

A Look Back at 2003: A Message from the Society President

2003 was a moving (literally) and monumental year for the Court; it was an equally busy year for the Society.

The 2003 Coleman Intern completed the Women and the Law project, which was featured in the Fall issue of *The Society Update*. The PowerPoint presentation and web pages developed by our intern highlight 19 Michigan women who stand out as champions of Michigan citizens, were trendsetters in the law, were “firsts” in their field, and are role models for aspiring young women.

As part of our maintenance of the historical portrait collection, the Society caused the move of all of the portraits from various Lansing locations to the Hall of Justice. All of the portraits now hang in either the Hall of Justice or the Detroit offices of the Court.

In January, in a memorable and moving ceremony, we dedicated the portrait of former Chief Justice James H. Brickley in the Supreme Court Courtroom in the Hall of Justice.

The Society celebrated its 15th anniversary at this year’s Annual Membership Luncheon held on April 24th in Detroit. Justices Markman and Kelly spoke on behalf of the Court and we presented the second Legal History Award to former Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley.

We continue to oversee and manage the Learning Center Fund and to accept donations on behalf of the Learning Center.

With the help of former Michigan Supreme Court

justice and Society board member Judge James L. Ryan, the Society is working to complete a second project begun by the Coleman Intern, which will select and summarize important cases in Michigan Supreme Court history.

In cooperation with Western Michigan University, the Society established the Big Four Writing and Research Fellowship. The fellowship is designed to foster academic research on the history of the Supreme Court of Michigan and dissemination of such research. In September, this year’s fellow, Coreen Derifield, began her work documenting the Michigan Supreme Court’s vital role in shaping labor relations.

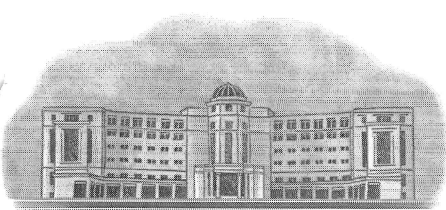
The Society continues to focus on the distribution of its various publications, including the *Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*, the *Brief History of the Michigan Supreme Court* booklet, and the quarterly newsletter *The Society Update*.

If you haven’t visited the Society’s website, www.micourthistory.org, lately, I strongly encourage you to do so. Over the past year, we added several new pages and have made more information available to visitors.

We continue to work to keep the site updated and full of useful information. It has truly become one of our “crown jewels” and we are proud of the vast amount of easily accessible information it contains.

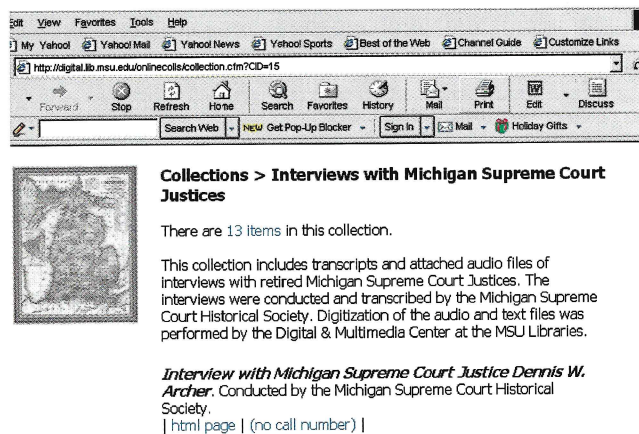
By clicking on the Resources Menu and then clicking Oral Histories, you can now read and hear any of thirteen

