



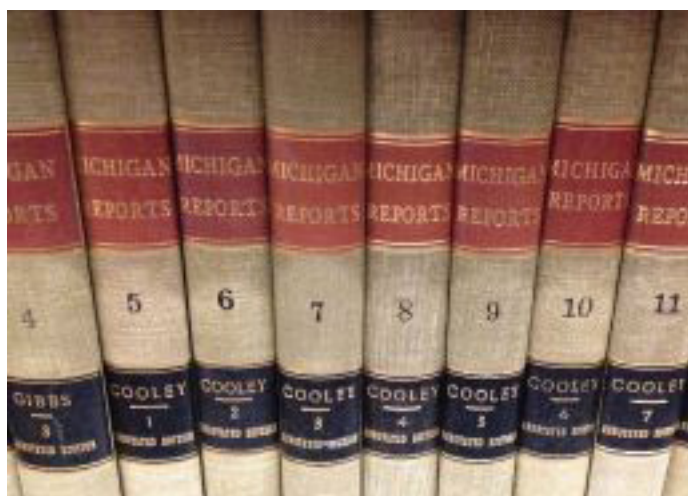
Society Update

The Official Publication of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society

Summer 2015

A Brief History of the Court Reporter's Office

By Kevin Cunningham, 2015 Coleman intern



Since 1838 the Michigan Official Reports have served the purpose of making known the decisions of the Michigan Supreme Court. The Reporter's office, the office charged with the task of crafting the Michigan Reports, has been essential to the effectiveness of a legal system founded on the common law that the Michigan Supreme Court has followed. It has been instrumental in ensuring that the decisions of the Michigan Supreme Court are made available in the precise manner and form decreed by the courts. E. Burke Harrington, the first Reporter for the Court of Chancery, received the position in 1838 and stated in the first Michigan Report: "The decisions of the court are in all cases given as they were delivered in writing at the time, or prepared by the Chancellor and his notes."¹ The Reporter of the Michigan Supreme Court has also served a great role to the public; the position has aided the needs of the citizens to be informed of the rule of law by which they are governed. Thus, the legislature has funded and authorized a system of law reporting that has served as a testament to the special role of the official

Court Reporter in the state of Michigan.

Since the establishment, by law, of the position of Reporter of the Supreme Court in 1845, twenty-two men have served as Reporter of Decisions. This group of men was selected for their individual histories of keeping a keen attention to detail and enforcing the strong and important points of a case in writing. Over this 177 year period, these twenty-two men, including Thomas M. Cooley, Henry Chaney, and Hiram Bond, have published 498 volumes of the Michigan Reports.² The office has changed in size and structure due to location, technology, and creation of new positions over the years; however, the goal of the office has not changed: to give guidance to the law as stated accurately by the Justices.

Since the position was introduced, it has been filled with established lawyers who have passed the Michigan Bar examination. The occupant of the position of Reporter of the Supreme Court has ranged in age, and each Reporter has served for a varying number of years. The shortest term was fourteen months between 1865 and 1866 when Elijah Meddaugh left the position and was replaced by William Jennison. The longest term was held by Hiram Bond who served thirty-six years between 1933 and 1969. While Meddaugh has only one bound volume with his namesake, Hiram Bond has 117. During Bond's tenure as the Reporter of Decisions, he was referred to as the ninth member of the court.³ At a dedication ceremony commemorating his long term as Reporter of Decisions, Bond was applauded for his commitment to the position. Pride of authorship always took second place to accuracy. The representative for the Michigan Bar noted, "[Hiram] was interested in the viewpoint of a practicing lawyer. It was the practicing lawyer who would be the

largest user of his work.”⁴ Bond designed the *Michigan Report* to make the work of the practicing lawyer easy and useful. Likewise, in a portrait dedication for Thomas M. Cooley, the speaker for the Michigan Bar, Henry F. Severens stated that, “a good reporter is almost the equivalent of a good judge.”⁵

