

Michigan Supreme Court Dedicates Hall of Justice

On October 8, 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court held a special session to dedicate its new home, the Michigan Hall of Justice. The dedication of the building marked the first time in Michigan history that a specific building had been set aside for the state Supreme Court and the building became the Court's first "permanent" home since leaving the Capitol in 1970.

The Hall of Justice, of course, houses much more than the chambers and offices of the Michigan Supreme Court. It is also the home of the Michigan Court of Appeals Fourth District, the State Court Administrative Offices, the Michigan Judicial Institute, and the interactive museum-style gallery the Hall of



Society President Wallace D. Riley addresses the Court during opening Oral Arguments in the Old Supreme Court Chambers.

Justice Learning Center.

The dedication program began, as have all opening oral argument sessions for the past several years,

with a brief presentation by the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society in the Old Supreme Court Chambers of the Capitol building. At approximately 11:30, over 130 judges and Justices from around the state, including many of the former Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, gathered outside the Capitol building for a procession from the old home of the Court to the new.

At 12:00 noon, the Crier called the Court into special session and the ceremony dedicating the Hall of Justice was underway. The program began with Chief Justice

Maura D. Corrigan addressing the audience and emphasizing that the Hall of Justice is the peoples' building. In her remarks, she



The procession of judges and Justices leaves the Capitol and follows the promenade to the Hall of Justice.



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stated:

This courthouse is the peoples' building. It is here to do the peoples' business in the third branch of government. My colleagues and I, judges and Justice of Michigan, are privileged to share this historic day with you. The Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court for many generations dreamed of standing where we stand today, before this building that so magnificently symbolizes the role of law. Today the dream of our predecessors is no longer deferred. Today the dream is realized.

Justice Corrigan then introduced Bishop Kenneth Povich, retired Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing, for the invocation.

Several other dignitaries took part in the day's events. The program featured Governor John Engler, Senator Harry Gast, Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Lansing Mayor David C. Hollister, and State Bar President Reginald M. Turner, Jr.

In his remarks, Governor Engler reminded the audience what a long journey it had been to commission and dedicate a building for the judicial branch.

This is both a historic and a fulfilling day. By one reckoning dated from the Supreme Court's move into the temporary quarters, what is now the G. Mennen Williams Building in 1970, it took 32 years for this day to arrive. By another reckoning dated from the ratification of the Constitution of 1834, it took 167 years for us to reach this point.... The Michigan judiciary has come a long way since meeting back in the 1830s at a tavern on Fort Street in Detroit. How we got sort of here from there is quite a tale. A key chapter in this story that I can mention here today began 82 years ago when a man visited Lansing and he had an idea. That man was Harlan Bartholomew, one of America's first great city planners.... He recommended Lansing take its cue from Washington, D.C., with its beautiful mall extending west from the Capitol Building. There should be dignity, order and beauty in Lansing's Capitol Complex. Spaces should be designed to encourage citizens to enter the mall, promenade its length, visit public sites, and enjoy picnics on the grounds. Bartholomew even envisioned a building on the west end of our mall that would anchor the wonderful public spaces and complement the capitol. He advocated a building in the classical style to ignoble state government to express the timeless values of our civilization. Well for many, many reasons, above all certainly the Great Depression and Second World War, the state

was unable to act on Harlan Bartholomew's vision for decades and the capitol complex only began to take shape with the completion of the Mason Building in 1953.... And still there was a strong sentiment for a more traditional building anchoring the west end of the mall. We had to wait a few decades but finally, now, what Harlan Bartholomew envisioned back in 1920, a magnificent building, as he put it, "worthy of the people of Michigan", a building that complements one of the most beautiful state capitals in the union, a building whose colonnade invites citizens to approach our Halls of Justice. A building whose glass dome lets light into our judiciary. A building whose wings gesture towards the other branches of government. A building with a learning center that is truly second to none in the nation. It's a building of limestone and marble that symbolize the permanent things on which our constitutional republic is founded. Justice, ordered freedom and self-government under the rule of law. A building, ladies and gentlemen, that is the finest state judicial edifice in the United States. And it is a fitting home for the finest judiciary in the United States.

Following Governor Engler, Justice Michael F. Cavanagh addressed the audience, focusing on not only the building itself, but on the grounds it was built upon.

