

A Salute to the Law

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Nick Harris was a Los Angeles private eye who began sharing detective exploits both through live lectures and serialized newspaper recounting before stepping before the microphone in 1923 over KFI. Astonishingly, Harris' weekly program (heard twice weekly in the late 1930s) ran for nearly 20 years until 1942. While unknown to modern old-time radio aficionados, Harris is an unquestionable pioneer of radio drama.

A Salute to the Law is commonly listed as *Nick Harris, Detective* on different old-time radio sites. However, both the introduction to the program and references in the trades indicate its true title was *A Salute to the Law*, at least by the 1930s. Unfortunately, little is known about this long-running series at this point. The few extant recordings identify a number of writers and performers between 1934 and 1940, none of whom are widely known among old time radio fans. A woman by the name of Carolyn Caro is identified as the producer during the 1930s. Nick Harris himself appears to have introduced each episode.

By the 1930s *A Salute to the Law* was a quarter hour drama that was sometimes continued from week to week. In later years the series was aired over sister-station KECA. They used a small cast of performers that seemed to change with some frequency. The musical accompaniment was plain organ, long the favored instrument for low budget productions. Nick Harris died of a heart attack on New Year's Day, 1943, bringing *A Salute to the Law* to an abrupt end.