The Establishment of the Reporter of Decisions

During the early years of American independence, the common law was largely unwritten. Trial proceedings were rarely transcribed, and judges did not hand down written decisions as a matter of course. The doctrine of precedent in the absence of American case reports required judges and attorneys to rely on their personal recollections of a case, with no effective means of verifying conflicting representations as to its significance, meaning, or decision. After the United States gained its independence from England, English law grew increasingly unsuited to the resolution of uniquely American legal issues. The diminishing practical significance of English common law and the outcome of the American Revolution ultimately inspired the development of American common law. Printed reports of judicial decisions began to be perceived as necessary to celebrate the substantive differences between English and American common law and to promote uniform administration of justice in America.⁶

In Michigan, these goals were championed and embraced with the establishment of the Territorial Supreme Court by President Thomas Jefferson in 1805. The early stage of the Court was based largely on oral history of court decisions. By 1825, a Decretal Order—an order made by the Court of Chancery, upon a motion or petition, in the nature of a decree—was made that allowed a clerk of the Court of Chancery and Territorial Supreme Court to be the subscriber Register of Decisions. The Register began to write down and document decisions handed down by the Court. These documents were primarily transcribed occurrences of the decision of the case but failed to include opinions or annotations of the proceedings. Clerks that were assigned to this

“After the U.S. gained its independence from England, English law grew increasingly unsuited to the resolution of uniquely American legal issues.”

position, such as Peter Audrain, John Kearsley, Duane Doty, and John Winder, began each of their documents in the following manner: “At a Session of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Michigan, continued and held at the Council House in the City of Detroit, on Saturday the twenty fifth day of September, One Thousand eight hundred and Twenty Four. Were present, James Witherell presiding Judge and Solomon Sibley and John Hunt Judges.”⁷

These reports were crafted in a precise fashion. After they were written, the reports were then sold by the Register of Decisions and printed in various newspapers such as the *Michigan Herald*, a weekly newspaper printed and published in the city of Detroit. In 1826 John Winder, the Register, wrote, “In pursuance of a decretal order of this Honorable Court made upon the nineteenth day of October A.D. 1826...I the Subscriber Register in Chancery do report: That all and singular the mortgaged premises mentioned in the complainants Bill, and in the decree in this Case, were sold by me in the city of Detroit on the fourth day of July A.D. 1827—that previous to such sale I gave six weeks public notice of the time and place thereof by advertisement, containing a description of such premises, published in the *Michigan Herald*, a newspaper printed and published weekly in the City of Detroit...”⁸ Men in the position of Register of Decisions, such as Winder, were able to place advertisements in newspapers in an attempt to sell case decisions and allow members of the public to read and

learn about the decisions decided by the Court of Chancery and the Michigan Territorial Supreme Court. In another case tried in 1828 the Register, John Winder, had stated that he sold the “premises mentioned in the complaint Bill” in the village of Ann Arbor for forty-six dollars. Winder’s detailed account outlines that he had advertised the time and place of the auctioning of this premise for four weeks in the *Detroit Gazette*, a newspaper printed weekly in the city of Detroit.⁹

By 1834, Supreme Court Justices began to write and report their own decisions due to the inability of the Register of Decision to perform their duty. It was noted by Justice Solomon Sibley in the case of *James Nelson v James Chittenden et al* that, “It is ordered by the Court that in case of the absence of the Register of this Court or in case of his inability to perform the duties required of him” a Deputy Clerk of the Court “shall proceed and execute” the duties of the Register of Decisions as decided by the Court. Sibley’s decision to instill the position of a Deputy Clerk would continue after the creation of the Reporter’s Office. A Deputy Reporter would aid and assist the Reporter of Decisions with his duties and ensure that the *Michigan Reports* had accurate citations and were understandable and clear. The position of Deputy Reporter was removed after a consolidation of the office to its current state of a Reporter of Decisions and a small staff of editors who aid in the work.

