

A Look Back at 2005: A Message from the Society President

The past year has been another successful one for the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. In 2005, we hosted several special events, dedicated two portraits to the Michigan Supreme Court, continued to promote our publications, and continued to provide resources for teachers, students, and citizens interested in the history of the Court.

Special Events

In April, we hosted our Annual Membership Luncheon in Detroit. Nearly 150 members and friends joined us to hear a legal vignette by Frederick M. Baker, Jr., a Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner, about the life of Justice John Voelker.

In May, we were honored to host a special session of the Court in which the portrait of former Justice Theodore Souris was dedicated to the Court.

In October, in conjunction with the Opening Session of the Michigan Supreme Court, we hosted a special session of the Court recognizing the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Michigan Territorial Supreme Court. At that session, Professor David G. Chardavoyne spoke about the rich history of the Territorial Court and the evolution of the judicial system in the early days of the Michigan Territory. A portrait of Justice Augustus B. Woodward, the first

Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, was unveiled and dedicated to the Court.

The Court's collection of official court portraits, which now numbers 87, is one of the largest and most complete in the nation.

Research

In an effort to further the study of Court history and to encourage research about the Court, we sponsored several research related projects.

The first was the annual Coleman Internship. The 2005 Coleman Intern, Caroline Zickgraf, completed a bibliography of the research resources available to everyone interested in the history of the Court. The end result is an Excel database of nearly 2000 citations related to Michigan Supreme Court history. The database is loosely divided into five categories: Administration, Biographical Information, Cases, Issues, Michigan Supreme Court History, and Michigan Supreme Court Politics. Anyone interested in reviewing the database can contact Angela Bergman in the Historical Society office and have the entire database sent to you on CD-rom.

The Big Four Writing and Research Fellowship, which was conducted in partnership with Western Michigan University, concluded this year. Coreen Derifield completed her two-year research project

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and wrote her masters thesis titled "Defining Peaceful Picketing: The Michigan Supreme Court and the Labor Injunction, 1900-1940."

In cooperation with Paul Moreno, a Political Science professor at Hillsdale College, the Historical Society is selecting a list of the Michigan Supreme Court's most socially and politically significant cases. Our committee, which includes two former Michigan Supreme Court justices, hopes to have the first phase of this project completed by the end of this year.

Publications

We continue to work to distribute all of our publications and to improve and add content to our website, www.micourthistory.org.

This year, we added several more pages to the

Biographies and Portraits section of the website, including alphabetical lists of the Michigan Supreme Justices and Chief Justices, and a chart of the yearly composition of the Court.

Board of Directors

As we do every year, the members of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society met in January, April, and October to plan and discuss upcoming events and programs and to discuss and review the effectiveness of past and current programs and activities. At our April 2005 meeting, we welcomed the Honorable Michael G. Harrison to the Board.

As always, I must extend a very special thanks to all of our Board members, who each volunteer their time and efforts to ensure that the Society continues to live up to its mission and meet its goals.

I must also extend a special thanks to each one of you, our dedicated members, for your continued support. Without you, we could not continue to create new research projects, to publish new materials, and to educate Michigan's teachers, students, and citizens about the history, role and organization of the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan judicial system.

- Wallace D. Riley



2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to Right (Back Row) Richard D. Reed, Carl W. Herstein, Hon. Michael G. Harrison, Hon. Denise Langford Morris, Hon. Avern L. Cohn, Hon. Charles L. Levin, Lawrence G. Campbell, Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh (Front Row) Lawrence P. Nolan (Treasurer), Christine D. Oldani, Wallace D. Riley (President), Hon. Wendy L. Potts, Frederick G. Beusser, III (Vice President), and Charles R. Rutherford (Secretary)
Not Pictured: John T. Berry, Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Leonard D. Givens, Bruce M. Groom, Ronald D. Keefe, Hon. Conrad L. Mallett, Jr., Eugene D. Mossner, John W. Reed, and Hon. James L. Ryan

Save the Date!

Join the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court and Fellow Society Members At the Annual Membership Luncheon

Thursday, April 27, 2006 -- Noon
at
The Detroit Athletic Club
Detroit, Michigan



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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What's Ahead in 2006: A Message from the Executive Director

2006 promises to be another busy year for the Historical Society. We will continue to develop new research projects, publications, and programs to share the history and stories of the Michigan Supreme Court with Michigan citizens.

