

## Society Unveils New Look for Web Site

If you've ever visited our website, you already know that the Historical Society has an enormous amount of information online and available to the public. Unfortunately, in the past, the sheer volume of the information has made it difficult to find specific information quickly and efficiently.

With this challenge in mind, the Historical Society has been working with the Grand Rapids Community Media Center, a nonprofit organization specializing in web design and hosting for nonprofits, to give the site a new look and feel.

The new design, which went "live" in March, features several new elements.

First and foremost, the site is now searchable. This alone will help make the site easier to use, and will save researchers a great deal of time and energy.

Secondly, the menu has been reorganized. It is now conveniently divided into three main menus: Members,



Researchers, and Educators. While there is some overlap among the menu items, the new menu scheme simplifies the site and makes it easier to navigate.

The new design finally allows us to accept membership dues and payments for publications online.

Visitors can now join or renew on-line, purchase books, and pay with a credit card through Pay Pal.

- Members**
- Join or Renew Now
- News/Events
- Order Publications
- Support a Special Project
- Work With Us
- Researchers**
- Court History
- Justices
- Events and Sessions
- Glossary of Terms
- Links
- Order Publications
- Educator**
- Lesson Plans
- Justice Biography Quiz
- MSC Learning Center



Last but not least, the new design provides a simple system to keep the site current and to add new pages and features with minimal design time.

**Check it out at [www.micourthistory.org](http://www.micourthistory.org)!**

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# In Recent News.....

## **SOCIETY HIRES 2008 COLEMAN INTERN**

I am proud to announce that Brittany Lynn West has been selected as the 2008 Coleman Intern.

Brittany is a senior at Michigan State University. She will graduate in May with a Bachelor's degree in English. Brittany has been on the Dean's List at MSU every semester and works as a tutor to student athletes. She hopes to pursue her Ph.D. in English after graduation.



In addition to her excellent writing skills, Brittany brings an interest in history and research experience to the position. Through classes in her history cognate, she has completed several research projects using historic and legal documents; she completed a project on the Salem Witch Trials using 17th Century documents.

Brittany will be working on gathering visual and supporting materials for the Historical Society's significant cases project, will be gathering copyright releases for the images, and will be assisting me in some administrative tasks.

## **VERDICT OF HISTORY LESSON PLANS A HIT**

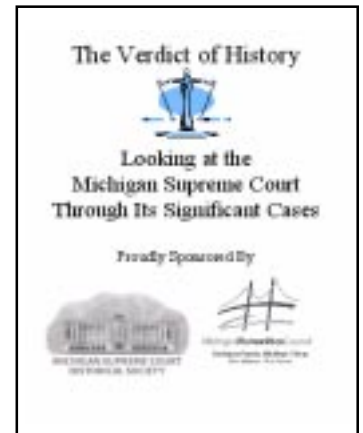
In December, Brian Stevens (Verdict of History Lesson Plan creator) and I presented an overview of the Verdict of History unit to teachers at the Center for Civic Education Through Law's annual teacher conference.

We distributed bound materials to approximately 20 high school teachers and walked them through the brief writing and mini-moot court protocols.

Responses to the lesson plans were very positive; the teachers were enthusiastic about their practical application in the classroom.

Additionally, the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) used and promoted the Verdict of History Unit as part of their CSI: Crime, Speed, and Implications: Understanding Michigan's Justice System seminar. The seminar, which was presented on MGTV, is available on DVD through the Wayne RESA. For more information, visit <http://www.resa.net>

The lesson plans are now available on-line at [www.micourthistory.org/lesson\\_plans\\_verdict.php](http://www.micourthistory.org/lesson_plans_verdict.php)



## **Join us in celebrating the Society's 20th Anniversary**

**Thursday, April 24, 2008  
Detroit Athletic Club**

- ◆ Entertainment by the Habeas Chorus ◆ Remarks by Chief Justice Taylor
- ◆ Presentation of the Legal History Award to Professor John W. Reed

**Luncheon Tickets Still Available!**

**\$35.00 per person  
To purchase tickets, contact  
Angela Bergman at 517-373-7589**

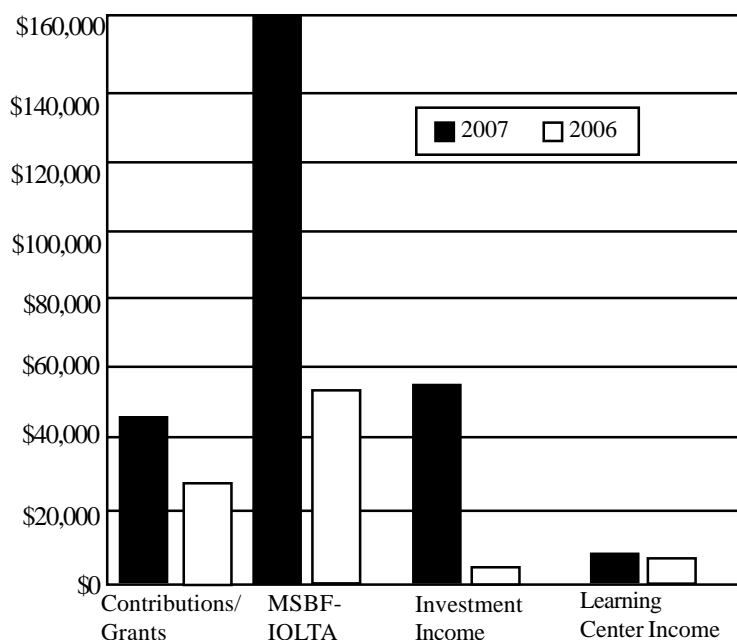
**Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc.**  
**Statements of Activities - Cash Basis**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006**