IN THIS ISSUE

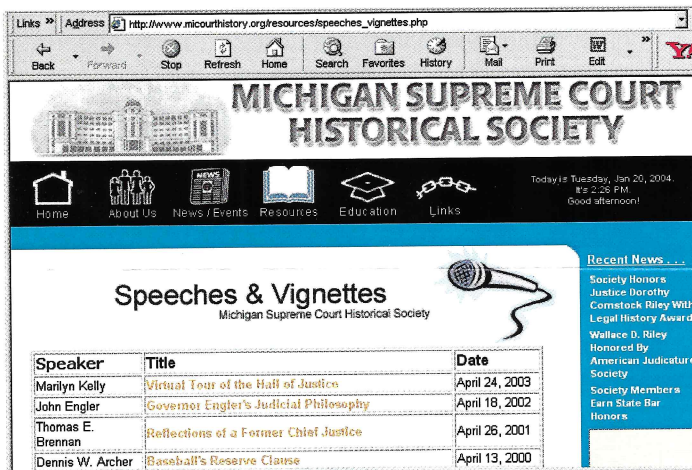


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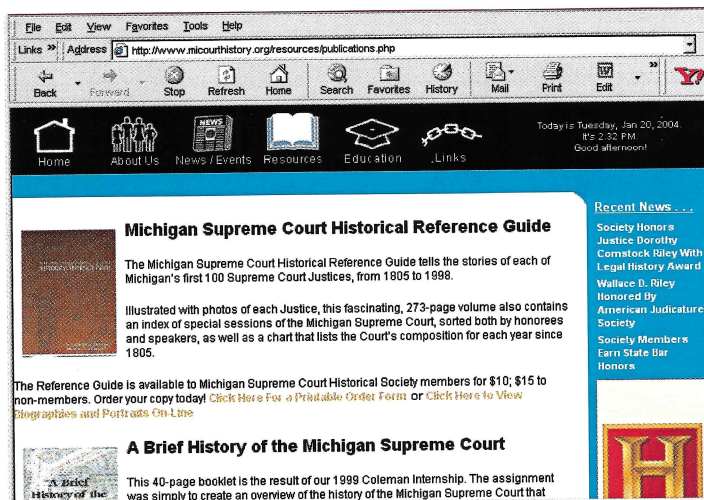
oral histories that the Society has conducted.



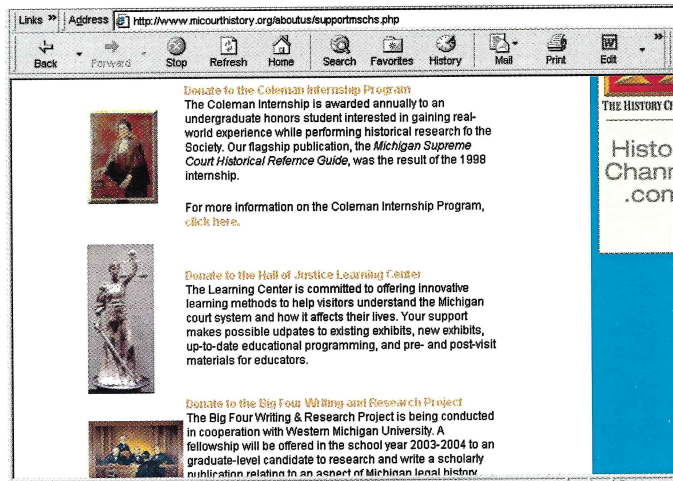
Another new page, Speeches and Vignettes, which allows visitors to read the remarks of former Annual Luncheon speakers, can be accessed by clicking on Resources and then Speeches/Vignettes.



The new publications page allows visitors to order a hard copy of any Society publication or to read the text of the publications on-line.



An updated donations page allows visitors to contribute to the general society fund, to portrait funds, or to the Learning Center.



In addition, past newsletter articles can be viewed online by clicking on News/Events and then clicking on Newsletters.



We are proud of the work of the Society and continue to strive to fulfill our mission: to preserve documents, records and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court, and to produce publications, special events and other projects to achieve our goals in education and restoration.

We have recently been contacted by the states of Iowa and Arkansas, which are working to set up their own state Supreme Court Historical Societies. They contacted us because, and I quote, "Your state appears to have one of the best organizations of its kind." Certainly, we could not have achieved this reputation without the cooperation and on-going support of our members – for that we thank you.

– Wallace D. Riley, President

Save the Date!

Join the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court
and Fellow Society Members for
“A Hanging in Detroit”

At the Annual Membership Luncheon

Thursday, April 22, 2004 – Noon

at

The Detroit Athletic Club
Detroit, Michigan



Have you paid your 2004 Dues?

For your convenience, the Society accepts Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Please call (517) 373-7589 to make your payment by phone, or complete and mail or fax the following information to: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, 1st Floor Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915
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The Road Ahead: A Message from the Executive Director

The year ahead will be filled with many new challenges, projects and opportunities. The Society will continue to focus on educating Michigan citizens about the history, role and organization of the Michigan Supreme Court, on sharing the "human side" of the Court with interested citizens, and on making all of the Society's projects and information easily accessible.

