



Society Update

The Official Publication of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society

Spring 2013



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1988 - 2013

ANNUAL LUNCHEON MAY 2, 2013
DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB

25th Anniversary Luncheon



The Annual Membership Luncheon celebrating the Society's 25th anniversary will be held Thursday, May 2. The historical vignette will be delivered by former Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan.

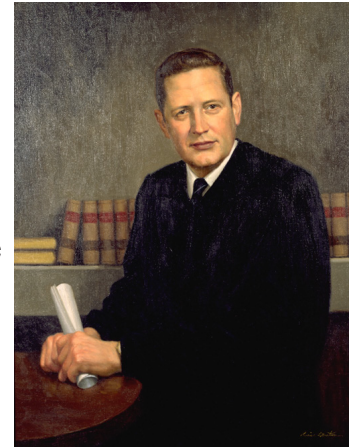
The Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison Avenue, Detroit.

Tickets are \$40 each or \$320 for a table of eight. To register for the Luncheon, visit our website at www.micourthistory.org.

The photo on the cover of this issue is from April 1988. It shows Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley, President Wallace Riley, and Governor John Engler dedicating the plaque that hangs outside the original Michigan Supreme Courtroom in the state Capitol building.

Thomas E. Brennan was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1966 in a “stunning, inadvisable, underfinanced, and unpredicted victory” defeating incumbent Justice Otis Smith. At the age of 37, Brennan became the 81st Justice, and in 1969, the youngest Chief Justice of the Court.

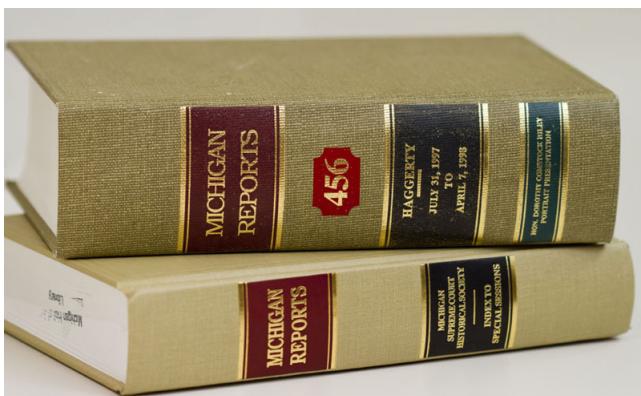
Brennan soon saw the need for a law school in Lansing and legal education became his passion. In 1972, he incorporated the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and on December 6, 1973, he made his farewell address to the Court.



*Official court portrait of
Thomas E. Brennan*

Brennan served as the first Dean of Cooley Law School until 1978, when he became its first president. He published *The Bench*, a fictionalized story of the Michigan Supreme Court in 2000. Currently he blogs at www.oldjudge.blogspot.com.

A charter member of the Society and its former Treasurer, Brennan and his wife Polly live in Florida now. They have several children, including daughter Ellen who was the first Executive Director of the Society.



Makes an excellent graduation gift!

It's our birthday but we want to give YOU the present! From now through June 30, anyone who wishes to purchase the *Index to Special Sessions* can do so at the reduced-price of \$25 (reg. \$35).

This handsome hard-bound volume was crafted to look like a copy of the Michigan Reports. Inside are transcripts from the portrait dedications of James Brickley, Patricia Boyle, John Voelker, Dorothy Comstock Riley, Talbot Smith, and many more. Read what the people closest to these justices had to say about what made them great.

Viviano Appointed to Michigan Supreme Court



Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. swears in 109th Michigan Supreme Court Justice David F. Viviano.
Photo courtesy Barb Browne, MSC

On February 27, 2013, David F. Viviano was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Governor Rick Snyder. Justice Viviano was previously a judge of the Macomb County Circuit Court, to which he was elected in 2006, and served in that court's criminal/civil division. In 2011, the Supreme Court appointed him to serve not only as chief judge of the circuit court, but also of the Macomb County Probate Court.

Justice Viviano is the third Justice from Macomb County to serve the Michigan Supreme Court. Others include Franz Kuhn, appointed by Governor Chase Osborn, 1912–1919; Howard Wiest, appointed by Governor Alexander Groesbeck, 1921–1945; and Neil Reid, elected, 1944–1956.

Society Presents Law Student Prize at MSU College of Law

On March 26, former Judge Michael G. Harrison of the Society's Board of Directors presented the Society's Law Student Prize to MSU College of Law student Alexander Gualdoni. He was chosen by Professor Charles Ten Brink for his excellence in the American Legal History Seminar.

Gualdoni is a 2002 graduate of Marquette Senior High School in Marquette, Michigan. He graduated from Northern Michigan University in 2005 with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Before beginning his law school studies in the Fall of 2009, Gualdoni served two tours of duty in Iraq. In January 2012, he deployed to Shir Khan, Afghanistan, resuming his study of law last Fall.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorius Service Medal, and Purple Heart.



Shown from left: Alexander Gualdoni, Dean Joan Howarth, and Hon. Michael G. Harrison.



The Society is pleased to have recently made a \$1,000.00 contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project in honor of John Swainson, WWII veteran, who went on to become a Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.



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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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