<b>Public Support and Revenues:</b>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Contributions/Dues	\$ 36,749	\$ 27,894
MSBF-IOLTA Funds	\$160,413	\$ 54,191
Michigan Humanities Council	\$ 8,460	\$ 0
Sales	\$ 0	\$ 70
Investment Income	\$ 55,859	\$ 5,873
Learning Center	<u>\$ 8,923</u>	<u>\$ 7,095</u>
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 270,404</b>	<b>\$ 95,123</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Program Services: Historical Preservation	\$ 78,156	\$ 75,887
Program Services: Learning Center	\$ 7,826	\$ 2,488
Supporting Services: Management and General	\$ 38,877	\$ 22,602
Supporting Services: Learning Center	<u>\$ 1,091</u>	<u>\$ 1,137</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 125,950</b>	<b>\$ 102,114</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss for the Year</b>	<b>\$ 144,455</b>	<b>\$ (6,991)</b>

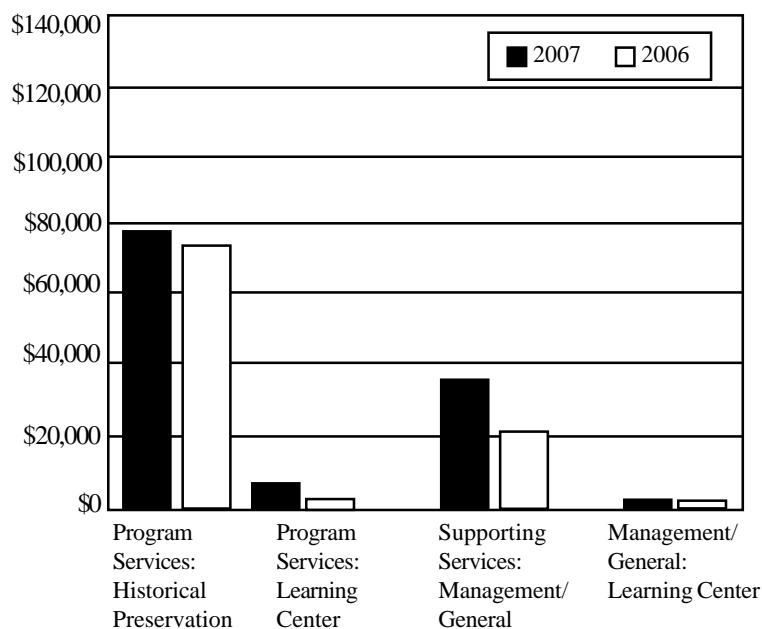
**Net Assets - Cash Basis**

Beginning of Year	\$464,339	\$421,072
End of Year	\$608,794	\$464,339
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$144,455</b>	<b>\$ 43,267</b>

**Public Support and Revenue**

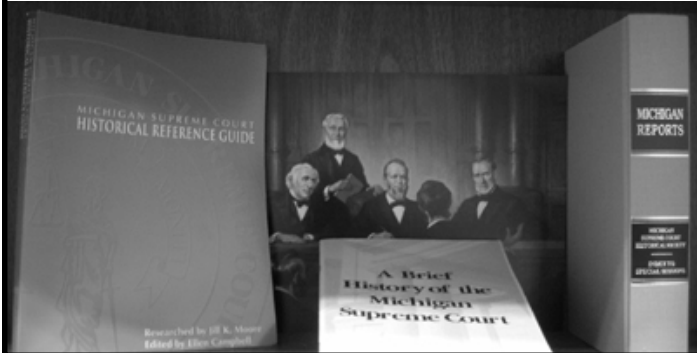


**Expenses**



**Order Your Favorite  
Historical Society Publication  
at [www.micourthistory.org/publications.php](http://www.micourthistory.org/publications.php)**

- Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*.....\$15
- Index to Special Sessions*.....\$35
- A Brief History of the Michigan Supreme Court*.....No Charge
- 8x10 Color Photograph of the Big Four Compilation Portrait.....\$10



**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.

**Founder:**

Dorothy Comstock Riley

**Officers:**

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**Executive Director:**

Angela Bergman

*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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