Michigan gained statehood in 1837 and the newly founded state reorganized and reformed the courts. In 1838, provisions were made by Michigan law for the appointment of a reporter of decisions of the Court of Chancery, and by February of 1839 E. Burke Harrington, Esquire, received the appointment and entered upon the duties of the office. About one half of the first volume published was under Harrington’s immediate supervision; however, according to his successor, Henry Walker, “destruction, by fire, of the printing office, with a portion of the manuscripts prepared for the press, suspended the publication for a time, and the repeal of the law soon after effectively put a stop to the work until 1844.”¹⁰ The rest of the work was most likely completed by the hands of clerks, and then Walker performed the essential service of rendering the volume correct “in all its essential particulars.” Walker stated in a memorandum at the front of the Walker Chancery Report that “in preparing this volume for the press, the author has followed, in all instances, the manuscripts of the Chancellor.”¹¹

In 1845, radical changes in the law affected the state of Michigan extensively. In that year, the Michigan State legislature passed an act requiring the judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Chancery to appoint a reporter of the decisions of these courts. Henry Walker remained the reporter of the Court of Chancery until it was abolished in 1847, and Samuel T. Douglass was recognized as the official reporter of the Supreme



The official portrait of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Samuel Douglass.

Court. Douglass served until 1847 and published the first two official Michigan Reports for the Supreme Court. In a later dedication ceremony recognizing the prestigious accomplishments of Douglass, Attorney General Otto Kirchner noted “he possessed a keen, analytical mind, bent unswervingly on the discovery of the truth” and “his reading in law was extensive and accurate. He was thoroughly imbued with its principles and spirit. It is therefore no matter of surprise that so early in his professional career, in 1845, he was appointed the official reporter of the Supreme Court.” Kirchner continued and complimented Douglass’ diligent work on the two reports with his namesake and stated, “The two volumes of reports that bear his name are models of what the reports should be.”¹² Samuel T. Douglass set the bar high for this newly required position and left the office of Reporter to take a seat on the Supreme Court bench in 1847. Douglass would be replaced as Reporter by the former Chancellor of the Court of Chancery and another future Supreme Court Justice, Randolph Manning.

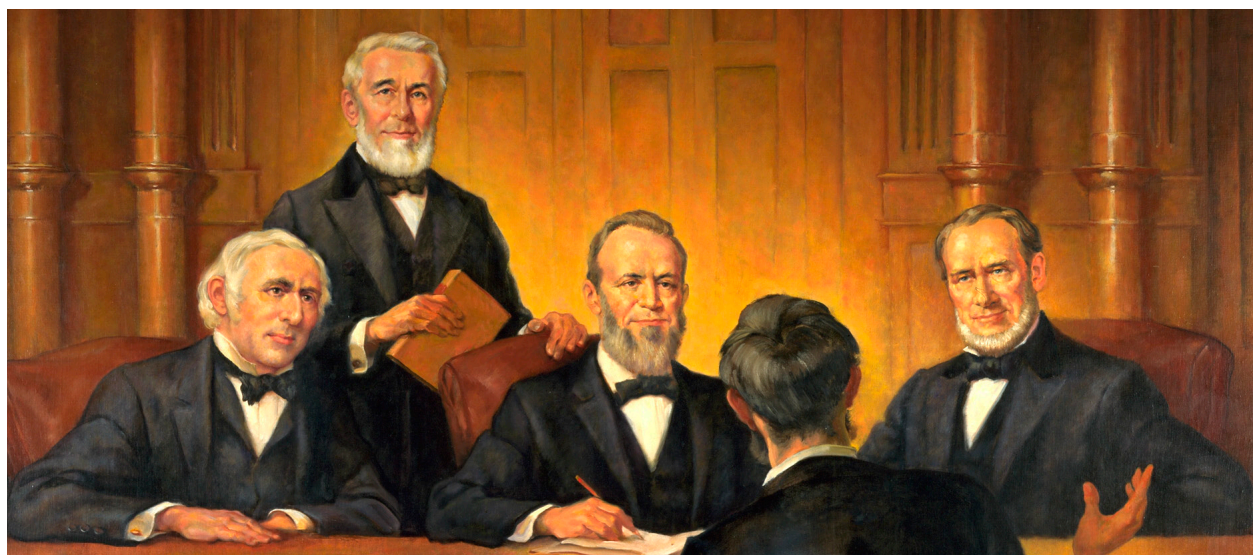
The early Court was constantly evolving, and so were the