Here are just some of the exciting programs you can look for in the upcoming year:

PUBLICATIONS

The *Society Update* will continue to be produced quarterly. All of our publications, including past issues of the *Update*, the biographies in the *Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*, and the text of the booklet "A Brief History of the Michigan Supreme Court," are now available on the Publications page of our website.

This year, the Society will be working on a new edition of the *Index to Special Sessions*. This guide, which will be bound as a volume of the *Michigan Reports*, will contain transcripts of all of the special sessions of the Court since 1988, the year the Society was created, and will include an updated index to special sessions of the Court. The Society anticipates this book being published and available to members in the Fall of 2004.

COLEMAN INTERNSHIP

The Historical Society is proud to welcome Heather Weeks as its 2004 Coleman Intern.

Heather, a senior at Michigan State University, has already earned her Bachelors Degree in German Education and continues to pursue her Bachelors in English. An honor student with a 3.94 GPA, Heather intends to attend law school upon being graduated from MSU and eventually hopes to become a judge.

Heather brings a strong interest in history and an expertise in research and writing to the position. She has served as a writing consultant at Michigan State University and her research and writing skills were strongly evidenced in an independent study project called "The Family Secrets of WWII Survivors".



Heather will be working on two major projects – the first will be to compile materials for the *Index to Special Sessions*, and the second will be to create a bibliography of research resources, newspaper articles, photographs, and other materials dealing with the Michigan Supreme Court.

ORAL HISTORIES

The oral history interviews with Justice Boyle have been completed and are being transcribed. We hope to make the text of the interviews available by the Fall of 2004.

WEBSITE

More additions and revisions are planned for www.micourthistory.org this year. We are currently working on a page that will highlight the homes of the Michigan Supreme Court and will include photos and an architectural description of the Hall of Justice. We are also working on updating our special sessions pages and hope to have them edited by early summer.

LAW DAY

In cooperation with the Hall of Justice Learning Center, the Court of Appeals, and the Michigan Supreme Court, the Society will be co-hosting a Law Day event on Monday, May 3, 2004. More information about the event will be available in the Spring *Society Update*.

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

This year's annual Membership Luncheon will again be held at the Detroit Athletic Club and will take place on April 22nd. All Society members and their guests are encouraged to attend this event to mingle with Michigan Supreme Court justices past and present and to interact with fellow members. This year's program will feature David Chardavoyne, author of *A Hanging In Detroit*.

The Society, under the able leadership of our board of directors, continues to grow, change, and improve. Despite the recent downturn in funding available through our IOLTA grant, the Society continues to create and fund worthwhile projects. Despite the addition of many programs and projects, the mission of the Society remains the same: to preserve documents, records, and memorabilia related to the Michigan Supreme Court and to produce publications, events and projects to educate Michigan citizens about the history, role and organization of the Court. Of course, we couldn't do any of this without your continued membership in and support of the Historical Society and for that we thank you.

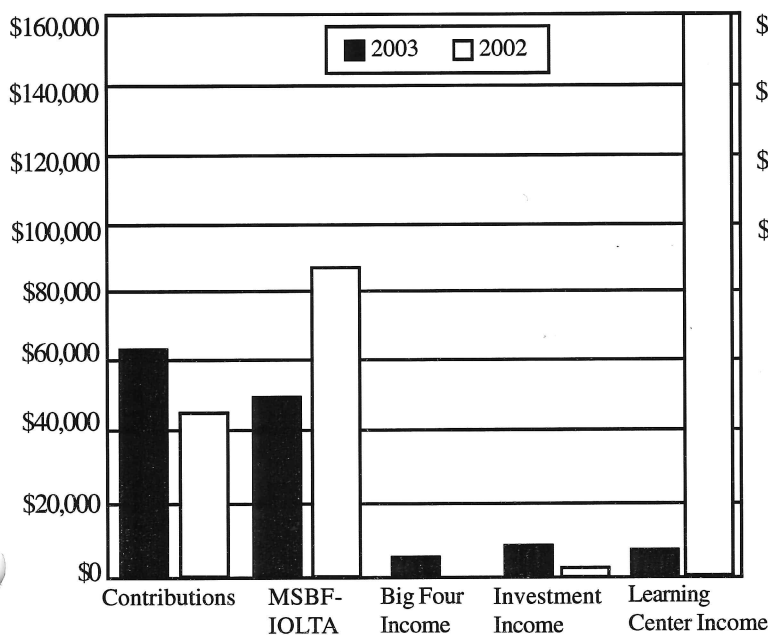
Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc.
Statements of Activities – Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