We already have several exciting programs, projects, and events planned for the coming year.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

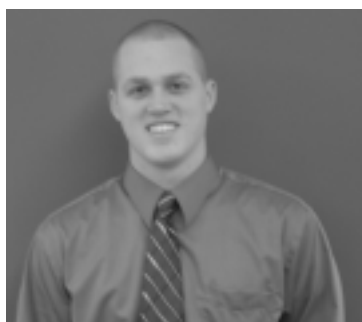
The *Society Update* will continue to be produced quarterly. All of our publications, including past issues of the *Update*, the biographies in the *Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*, and the text of the booklet "A Brief History of the Michigan Supreme Court," are now available on the Publications page of our website.

This year, we will again be focusing on improving and updating our website. We will be adding two main pages to the site— a timeline of important events in the history of the Court, complete with photos and portraits, and a "History of the Court" page that will give visitors a brief, concise overview of the history of the Court.

COLEMAN INTERNSHIP

The Historical Society is proud to welcome Lance Phillips as its 2006 Coleman Intern.

Lance is a senior at Michigan State University, majoring in History and Political Science. He has a 3.94 GPA and



has had an article published in *The Michigan State University Undergraduate Historian*. He is planning to attend law school after he is graduated from MSU.

Lance brings a great deal of research and writing experience to the Internship, as well as a great deal of enthusiasm for the history of the Court and for the Historical Society itself.

Lance will be working on several projects over the course of the spring and summer. First, he will be creating the two web pages that will be added to the website. He will also be working on a project that will detail the way each justice went on and off the Court— locating election and appointment information and documenting resignations, deaths, and defeats.

ORAL HISTORIES

The oral history interview with Justice Boyle has been completed. Once we have final approval of the transcript,

we will be working with the Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University to place both the audio file and transcript on-line with the rest of our collection.

We have also recently commissioned oral historian Glenn Ruggles to conduct an oral history of Harold Hoag, who was Deputy Clerk of the Court from 1967 through January 1, 1975, and Clerk of the Court from 1975 until December 15, 1982. We hope to have the interviews completed and transcribed by the end of 2006.

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

This year's annual Membership Luncheon will again be held at the Detroit Athletic Club and will take place on April 27th. All Society members and their guests are encouraged to attend this event to mingle with Michigan Supreme Court justices past and present and to interact with fellow members. This year's program will feature a legal vignette by Professor Paul Finkelman, co-editor of *The History of Michigan Law*, a book soon to be published by the Ohio State University Press.

OTIS SMITH LEGAL MILESTONE

On June 21, 2006, the State Bar of Michigan will be dedicating a legal milestone honoring former justice Otis M. Smith. The Historical Society will be working with the State Bar to plan event. More information about the event will follow in our Spring and Summer newsletters.

MISSION STATEMENT AND THANK YOU

With your generous support, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society continues to strive to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve, and display documents, records, and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court and the other Courts of Michigan, promote the study of the history of Michigan's courts, and increase public awareness of Michigan's legal heritage. We also work hard to sponsor and conduct historical research, provide speakers and educational materials for students, and sponsor and provide publications, portraits and memorials, special events, and projects consistent with our mission.

We are sincerely interested in the input and advice of our members. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, or questions about our programs and events. I can be reached at 517-373-7589 or abergman@micourthistory.org

I hope to see each of you at one of our upcoming events. Thank you for your generous support.

- Angela Bergman

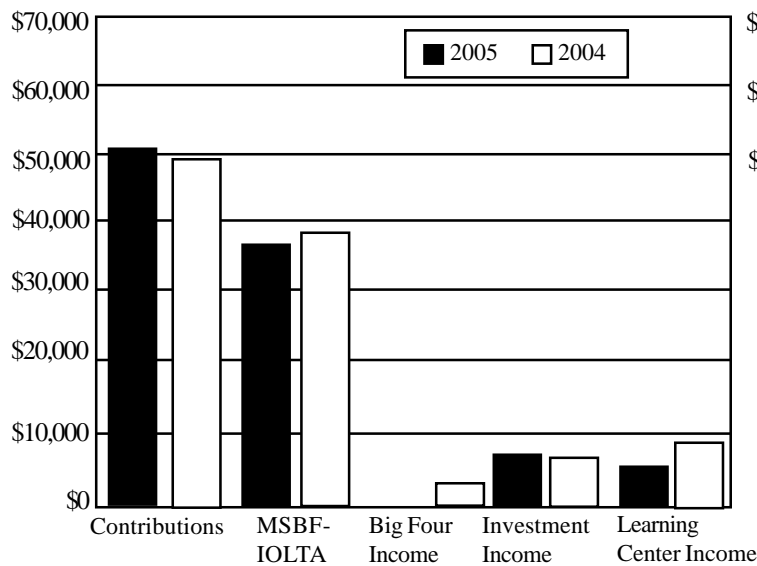
**Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc.
Statements of Activities - Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004**