positions attached to it. In 1851, George C. Gibbs reported, “It is to be understood that the following Reports show only (in most cases) the opinion of a majority of the court who heard the argument without showing in all cases who did or who did not participate, or who did not assent to the decision. The original opinions delivered since 1851, and on file in the proper offices, are signed as required by the constitution and the Act of April 4, 1851, by the judges who concurred; by reference to which and to such dissenting opinions as may be filed, it can readily be determined, where it may become material, which of the judges in a given case did not concur.”¹³ Gibbs found this to be a necessity to the reader. He stated in the third volume with his namesake, “The attention of the reader is called to the fact, that most of the opinions following are those of a majority only of the court...Justice to themselves (the supreme court justices) and the public interests requires that this opportunity should be afforded to the reporter to write out dissenting opinions.”¹⁴ George Gibbs served as the last Reporter under the 1837 Constitution of Michigan. In his final volume as Reporter, Gibbs stated, “This volume will include the last of the cases decided by the Supreme Court up to January 1858, when, under its present organization, it will cease to exist, and, by virtue of the Supreme Court law of 1857, a new court will take its place.” He continued with a specific wish of his, to continue “with some account of the courts and judges of the late territory of Michigan, and of the Supreme Court and its judges, under the state organization,” to “place history upon record so it is not lost.”¹⁵

The Court constructed in 1857 appointed a new Reporter of Decisions, Thomas M. Cooley. Justice Benjamin F.H. Witherell stated in a dedication session to honor the tremendous deeds of Cooley that, “As one of the original members of the present Supreme Court, it was my pleasure to join with the other members of the court in the unanimous selection of judge Cooley as our first reporter.”¹⁶ Witherell continued, “We selected him because we had noticed in his management of cases, even in his early standing at the Bar, a very great discrimination in picking out and enforcing the strong and important points in a case.”¹⁷ Cooley worked diligently and aided immensely to the development of the law in Michigan. He would resign from his position of Reporter in 1864 to take a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court.

Publishing the *Michigan Reports*

In 1873, the legislature declared a permanent residence for the Supreme Court in Lansing. The Court would no longer move on a circuit between Detroit, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Adrian, Pontiac, and Ann Arbor as it had before. The Michigan Reports indicated this change by documenting that each hearing and decision was now



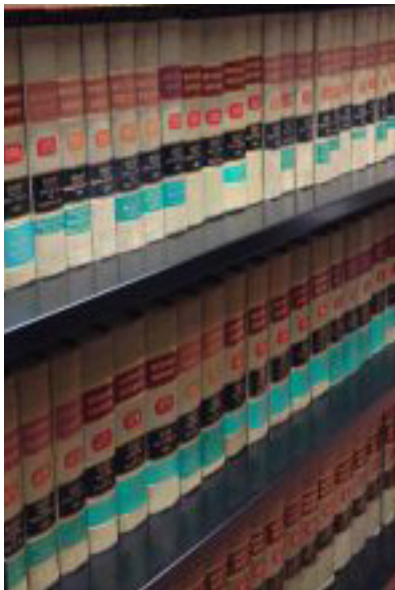
Justice Thomas M. Cooley is seen here seated in the center of his Big Four colleagues.

made in Lansing, Michigan, after 1873. Five years after the legislature declared a permanent home for the Court, the first publishing contract of the Michigan Reports was established. The legislature would go on to pay for these contracts to ensure that the common people would have access to the decisions and opinions

handed down by the Court. The Reporter during 1878, Henry A. Chaney, was the first director of the Detroit Public Library from 1865–1877. During this time, Chaney would be the first Reporter to work with the publishing company. From 1878–1883 Callaghan & Company, a publishing company based in Chicago, would publish the first twenty-nine volumes of the *Michigan Reports* and the *Walker Report*. Under Chaney's time as Reporter, the first thirty-six volumes of the *Michigan Reports* were published by both Callaghan & Company and Richmond, Backus & Co., Printers and Binders, located in Detroit. Callaghan & Company regained their contract with the Michigan legislature and published and printed volumes 42–320—this contract would end in 1948.

