

Society Receives \$45,000 Grant from State Bar Foundation

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society has been awarded \$45,000 from the Michigan State Bar Foundation as part of the Foundation’s Administration of Justice grant program. The grant will assist the Historical Society in publishing the *Verdict of History: The History of Michigan Jurisprudence Through Its Significant Supreme Court Cases* in the *Michigan Bar Journal*.

The *Verdict of History* project began more than four years ago and culminates in a collection of essays on twenty significant cases of the Michigan Supreme Court.

While every case that reaches the Michigan Supreme Court is important, the twenty cases included in the *Verdict of History* were chosen because of the way in which their results affected the everyday lives of Michigan citizens.

Publication of the *Verdict of History* in the *Bar Journal* begins in December and continues in the January, February, and March issues.



The Michigan State Bar Foundation was established in 1947 by lawyers and judges to help the legal profession meet its responsibilities to the public. Since then,



the Foundation has made more than 700 grants totaling over \$93 million to educate the public about the importance of the rule of law, train young people in peaceful conflict resolution, and assist those in need with critical civil legal services.

Foundation Executive Director Linda Rexer said, “The Foundation is very pleased to support publication of these essays to broaden information available to citizens, students, and scholars researching Michigan legal history and significant Michigan Supreme Court cases.”

The Historical Society is extremely grateful to the Michigan State Bar Foundation for their generosity.



Read the December *Bar Journal* and the *Verdict of History*!

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A Changing of the Guard at the Historical Society



Angela Bergman has announced her resignation as Executive Director of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, effective November 1, 2008.

On September 1, 2000, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society hired Angela to serve as its Executive Director. Now, almost eight years to the day later, Angela is welcoming her successor as she prepares to move cross-country.

Angela and her husband Mike, both natives of Montana, own a safflower company in northeastern Montana. Safflower is used in bird seed, as an eco-friendly kitty litter alternative, and to make ultra healthy safflower oil. In her resignation, Angela noted that it has become difficult to effectively run the business from Michigan. She and Mike will move with their two young sons Connor and Xander once the sale of their home is complete.

As a former high school English teacher, one of Angela's passions is education. As Executive Director, Angela expanded the Society's outreach to include educators, working with teachers to craft lesson plans for use in the classroom. Angela successfully administered the college internship program for the Historical Society, working with young adults interested in the law, to write articles and add to existing programs.

The Board of Directors has hired a successor for the position. Carrie Pickett began working with Angela on September 2, 2008. Carrie is the fourth person to serve as Executive Director, following Ellen Brennan, Jill Wright, and Angela Bergman.

Carrie comes to the position with a background in nonprofit communications. Most recently, Carrie worked as an editor/writer for the educational division of the American Hotel and Lodging Association. She was the public relations coordinator of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association from 2004-2006, planning educational conferences for the state's 83 county sheriffs and their personnel, publishing newsletters, and tracking legislation. Carrie also worked for the nonprofit public policy think tank, Michigan Prospect.



Carrie got her start, however, at the State Bar of Michigan in 1999 where she worked with Angela, who was then the assistant editor of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. Carrie coordinated the then-brand new daily email publication, *e-Journal*, a daily digest summarizing the opinions of the state's highest courts. Carrie left employment at the State Bar of Michigan in 2002-2003 after the birth of her first child.

Carrie lives in East Lansing with her husband Brett, a server engineer at Sparrow Hospital, and their two young children Griffin and Bela. She is active in her children's schools and their neighborhood, and enjoys yoga, reading, and being outside.

Have you paid your dues for 2008?

For your convenience, the Historical Society accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Please call (517) 373-7589 to make your payment by phone, or complete and mail the following information to: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, 1st Floor Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915 or fax to (517) 373-7592.

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Supreme Court Advocates Guild Hosts Second Annual Dinner

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society Advocates Guild hosted its second annual dinner for Advocates Guild members on Thursday, October 2, 2008, at the Hall of Justice in Lansing.

All seven Michigan Supreme Court justices and Court Clerk Corbin Davis were in attendance for the event. The opportunity to spend an evening with the justices is one of the special benefits of membership in the Advocates Guild.

Advocates Guild dinner attendees posed for photographs with the justices in the courtroom, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres in the justices' private conference room, viewed the justices' robing room and lockers, and dined in the rotunda on the top floor of the Hall of Justice with a view overlooking the Capitol building.

Each of the seven justices hosted a table of advocates. The eighth table, which was in the center of the rotunda, atop the Court's seal, was hosted by Court Clerk Corbin Davis. Dinner included Michigan cherry chicken, green beans, and apple pie a la mode for dessert, served by A Catered Affaire of Lansing.

The Advocates Guild was created in late 2006 to supplement the work of the Historical Society in preserving documents, records, and memorabilia of the Court, and to foster an interest in the role of advocates.

Advocates Guild membership is open to any Michigan attorney who has appeared before the Michigan Supreme Court in calendared appeals. For more information or to join, please visit www.micourthistory.org or call (517) 373-7589.



Advocates enjoy conversation at Justice Marilyn Kelly's table overlooking the Capitol complex.



An overview of the Advocates Guild dinner. Each justice hosted a table of advocates.

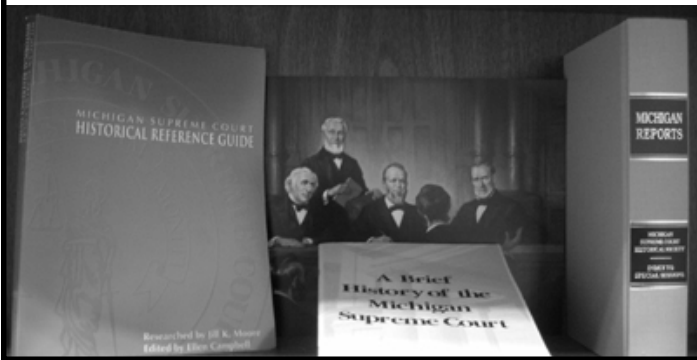


Advocates Guild First Chair Mary Massaron Ross smiles with the Court.

Call 517-373-7589

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- Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*.....\$15
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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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Dorothy Comstock Riley

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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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