Public Support and Revenues:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Contributions/Dues	\$ 51,630	\$ 51,636
MSBF-IOLTA Funds	\$ 36,682	\$ 38,532
Big Four Writing and Research Fund	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Investment Income	\$ 6,108	\$ 6,026
Learning Center	<u>\$ 5,551</u>	<u>\$ 9,115</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$ 99,971	\$108,809
Expenses:		
Program Services: Historical Preservation	\$100,150	\$101,319
Program Services: Learning Center	\$ 1,101	\$ 1,912
Supporting Services: Management and General	\$ 20,659	\$ 22,031
Supporting Services: Learning Center	<u>\$ 914</u>	<u>\$ 1,593</u>
Total Expenses	\$122,824	\$126,855
Net Gain/Loss for the Year	\$(22,853)	\$ (18,046)

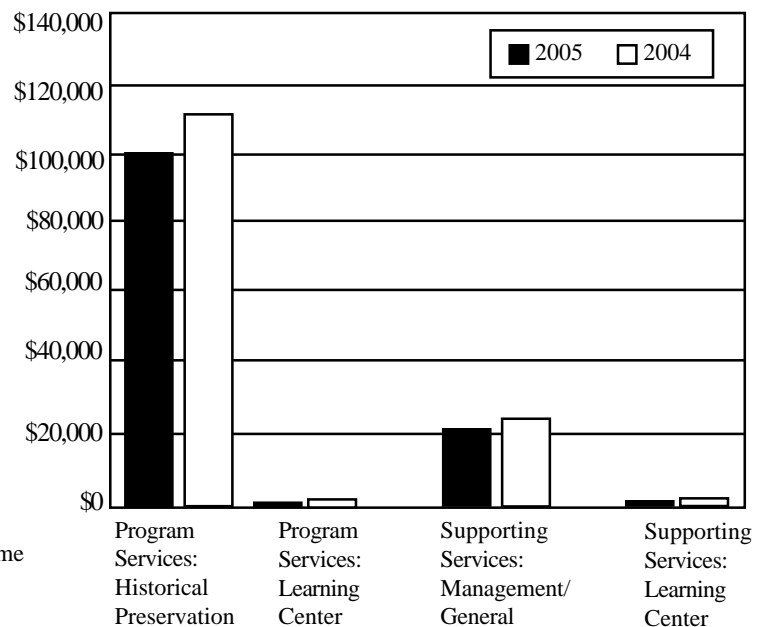
Net Assets - Cash Basis

Beginning of Year	\$418,820	\$419,107
End of Year	\$421,072	\$418,820
Change in Net Assets	\$ 2,252	\$ (287)

Public Support and Revenue



Expenses



Membership Roster

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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 Michael Gadola, 2002
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 Ronald D. Keefe, 2002

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 Lambro Niforos, 2003
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 James W. Smith, 2002
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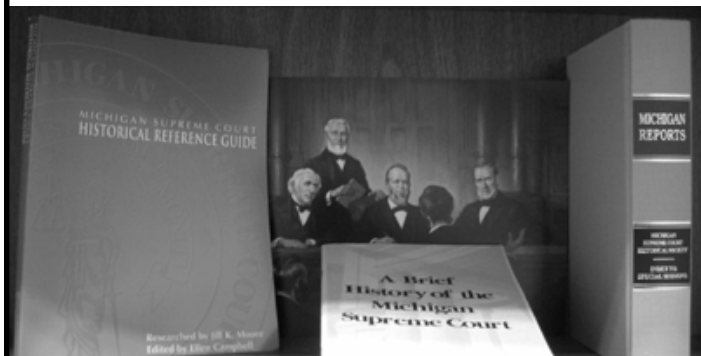
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Mission Statement

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, collects, preserves and displays documents, records, and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court and the other Courts of Michigan, promotes the study of the history of Michigan's courts, and seeks to increase public awareness of Michigan's legal heritage. The Society sponsors and conducts historical research, provides speakers and educational materials for students, and sponsors and provides publications, portraits and memorials, special events and projects consistent with its mission.

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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 Phone: 517-373-7589 Fax: 517-373-7592

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