

# Society Dedicates Portrait of Justice James H. Brickley

t was standing room only as hundreds of family, friends, colleagues, and admirers gathered to honor former Justice James H. Brickley at the dedication of his official court portrait on January 14, 2003. The crowd, which included Governors Jennifer M. Granholm,



A large crowd gathered to honor Justice Brickley.

John Engler, and William G. Milliken, joined the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court to celebrate the life and career of the Justice Brickley. The event, which was hosted by the Historical Society, was held in the Supreme Court courtroom on the sixth floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing.

The program began at 3:30 p.m. and included remarks

by Chief Justice Corrigan, Society President Wallace D. Riley, former Justice and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge James L. Ryan, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, and former Governor William G. Milliken. The program concluded at approximately 4:30 with a response by Joyce Braithwaite-Brickley. A short reception followed.

Judge Ryan honored Justice Brickley in remarks



Judge Ryan "Remembers a Friend"

entitled "Remembering a Friend." Discussing Justice Brickley's distinguished career in public service, even before he served on the Supreme Court, he noted that "...the name Brickley was becoming synonymous with personal and professional integrity, administrative efficiency, dedication to public service - not as a political

### IN THIS ISSUE



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Society Dedicates Brickley Portrait ..... 1-2

Justice Riley to be Honored at Luncheon ....... 3

Annual Luncheon April 24 Detroit Athletic Club option, but as a professional calling."

Judge Ryan also highlighted Justice Brickley's time on the Michigan Supreme Court:

Jim approached the privilege of serving on the Michigan Supreme Court with humility and professionalism and dedication to getting it right. That is what marked every step of his lifetime in public service.

Judge Ryan went on to quote former Court clerk Harold Hoag, saying:

...he [Brickley] saw himself as a constitutional visitor to the Court and for a very short time. And in that respect, saw himself as a trustee of its traditions and its authority and its jurisprudence. Jim Brickley did not have an intellectually prideful bone in his whole body. While he held a vast array of firm and reasoned opinions about a lot of subjects, he was utterly devoid of the vices of self-absorption and self-importance or false pride...Jim took very seriously the intended symbolism of the black robe to conceal and obscure individuality and the personality of the wearer when conducting judicial business.

The portrait, by artist Frederick T. Petroskey of Lake Leelenau, Michigan, became the 79th portrait in the Court's collection and was hung for display in the Supreme Court courtroom at the Hall of Justice.



The portrait is unveiled by Brickley's daughter Kathleen and portrait artist Fred Petroskey.

To read the full transcript of the dedication or specific speeches from the event, go to <a href="https://www.micourthistory.org">www.micourthistory.org</a> and go to Resources and Special Sessions.

#### Justice James H. Brickley

James H. Brickley was born on November 15, 1928, in Flint, Michigan. He was raised in Detroit and received his bachelor's and law degrees from

the University of Detroit. Brickley received a master's degree in law from New York University.

Brickley's career in public service extended through all levels of government, from Special Agent with the FBI, to Chief Assistant Prosecutor for Wayne County, and from United States Attorney for Eastern Michigan to Lieutenant Governor of Michigan. It is clear that he dedicated his professional life to public service.

Brickley also served the academic community with his

knowledge of the law. From 1975 until 1978,

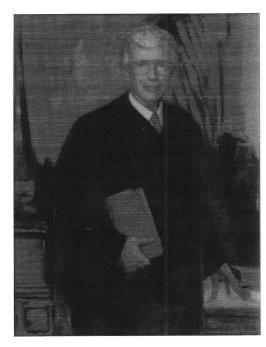
### 92nd Justice, Served From 1983 - 1999

he was the President of Eastern Michigan University.

Throughout his career, he served as an

adjunct professor at several Michigan universities, lecturing on the government and law. Brickley was sworn in as a member of the Michigan Supreme Court on December 27, 1982. He was elected to a four-year term in November of 1984 and re-elected to an eight-year term in November of 1988. Brickley served as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court from 1995 to 1996. (Michigan Manual: Ed. 1995-98. Lansing, Michigan: Legislative Council, State of Michigan.) Justice Brickley retired from the Court in 1999

and died on September 28, 2001.



## Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley To Be Honored With the LEGAL HISTORY AWARD

In an effort to recognize those members of Michigan's legal community who have greatly impacted Michigan's legal history through their support of historical pursuits, their outstanding support of the Society and its efforts, or through their work in the law, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society established the Legal History Award in 2002. The first Legal History Award was presented to Governor John Engler at the Society's 2002 Annual Luncheon in recognition of his work in making the dream of a Supreme Court building a reality.

This year, the award will be presented to former Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley in recognition of her outstanding effort in the building of the Hall of Justice, her creation of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society in 1988, her generous financial contributions to the Society and its pursuits, and her many other contributions to Michigan law.

#### **Award Criteria**

This Legal History Award will be presented periodically to commend one or more of Michigan's citizens for their ongoing support of and interest in Michigan's legal heritage. The award may be given in recognition of a single significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's legal history or to honor an individual's long-term support of the efforts of the Society and the preservation of the history of the Court. An individual may also be recognized for significant contributions to Michigan's legal heritage and as a "historic figure" in Michigan's legal system.

Individuals will be honored for their unselfish, outstanding, and unique service to and on behalf of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, the legal profession, and the public. The award signifies unusual and extraordinary help and assistance to the Society and the pursuit of the preservation of Michigan Supreme Court history, as well as significant contributions to the Michigan judicial system.

## Presentation of 2003 Legal History Award

In 1988, while serving as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Justice Riley recognized a need for better documentation of historical events in which the Court was involved, better collection and maintenance of artifacts and memorabilia related to the Court, and for the production of information with which to educate Michigan students and citizens about the work of the Michigan Supreme Court. Realizing that Court staff and their time were limited, Justice Riley undertook the creation of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, which was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1988.

In addition to working to create the Society, Justice Riley took the lead in garnering funding for the Society and its efforts and in appointing strong leaders for the Society who would carry out her vision.

Since her retirement from the Court in 1997, Justice Riley has continued to serve the Society as its Honorary Chair and has continued to contribute to the work of the Society both with her involvement and with her generous contributions.

#### **Luncheon Program**

A social and cocktail reception is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the main dining room of the Detroit Athletic Club. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. The program will feature the presentation of the Legal History Award to Chief Justice Riley. Wallace D. Riley will also be presented with the American Judicature Society's Herbert Harley Award. The program will conclude with a presentation by Justice Marilyn Kelly. For information or reservations for the Luncheon, please contact Angela Bergman or Allyson Miller at 517-373-7589 or abergman@micourthistory.org.

LUNCHEON TICKETS

STILL AVAILABLE:

PURCHASE YOURS AT THE DOOR

APRIL 24, 2003

DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB

12:00 NOON

CELEBRATING THE SOCIETY'S

15TH ANNIVERSARY

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Guide

The Michigan Supreme
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stories of each of
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#### Mission Statement

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to preserving documents, records, and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court. The Society produces publications, special events and other projects to achieve its goals in education and restoration. Current officers and directors are:

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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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