By 1905 the reports were being published within nine months of the end of each session of the Supreme Court. Likewise, common language and headnotes came into use by Reporter Herschel Bouton Lazell. A headnote or syllabus is a brief summary of a particular point of law that is added to the text of a court decision to aid readers in locating discussion of a legal issue in an opinion. The headnote is added by the Reporter, and it appears at the beginning of the brief as a “value-added” component that aids the reader. Headnotes have no legal standing and cannot set precedent; instead, headnotes have been used in the *Michigan Reports* since 1904 because of their ability to aid and guide the reader through the decisions and opinions.¹⁸ The use of headnotes has continued to this day.

In 1965, the Reporter's Office took on a new role in establishing and creating the bound volumes for the newly established Michigan Court of Appeals. Hiram Bond served as the first Reporter of Decisions for the Court of Appeals. By 1994, the legislature established a series of laws that decreed not all decisions handed down by the Court of Appeals had to be published. The decision to allow for unpublished cases was a re-



sponse to the increased caseloads and the resultant proliferation of opinions in courts. The idea of unpublished cases was for judicial efficiency—saving both the courts and litigants time and money. It was believed that unpublished cases would save the judges and the offices of the court time which could then be utilized by judges to craft careful, well-reasoned opinions for those cases in which novel or unsettled areas of the law were being litigated. After the contract with the New York: Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company ended in 1996, Darby Printing Company became the printer and publisher of the volumes of the *Michigan Reports* and the *Court of Appeals Reports*. Darby Printing Company allowed the unpublished cases to become public information. Lawyers, companies, and judges began to pay to receive the unpublished cases. Unpublished cases do not have headnotes and can technically be deemed “unreported” since none of these cases appears in any form of a reporter. Access to the unpublished Court of Appeals cases led to attorneys citing these cases as a form of precedent. This situation has continued with online publishing sources such as Westlaw and LexisNexis.

In his 1983 State of the Judiciary address, Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams, the former four-term governor of the state, bemoaned the fact that the staff of the Supreme Court were in three different locations.¹⁹ This concern was resolved after the construction of the Hall of Justice, consolidating the staff of the Court in one location. Since 2002, the Reporter's Office has been located on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice. This new location allows the Reporter to communicate and work closely with the Supreme Court Justices.

Over the course of this 177 year period, this office has experienced technological advancement and changes. From the beginning of the office until the introduction of the typewriter in 1877, a steel-tipped pen was used to write the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court. After the era of the typewriter ended, computers began to be more commonly used in the office in the mid-1980s. Now, opinions and decisions can be transmitted within two to three hours of being written. The communication between Justices and the Reporter occur via email instead of being mailed and waiting two to four days to be reviewed. The network today is central-

ized and backed-up daily so that all work can be saved and retained. Additionally, the Michigan Reporter's office was one of the first state offices to join Harvard Law Library to find a solution to missing linked or referenced content on websites and other online platforms that had been cited in Michigan Supreme Court cases. Thus, the Reporter's Office has engaged in recent years with Harvard Law Library to archive web addresses in the Perma.cc archive. This program is an in-house permanent archive of web addresses that provides a valuable asset by saving and documenting all websites that have been cited or used in Supreme Court cases in order for lawyers and citizens to be able to go back and review the information that was provided at the web address at the time it was cited.

The Reporter of Decisions has assisted the Court and provided a public service to provide the decisions and opinions of the court to the public. Over the last 177 years, only men have served as Reporter of Decisions. Since the mid-1980s female lawyers have served as editors for the *Michigan Reports*. Currently, there are two female members on the editing staff. The Reporter's Office has a rich history and continues to ensure accuracy and consistency in the *Michigan Reports* as it experiences technological changes, consolidation in numbers, and different issues regarding publishing companies and contracts. The office has been able to record the common law of Michigan and has provided a beneficial service to the public of Michigan.

