

LESSON 4 – Lecture Notes

Grade Level & Subject: High School Social Studies (History or Government)

Unit: Discovering the Rich History of the Michigan Supreme Court

Lesson: Faces of the Bench

I. Eugene Black

A. Born in Marine City, MI

B. Served the Court from 1956 -1973 after election as a Democrat in 1955

C. Career

1. World War II veteran
2. Attorney General for State of Michigan
3. Circuit Court Judge

D. Philosophy/Personality

1. Critical of the Court
2. Critical of colleagues on the Bench
3. Opinionated and outspoken

E. Education

1. One year of law studies after high school at Detroit College of Law
2. Became a student in a Circuit Court judge's office
3. Completed a brief one-year program at University of Michigan and was admitted to practice law

II. Thomas M. Kavanagh

- A. Born near Carson City, MI
- B. Educated at University of Detroit
- C. Career
 - 1. City Attorney and City Clerk in Carson City
 - 2. Attorney General
- D. Served on the Court from 1958-1975 (elected in 1958 and re-elected in 1966)
- E. Selected as Chief Justice 3 times
- F. Personality/Involvement
 - 1. Family was very important to him
 - 2. His faith and church were of the utmost importance
 - 3. He loved sports and played on the Attorney General's Office bowling team
 - 4. Died while still working for the Court
 - 5. Sought to maintain the independence of the Court and make it the best in the country

III. Edward Cahill

- A. Born in Kalamazoo
- B. His mother was the niece of Epaphroditus Ransom, who had been a Michigan Supreme Court Justice and Governor of Michigan
- C. Education

1. Kalamazoo College
 2. Apprenticeship in a private practice in Kalamazoo
- D. Raised the first African-American Infantry Unit in Michigan and served in the Civil War with these men from 1863 until the end of the war
- E. Moved to Chicago and set up a law practice
- F. After the Great Fire displaced his office, he returned to Michigan
- G. Served on the Court in 1890 when he was appointed to replace Thomas R. Sherwood. He lost the subsequent election but his reputation was impeccable amongst his peers

IV. Today's Justices

A. Michael F. Cavanagh

1. First elected in 1982 and continuously re-elected since then. His current term expires January 1, 2015.
2. Served as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court from 1991-1995
3. Educated at University of Detroit
4. Worked in private practice
5. Worked for the Court of Appeals
6. Involvements
 - a. Various community organizations
 - b. Numerous bar associations

- c. Numerous judicial committees

B. Marilyn J. Kelly

1. Born in Detroit
2. Former teacher of French Language and Literature
3. Education
 - a. B.A. from Eastern Michigan University
 - b. Master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont
 - c. J.D. from Wayne State University
4. Career
 - a. Private practice
 - b. Formed her own law firm
 - c. Court of Appeals
5. Served on the Court since 1997 and after re-election in 2004.
 - a. Term ends January 1, 2013

C. Robert P. Young, Jr. (Chief Justice)

1. Appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Governor Engler on January 3, 1999, to fill the seat vacated by Chief Justice Conrad L. Mallett, Jr. and elected to complete the term.
2. In 2010, he was re-elected to a third term, expiring January 1, 2019.
3. Born in Detroit. Educated at Harvard.
4. Career:

- a. AAA of Michigan
- b. Private practice
- c. Court of Appeals

D. Stephen J. Markman

1. Appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Governor John Engler, effective October 1, 1999, to fill the seat vacated by Justice James H. Brickley.
2. In 2000 he was elected to complete the term
 - a. Re-elected in 2004 to a full term which expires January 1, 2013
3. Involvement
 - a. Very involved with various law organizations
 - b. Teaches law
 - c. Published author
 - d. Involved in various community organizations
4. Work experience
 - a. Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution
 - b. Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary
 - c. Assistant Attorney General of the United States
 - d. Private practice

e. Michigan Court of Appeals

5. Received a Presidential nomination to serve as the U.S. Attorney
in Michigan in 1989

E. Diane Hathaway

1. Elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 2008 for a term
expiring January 1, 2017.

2. Education

a. Graduated Henry Ford Hospital with a degree in
Radiological Technology

b. Also holds a degree in real estate.

c. Continued education at Wayne State University and
Madonna College

d. Graduated from Detroit College of Law

3. Associations

a. State Bar of Michigan

b. Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

c. Macomb County Bar Association

d. Women Lawyers Association

4. Career

a. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge for 16 years

b. Assistant Prosecutor for the Head of the Drug Forfeiture
Division

5. 1st Justice sworn in at the hall of Justice, which was dedicated on October 12, 2002.

F. Mary Beth Kelly

1. Elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 2010 for a term expiring January 1, 2019.
2. Career:
 - a. Appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1999; elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2002 and 2008.
 - b. Appointed chief judge of the Wayne Circuit Court in 2002, the first woman to lead that bench.
 - c. Serves as an advisor to Vista Maria and University of Michigan's Detroit Center for Family Advocacy. Adjunct law professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School.
 - d. Practiced as a commercial litigation partner with Dickinson Wright before becoming a judge.
3. Education:
 - a. University of Michigan at Dearborn (undergraduate)
 - b. University of Notre Dame Law School

G. Brian K. Zahra

1. Appointed by Governor Rick Snyder on January 14, 2011, to replace Maura Corrigan.

2. Career:

- a. Appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in December 1998; elected to six year terms in 2000 and 2006.
- b. Served as the Court of Appeals Chief Judge Pro Tem from December 2005 to January 2007
- c. Appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1994; elected in 1996.
- d. Joined the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman in 1989.
- e. Served as law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for two years.
- f. Owned and operated a health & personal care retail store in downtown Detroit to finance education; later opening a grocery outlet also in Detroit.

3. Education:

- a. Wayne State University (undergraduate)
- b. University of Detroit Law School (with honors)