977** Death penalty reinstated in California.

**1981** Legislation provides mandatory minimum penalties for drunk driving convictions.

**1982** California voters approve Proposition 8, the "Victims' Bill of Rights."

**1985** California Department of Justice's (DOJ) Automated Fingerprint Identification System becomes operational; identifies Richard Ramirez, the serial killer known as the Night Stalker.

**1989** Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Control Act approved. It regulates permits and bans the sale, manufacture, and distribution of military-type assault rifles.

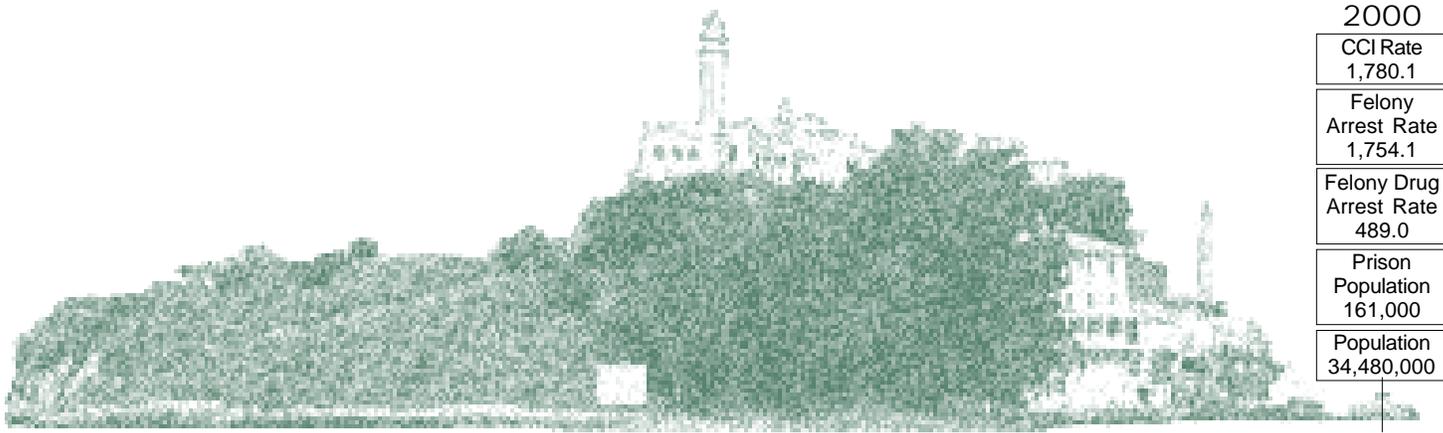
**1990** Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management recommends expanded use of punishment options with emphasis on community-based alternatives in response to prison overcrowding.

**1991** Beating of Rodney King by four police officers galvanizes public opinion nationwide and highlights problems of police and minority relations. U.S. DOJ launches "Operation Weed and Seed" to help prevent crime and improve quality of life in high-crime neighborhoods.

**1990** Congress passes Crime Control Act of 1990 prohibiting importation and manufacture of semi-automatic weapons. Act also establishes gun-free school zones.

**1990** Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act becomes law.

**1990** First boot camp in California opens for juveniles in Los Angeles County.



2000
CCI Rate 1,780.1
Felony Arrest Rate 1,754.1
Felony Drug Arrest Rate 489.0
Prison Population 161,000
Population 34,480,000

1992                      1995                      1997                      1999                      2000

1992

Jury acquits four peace officers for the beating of Rodney King. Six days of rioting in Los Angeles County result in 54 deaths; 2,383 injuries; 13,000 arrests; and \$700 million in property damage.

1994

California's "Three Strikes and You're Out" criminal sentencing measure signed into law.

Congress amends Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. States must determine whether disproportionate minority confinement exists, identify the causes, and develop and implement corrective action.

Congress passes Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. California law exceeds federal standard.

President signs Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Bill contains funding authority totaling \$30.2 billion for more than 60 different law enforcement, prison construction, and crime prevention programs.

1995

U.S. district judge holds that inadequacies in the mental and medical health care system, a pervasive pattern of excessive force against inmates, and the inclusion of seriously mentally ill inmates in security housing units violate the 8th Amendment at California's Pelican Bay State Prison.

California DOJ publishes its first hate crime report.

California DOJ reestablishes the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System.

1996

President signs "Megan's Law," requiring states to notify law enforcement officials and the community when a convicted sex offender moves into a neighborhood.

California voters approve Proposition 215, "Medical Use of Marijuana Initiative."

1997

Restorative Justice Program funded in Santa Clara County.

California Legislature enacts Gambling Control Act. Act creates Division of Gambling Control within California DOJ.

1998

California's Little Hoover Commission finds that "county jails and state prisons do not have adequate space to house inmates and adequate plans do not exist to deal with the crisis."

FBI announces the National DNA Index System (NDIS).

California DOJ implements Applicant Live Scan, a system for the electronic submission of fingerprints and subsequent automated background check and response.

1999

Two Colorado high school students kill 13 and injure 23 before taking their own lives. This incident, the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history, arouses nationwide concern about school violence and gun control.

Scandal erupts when former police officer, in a plea bargaining bid, alleges widespread corruption in California's largest police department's anti-gang program.

Gallup Poll reveals widespread concern about racial profiling.

2000

California voters approve Proposition 21, the "Juvenile Crime Initiative," requiring more juveniles to be tried in adult court and certain juveniles to be held in jail or state correctional facilities.

FBI announces creation of the Internet Fraud Complaint Center.

President signs Violence Against Women Act of 2000.

U.S. DOJ "consent decree," signed by Los Angeles mayor, calls for reforms within the city's police department and appointment of a federal monitor.

California voters approve Proposition 36, Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, allowing certain offenders probation with drug treatment.

Sources: Population data were provided by the Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance. Prison population data were provided by the California Department of Corrections. Crime and arrest data were extracted from *Crime and Delinquency in California*, published by the California Department of Justice.

Notes: The California Crime Index (CCI) comprises homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Crime rates were calculated using the total population. Arrest rates were calculated using the total *at-risk* population (persons 10-69 years of age).