Endnotes

- ¹ E. Burke Harrington, *Harrington Report* (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1882), VII.
- ² There are 496 volumes with the name of Michigan Reports; however the first two reports share the title "The Douglass Reports."
- ³ Hiram Bond, *Michigan Reports* vol. 382 (Rochester, New York: Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company, 1969), LXXX.
- ⁴ Bond, *Michigan Reports* vol. 382, LXXVI.
- ⁵ Henry A. Chaney, *Michigan Reports* vol. 54 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1884), XIX-XX.
- ⁶ Michael S. Moran, *History of Law Reporting* (Albany, New York State Law Reporting Bureau, 2004), 10.
- ⁷ William Wirt Blume, *Transactions of the Supreme Court of Michigan* vol. III (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1938), 434.
- ⁸ William Wirt Blume, *Transactions of the Supreme Court of Michigan* vol. V (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1940), 448.
- ⁹ William Wirt Blume, *Transactions of the Supreme Court of Michigan* vol. VI (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1940), 451.
- ¹⁰ E. Burke Harrington, *Harrington Report* (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1882), VI.
- ¹¹ Henry Walker, *Walker Report* (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1882), VII.
- ¹² John A. Brooks, *Michigan Reports* vol. 121 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1905), XXXV, XXXVI.
- ¹³ George C. Gibbs, *Michigan Reports* vol. 2 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1878),
- ¹⁴ George C. Gibbs, *Michigan Reports* vol. 3 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1878),
- ¹⁵ George C. Gibbs, *Michigan Reports* vol. 4 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1878),
- ¹⁶ Henry A. Chaney, *Michigan Reports* vol. 54 (Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1883), XXI-XXII
- ¹⁷ Chaney, *Michigan Reports* vol. 54, XXII.
- ¹⁸ In 1906, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in *United States v. Detroit Timber & Lumber Company*, 200 U.S. 321 (1906), that headnotes have no legal standing and therefore do not set precedent.
- ¹⁹ Howard Lewis and William Haggerty, *Michigan Reports* vol. 419 (Rochester, New York: Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company, 1984), CXXXI.

Kevin M. Cunningham



served as the Society's 16th Coleman intern during the 2015 spring semester. Mr. Cunningham has since graduated from the James Madison College at Michigan State University with a degree in history and is working in the nonprofit world. He intends to go to law school. He can be reached at cunni271@msu.edu.

The Coleman internship program was created in 1998 to honor Judge Creighton Coleman and his wife, Justice Mary Stallings Coleman, the first woman to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court.

Chart of Court Reporters



E. Burke Harrington	1836–1842	Harrington's Chancery Report
Henry Walker	1842–1845	Walker's Chancery Reports
Samuel T. Douglass	1843–1845; 1845–1847	Douglass Reports 1–2
Randolph Manning	1847–1850	Michigan Report 1
George C. Gibbs	1851–1857	Michigan Report 2–4
Thomas M. Cooley	1857–1864	Michigan Report 5–12
Elijah Meddaugh	1865	Michigan Report 13
William Jennison	1865–1869	Michigan Report 14–18
Hovey Clark	1869–1871	Michigan Report 19–22
Hoyt Post	1871–1877	Michigan Report 23–36
Henry A. Chaney	1877–1886	Michigan Report 37–58
William A. Fuller	1886–1895	Michigan Report 59–105
John A. Brooks	1895–1904	Michigan Report 106–136
Herschel Bouton Lazell	1904–1909	Michigan Report 137–156
James M. Reasoner	1909–1917	Michigan Report 157–194
Richard W. Cooper	1917–1933	Michigan Report 195–264
Hiram Bond	1933–1969	Michigan Report 265–382
Howard Ellis/William H. Lewis	1969–1970	Michigan Report 383
Howard Ellis	1970–1974	Michigan Report 384–392
William H. Lewis	1974–1984	Michigan Report 393–418
William H. Lewis/William Haggerty	1984–1985	Michigan Report 419–421
William Haggerty	1985–2002	Michigan Report 422–466
Haggerty/Norman C. Helfer/Anselmo	2002–2003	Michigan Report 467
Danilo Anselmo	2003–2009	Michigan Report 468–484
Corbin Davis (Clerk)	2009–2010	Michigan Report 485–487
John Juroszek	2010–2013	Michigan Report 488–493
Corbin Davis	2013–Present	Michigan Report 494–496

Law Student Prize at Michigan Law



Shown left to right: Professor William Novak, student Phillip Stadler, and Society representative John W. Reed.