Public Support and Revenues:	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Contributions/Dues	\$ 62,402	\$ 45,016
MSBF-IOLTA Funds	\$ 48,965	\$ 87,992
Big Four Writing and Research Fund	\$ 3,500	\$
Investment Income	\$ 8,575	\$ 1,428
Learning Center	<u>\$ 6,880</u>	<u>\$160,055</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$130,322	\$294,491
Expenses:		
Program Services: Historical Preservation	\$133,249	\$100,077
Program Services: Learning Center	\$ 22,813	\$ 70,206
Supporting Services: Management and General	\$ 20,294	\$ 23,763
Supporting Services: Learning Center	<u>\$ 4,026</u>	<u>\$ 12,389</u>
Total Expenses	\$180,382	\$206,435
Net Gain/Loss for the Year	\$(50,060)	\$ 88,056

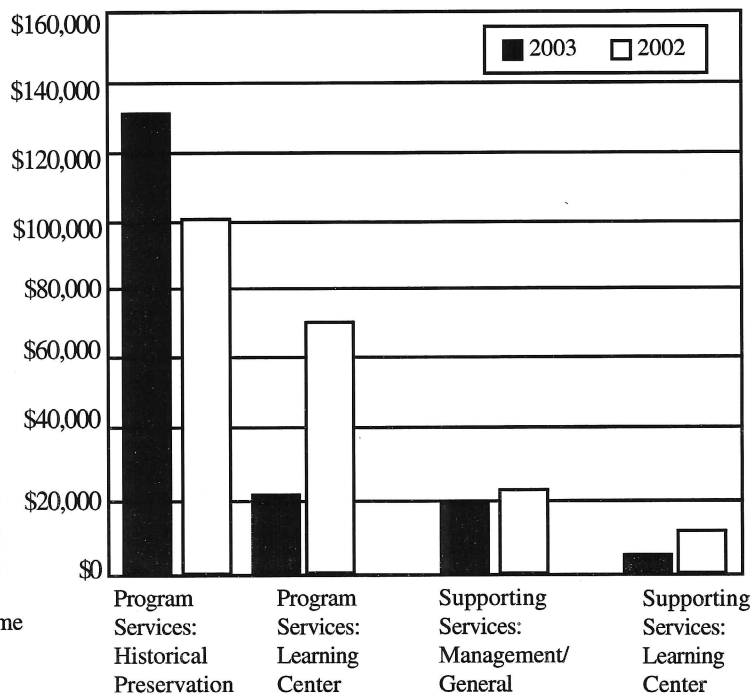
Net Assets – Cash Basis

Beginning of Year	\$390,916	\$365,141
End of Year	\$419,107	\$390,916
Change in Net Assets	\$ 28,191	\$ 25,775

Public Support and Revenue



Expenses



Membership Roster

The Society groups its members into three categories: Life Members, which includes the categories of Benefactor, Major Sponsor, and Sponsor; Annual Members, containing the categories of Contributing, Sustaining, Patron, and Student; and Corporate/Law Firm Members. The year listed after each member's name indicates the year he/she joined the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

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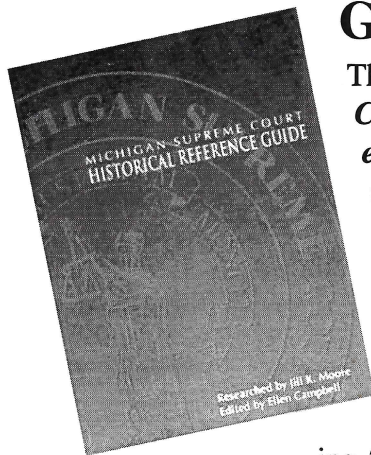
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The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to preserving documents, records, and memorabilia relating to the Michigan Supreme Court. The Society produces publications, special events and other projects 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
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E-mail ABERGMAN@MICOURTHISTORY.ORG; Website: WWW.MICOURTHISTORY.ORG



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