Permit me to begin today with a brief reflection on the trip we took a few moments ago. Standing there directly to our east is the beautiful Capitol of Michigan. The last time citizens gathered in Lansing for so significant a dedication was on January 1, 1879 when that building was dedicated. Since that day we have twice turned a century. Today we walked from that magnificent building to this. We walked from our first permanent courtroom to a courthouse that we expect to carry us 200 years into the future. As I mentioned when we broke ground on this site, our walk today carried us down not just a freshly laid sidewalk, but down old Michigan Avenue and across Butler. Through the ghosts and the shadows of a diverse working class neighborhood that once stood here. At that groundbreaking I said today we put up a Hall of Justice. We build it not in an empty field, but in a neighborhood. Not among parked cars, but atop the homes and playgrounds and dreams of the people who lived here. So we hold this land in trust, obliged to do justice for the people of Michigan whose homes, schools and dreams once filled this area. And as I look around today I'm struck by the many ways in which this new building will remind us of what we are here to do....

Justice Cavanagh also took the time to reiterate that the Hall of Justice is the peoples' building, and that it will be used to assist the people of Michigan in realizing justice.

So justice then is not something invented or created by the persons who have been asked to serve for a time as judges. It comes from the people and from the values and traditions that form the mind and the sole of the people. The Michigan Constitution speaks also about this one court of justice. Not one court of laws or one court of legislative enactments or one court of judicial inventions. This is one court of justice. And each of us has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution that creates and continues that court.



The Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, joined by judges of the Court of Appeals, gavel open the Hall of Justice.

The program continued with State Bar President Reginald M. Turner, Jr. presenting the Court with a time capsule that would be sealed to commemorate the events of the day and opened on October 8, 2102.

The Justices of the Court, both current and former, and the judges of the Court of Appeals, then gaveled the Hall of

Justice open.

The program concluded with a benediction by Rabbi David A. Nelson, of the Congregation Beth Shalom.

Excerpts of remarks were taken from the transcript of the October 8, 2002 special session of the Michigan Supreme Court. For the full transcript, visit www.micourthistory.org and click on Recent News.

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President's Message:

The year 2002 was a busy and successful one for the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. The highlight of the year was, of course, the dedication of the Hall of Justice on October 8, 2002; a ceremony in which the Society participated and offered support. In addition to the dedication of the new building, the Society joined with the State Bar of Michigan to host a fundraising dinner for the Hall of Justice Learning Center. Nearly 500 people attended the event and over \$60,000.00 was raised to help the Learning Center continue to update and maintain its programs.

In April, the Society held its 11th Annual Luncheon in Detroit. At the Luncheon, former Society directors Thomas A. McNish and Roger F. Lane were honored. In addition, then-Governor John Engler was presented with the first ever "Legal History Award" and delivered a speech summarizing his judicial philosophy.

In 2002, the Society, with the help of MSU's Vincent Voice Library, completed the transfer of our existing oral histories onto CD-rom and onto the World Wide Web. You can see and hear the histories by visiting the Society's website, www.micourthistory.org, and clicking on the Resources menu.

I thank each and every one of our members for your ongoing support of the Society's various projects and for your recognition of the importance of our work.

- Wallace D. Riley, President

Save the Date! Annual Membership Luncheon

Thursday, April 24, 2003 -- Noon
at
The Detroit Athletic Club
Detroit, Michigan



In Recent News.....

SOCIETY HIRES 2003 COLEMAN INTERN

The Historical Society is proud to welcome Allyson Miller as its 2003 Coleman Intern.

Allyson is a Michigan native who is currently a junior at Michigan State University. Her pursuit of a degree in Humanities/Pre-Law, with a focus on Women's History and Law, made her a logical selection for this year's internship.

In addition to her scholastic qualifications, Allyson's previous work experiences made her well-prepared to perform her duties for the Society. Previous internships have proven her to be a self-starter who can accomplish her assigned tasks with minimal supervision.



Allyson will be working with Society Executive Director Angela Bergman to learn some of the administrative tasks of the Society and will be continuing the "Women in the Law" research project begun by the 2001 intern.

Allyson plans to continue on to law school upon graduation from MSU and is currently in the process of selecting schools to which she will apply.