On April 30, 2015, Professor John W. Reed presented the Society's Law Student Prize to Michigan Law 2L Phillip Stadler. Mr. Stadler was awarded the Society's \$500 prize for his outstanding work in Early American History and in Modern American Legal History, both classes taught by Professor William Novak.

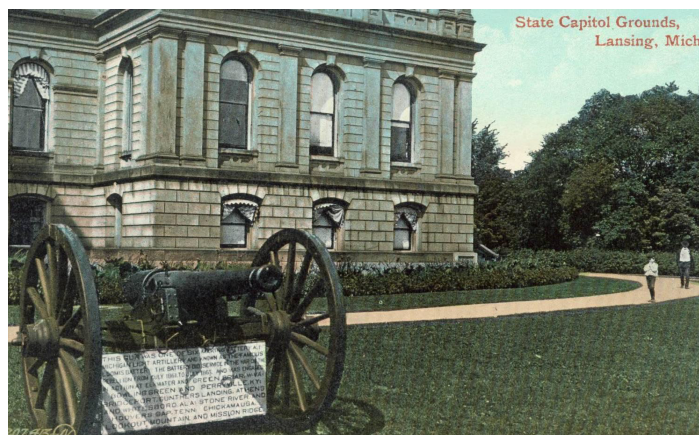
Judge Cohn Honored

Judge Avern Cohn, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, will be honored with the Hon. Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award at the Federal Bar Association Convention in Salt Lake City in September.

The award, named for renowned federal district Judge Sarah T. Hughes from Dallas, Texas, was created to honor those who promote the advancement of civil and human rights, and who exemplify Judge Hughes' spirit and legacy of devoted service and leadership in the cause of equality. Judge Hughes was a pioneer in the fight for civil rights, due process, equal protection, and the rights of women.

Judge Cohn has served on the Society's Board of Directors since 2003.

Loomis Guns Return to State Capitol



On August 8, 2015, a pair of replica Civil War cannons were dedicated on the lawn of the State Capitol. The original cannons belonged to the Loomis Battery of Coldwater, led by General Cyrus O. Loomis. Each battery had six guns.

The originals were dedicated at the Capitol in 1879, when the building opened, and symbolically protected the main entrance of the building. They disappeared in 1946 and are widely believed to have been melted down for a WWII scrap metal drive.

Of the approximately 750,000 people in Michigan at the time of the Civil War, 90,000 fought for the Union and 15,000 died. Many more were injured, including Michigan Supreme Court Justice Allen Morse who lost his left arm. He defeated Chief

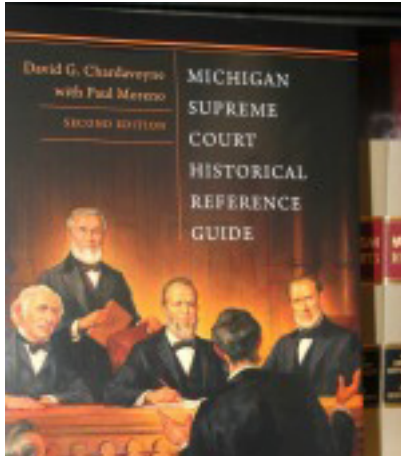
Justice Thomas M. Cooley in a historic upset in the spring of 1885. Justice Charles Long also lost his left arm in the war, eventually dying of his injuries in 1902. Long made history on the Court with his election in 1887, that increased the size of the Court from four to five.

General Loomis was an attorney who studied with Michigan Supreme Court Justice George Miles in Ann Arbor and Justice Samuel Douglass in Detroit, according to the *Reunion of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland*.

The restoration was part of a bipartisan effort between Senator Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) and Senator Steve Bieda (D-Warren) over two years and commemorates the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

Summer Reading List

FACT:



The *Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide, 2nd Edition*, features the biographies of the justices, updated by legal historian David Chardavoyne, along with the full-color portraits of the justices, and the Verdict of History case summaries, written by Professor Paul Moreno. The book can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$34.95.

"No lawyer should be without this book!"



