

Luncheon Program Will Feature Vignette by Co-Editor of *The History of Michigan Law*

On April 27, the Historical Society will once again host the Annual Membership Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club. The Luncheon, which will begin with a short reception at 11:30, will feature remarks by Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor, the presentation of the Legal History Award, and a legal vignette by Professor Paul Finkelman.

Presentation of the Legal History Award

The Legal History Award was created by the Society in 2002 to recognize individuals who have greatly impacted Michigan's legal history through their support of historical pursuits, their outstanding support of the Society and its efforts, or through their work in the law.

The award is presented periodically to commend one or more of Michigan's citizens for their ongoing support of and interest in Michigan's legal heritage. The award may be given in recognition of a single significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's legal history or to honor an individual's long-term support of the efforts of the Society and the preservation of the history of the Court. An individual may also be recognized for significant contributions to Michigan's legal heritage and as a "historic figure" in Michigan's legal system.

Individuals are honored for their unselfish, outstanding, and unique service to and on behalf of the Michigan

Supreme Court Historical Society, the legal profession, and the public. The award signifies unusual and extraordinary help and assistance to the Society and the pursuit of the preservation of Michigan Supreme Court history, as well as significant contributions to the Michigan judicial system.

This year, the Historical Society will present the Award in memory of Mrs. Rosa Parks. Mrs. Parks is being recognized for her role in sparking the civil rights movement and the consequent changes in federal and state laws nationwide. She is being honored

as an individual who exemplifies the fact that any citizen, not only lawyers, judges, and law makers, can significantly impact the legal system and our perception of justice.

A representative of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development will accept a framed resolution honoring Mrs. Parks and a donation from the Historical Society in her memory.



Rosa Parks sits in the front of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1956. United Press photo. Location of Original: New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection.

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Legal Vignette

Professor Paul Finkelman, Chapman Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa College of Law, will present a legal vignette entitled “The Surprising History of Race and Law in Michigan.”

Professor Finkelman, along with Martin Hershock, associate professor and chair of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, is the co-editor of The History of Michigan Law.

Professor Finkelman has published more than twenty books and more than 100 scholarly articles on such issues as Constitutional law; American legal history; Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, race relations, freedom of Religion and

Separation of Church and State; the law of American slavery; the problem of Thomas Jefferson and slavery; the war on drugs; the electoral college; freedom of speech and press; the second Amendment, American race relations, and baseball and law. He



has appeared in a number of documentaries on public television and the History Channel, and published essays in various newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Baltimore Sun*. He is the first President of the 1921 Tulsa Memorial Foundation, which is building a museum to honor and commemorate the victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot.

He is the co-author of the leading history of the U.S. Supreme Court, *A March of Liberty: A Constitutional History of the United States* (2 vols.) which was published by Oxford University Press.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON TICKETS

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About The History of Michigan Law

Michigan’s legislators, lawyers, and judges, throughout the state’s history, have played a leading role in developing modern civil rights law, protecting the environment, and assuring the right to counsel for those accused of crimes. Michigan was the first jurisdiction in the English-speaking world to abolish the death penalty and was a beacon of liberty for fugitive slaves and free blacks before the Civil War. The History of Michigan Law presents the first serious survey of this rich legal past.

Kevin Boyle, author of Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age, says, “With this marvelous collection, editors Paul Finkelman and Martin Hershock shed new light on the state’s complex, contentious legal history. Impeccably researched and engagingly written, the twelve essays collected here represent scholarship at its very best.” The History of Michigan Law will be the entry point for all future studies that involve law and society in Michigan and will be invaluable in the comparative study of state law.

The book, soon to be published by the Ohio University Press, is part of the Ohio University Press Series on Law, Society, and Politics in the Midwest. The thrust of the series is historical, but it also focuses on contemporary issues in political science, law, sociology, economics, and other fields. Professor Finkelman serves as the series editor.

Other titles in the series include A Place of Recourse: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, 1803-2003, by Roberta Sue Alexander; The Black Laws: Race and the Legal Process in Early Ohio, by Stephen Middleton; and Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati’s Black Community, 1802-1868, by Nikki M. Taylor.

Publication of The History of Michigan Law was made possible by the generous support of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

For more information about the book, contact the Ohio University Press at:

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Learning Center Working on Several New Projects

Learning Center Coordinator Rachael Drenovsky reports that the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center is currently undertaking a number of activities.

Tours

As part of the volunteer-led guided tours, more than 4,000 people are expected to visit the Learning Center from April to June. Several new volunteers have completed docent training in time to assist with the end-of-the-school-year rush.

Law Day

On May 1, the Learning Center will celebrate Liberty Under Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers. Each group visiting the Center on Law Day will meet with a judge or justice, and teachers will receive curriculum materials related to the theme.

Careers Programs

Students interested in legal careers will attend programs offered June 26–30 (10th–12th grades) and July 17–21 (7th–9th grades). Activities will include the opportunity to speak with professionals from a variety of backgrounds.

Animation Project

In conjunction with Ferris State University, the Learning Center is completing a new introductory video for the gallery and a game about the court system, which will be

accessible through the Center’s web site. This project is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

Hall of Justice Note Card Fundraiser

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society is offering blank Hall of Justice note cards for sale. All proceeds from the note cards will go to the Learning Center Fund.

Each card features one of six different images of the building, including views of the exterior, the Learning Center, and the Supreme Court courtroom. The cards are \$5 per package of six or \$25 per package of 30, including sales tax. To order cards, contact Angela Bergman at the Historical Society office (517-373-7589).



Have you paid your 2006 Dues?

For your convenience, the Society accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Please call (517) 373-7589 to make your payment by phone, or complete and mail or fax the following information to: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, 1st Floor Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915
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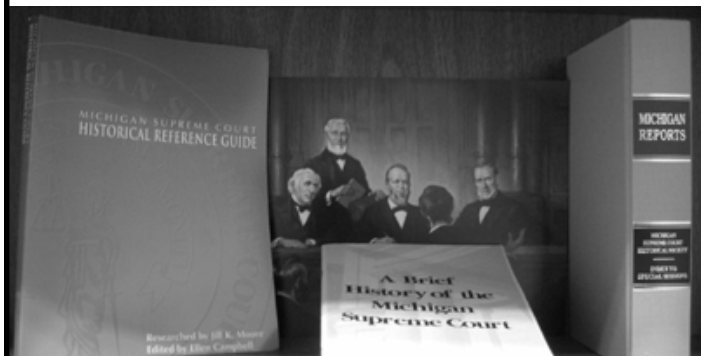
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Mission Statement

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to preserving documents, records, and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court. The Society produces publications, special events and other projects to achieve its goals in education and restoration. Current officers and directors are:

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Society Update is published quarterly by the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. Writing submissions, article ideas, news and announcements are encouraged. Contact the Society at: 1st Floor Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915

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