BIG FOUR WRITING AND RESEARCH PROJECT UNDERWAY

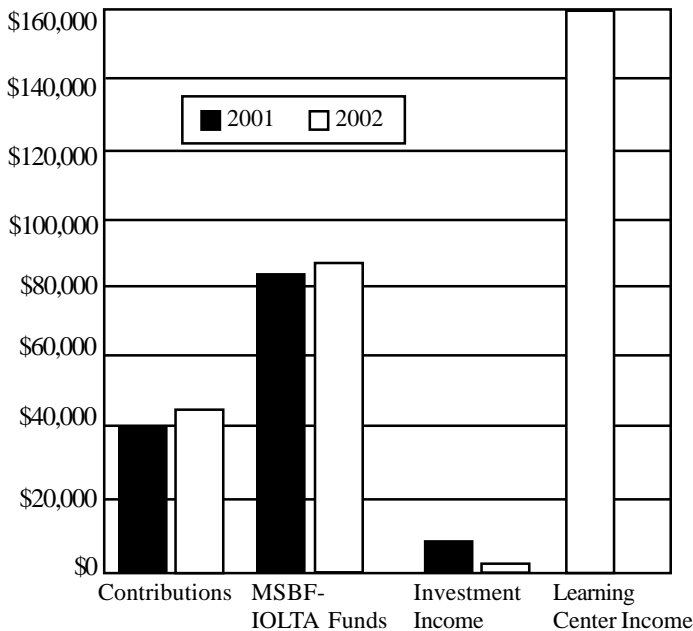
The Society has moved forward with plans to set up a research fellowship with Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The fellowship, which will begin with the 2003-2004 academic year, will be offered to a graduate student who will research a topic related to the history of the Michigan Supreme Court and produce a publishable scholarly product for distribution by the University and the Society.

For more information on the fellowship, please go to www.micourthistory.org and click on Research Grants under the About Us menu.

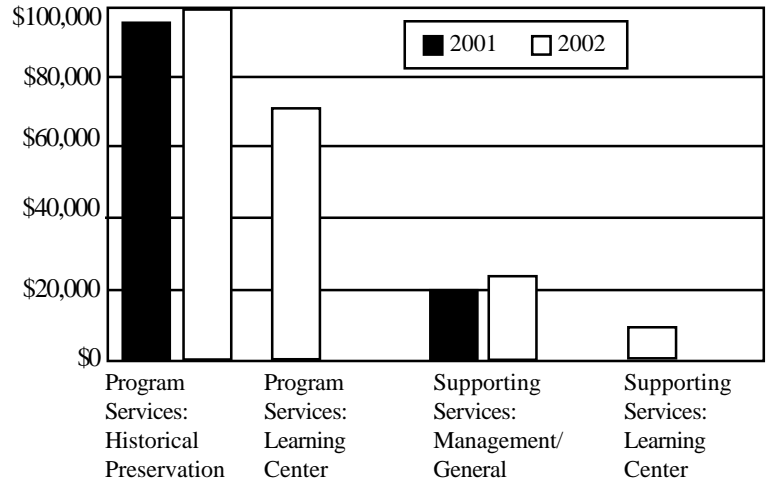
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Statements of Activities - Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2002 and 2001**

Public Support and Revenues:	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Contributions/Dues	\$ 45,016	\$ 39,911
MSBF-IOLTA Funds	\$ 87,992	\$ 84,104
Investment Income	\$ 1,428	\$ 10,385
Learning Center	<u>\$160,055</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$294,491	\$134,400
Expenses:		
Program Services: Historical Preservation	\$100,077	\$ 94,940
Program Services: Learning Center	\$ 70,206	\$ 0
Supporting Services: Management and General	\$ 23,763	\$ 20,806
Supporting Services: Learning Center	<u>\$ 12,389</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Expenses	\$206,435	\$115,746
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$(62,234)	\$(24,994)
Change in Net Assets	\$ 25,822	\$ (6,340)
Net Assets:		
Beginning of Year	\$365,141	\$371,481
End of Year	\$390,963	\$365,141

Public Support and Revenue



Expenses



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The Society groups its members into three categories: Life Members, which includes the categories of Benefactor, Major Sponsor, and Sponsor; Annual Members, containing the categories of Contributing, Sustaining, Patron, and Student; and Corporate/ Law Firm Members. The year listed after each member's name indicates the year he/she joined the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

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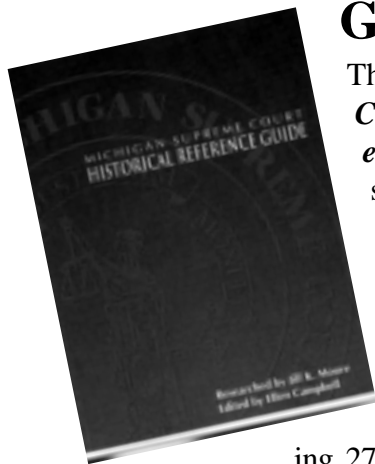
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