FICTION:



Also for sale from the Society is former Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan's book *The Bench*. The alternate reality in which the Michigan Supreme Court exists in this fictitious novel begins on Wednesday, November 7, 1990, the day after Judge Jim Malloy has been elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. The story ends two years later with a different court. In between are exciting stories of personal and political intrigue mixed together with the familiar sights and sounds of life in Michigan in the last decade of the twentieth century.

ORDER:

I would like ____ (quantity) of *The Bench*. I agree to pay \$10.00 per book. My payment information is included below.

Mail to:

Name: _____

Check for \$____ made payable to MSCHS is enclosed.

Address: _____

Charge my credit card \$____. Visa/MasterCard/AmEx

City/State/ZIP: _____

Card Number: _____

Email: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVVV Code: _____

Signature: _____

ADVOCATES GUILD

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

First Chair Report

Mary Massaron



Recently, I read a poem about work that made me think of what we do as advocates. Here it is:

Self-Employed
By L.L. Barkat

She is always asking
for more
More hours making words.
more days finding the things she loves –
people, art, a good font.
But she gives me
Chocolates.
How can I say no?

I am not entirely sure what this poem means, and I know nothing about the writer. But I love the idea of this person who needs more time to make words and that amongst the things she loves is “a good font.” Perhaps only a dedicated writer, such as an appellate advocate, can appreciate the truth and the humor of including a “good font” along with “people, art” in a list of things the speaker loves.

While I suspect that the poet was not thinking about appellate advocacy in describing this writer, reading it prompted me to reflect on our passion as advocates to use words to help make our case. Just as the poet seeks “more hours making words” so too do appellate advocates often wish they had more and more time to make the words of their argument just as clear and powerful as they can. And just as the poet arranges the words in a special way on the page to strengthen their resonance for the reader, so too do appellate advocates seek out a “good font” and include headings and spacing that will help arrange the words on the page in a pleasing and readable manner that underscores the argument.

I enjoyed reading the poem and thinking about our work. And I hope that you do too. The Advocates Guild is at work planning the annual special dinner with the Court. I hope that as you ask for more time (from your clients, from your family, from the court) to make more words in your briefs, so important a part of the work you love, that you think about how lucky we are to have work for which we have a passion. And I look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

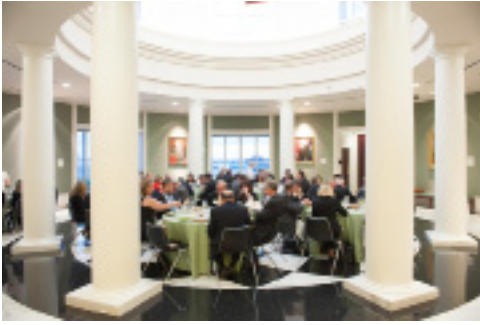


Photo of 2014 Advocates Guild Dinner by Dave Trumpie.

The Michigan Supreme Court's term begins the week of Tuesday, October 13th

Watch your mailbox for your invitation to the 7th annual Advocates Guild Dinner!

Invitations will only be mailed to Advocates Guild members who are current in their dues payments. To check your status, contact the office at (517) 373-7589 or by email at carriesampson@micourthistory.org.

Pewabic Pottery Commemorative Tile



Every Advocates Guild member who attends the annual dinner receives that year's special tile from Pewabic Pottery.

If you can't make it to a dinner, or have only recently become a member, you still have a chance to make these special keepsakes your own.

We have a limited number of previous year's tiles for sale. You can buy the entire collection (2010–2014) for \$250.00.

Just need to fill-in your collection? You can buy single tiles for \$50.00 each. All of the tiles are date-stamped on the back so you can see which one(s) you are missing, or check out the list by color below:

- 2010: Bright Blue
- 2011: Bright Green
- 2012: Golden Amber
- 2013: Watery Green
- 2014: Dark Green



Save the Date!

Advocates Guild Dinner

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Hall of Justice



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1st Floor, Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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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.

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

E-mail CARRIESAMPSON@MICOURTHISTORY.ORG

Website: WWW.MICOURTHISTORY.ORG