

# The Year in Review: A Message from the Society President

In 2006, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society focused on continuing and completing several research projects and on continuing to offer quality programs and publications to our members.

#### **Special Events**

In April, many of you joined us at the Detroit Athletic Club for our 15th Annual Membership Luncheon. There, we honored Mrs. Rosa Parks' life-long commitment to civil rights and equality with the presentation of the Legal History Award to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development.

Professor Paul Finkelman, co-editor of <u>The History of Michigan Law</u>, gave the legal vignette about the legal history of civil rights in Michigan.

#### **Archives and Oral Histories**

Over the summer, oral historian Glenn Ruggles completed the oral history of Harold Hoag, former clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court. We plan to have the oral history transcribed and available on our website early in 2007.

#### Research

In cooperation with Professor Paul Moreno, our top cases committee completed the second phase of the top cases project and have now collected summaries of 19 Michigan Supreme Court cases that have significantly impacted Michigan citizens. We are now in the editing phase of the project and hope to release a list

of cases and summaries sometime in 2007.

#### **Publications**

We continue to distribute our various publications to interested citizens throughout the state, including the *Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide*, the *Brief History of the Michigan Supreme Court* booklet, the *Index to Special Sessions*, and our quarterly newsletter, the Society Update. We also continue to offer our free lesson plan packets to social studies teachers and classrooms all over the state.

Once again our website, www.micourthistory.org, was one of our main focuses. Over the past year, we added three new sections to the site. The first, History Overview (www.micourthistory.org/resources/ overviewhistory.php), is a synopsis of the history of the Court based on the information in our Brief History booklet. The second, History Timeline (www. micourthistory.org/resources/timeline1805-1850.php), highlights important events, changes, and firsts in the Court's 200-year history. The third, On and Off the Court (www.micourthistory.org/resources/electapptmain.php), lists each justice, the way in which they first came to the Court (whether appointed or elected), the dates on which they began and ended their service, the amount of time they served on the Bench, how or why they left the Bench, and details about their appointments and elections including who appointed them and who they defeated in elections, and their political party affiliation before they joined the Court.

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#### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society met in January, April, and October as we always do to plan and discuss upcoming events and programs and to discuss and review the effectiveness of past and current programs and activities. At our April 2006 meeting, we welcomed three new board members: Michael Murray, Mary Massaron Ross, and Janet K. Welch. We also elected Carl W. Herstein to serve as Secretary. Mr. Herstein replaces Charles R. Rutherford, who remains on the Board of Directors.

As always, I must extend a very special thanks to all of our Board members, who each volunteer their time and efforts to ensure that the Society continues to live up to its mission and meet its goals.

I also thank each of you, our dedicated members, for your continued support. The Historical Society sincerely appreciates your continued support, without which we could not continue to fulfill our mission.

- Wallace D. Riley

#### 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to Right (Back Row) Hon. Michael G. Harrison, Eugene Mossner, Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh, Richard D. Reed, Hon. James L. Ryan, Mary Massaron Ross, John W. Reed, Ronald D. Keefe, Carl W. Herstein (Secretary), and Michael Murray

(Front Row) Janet K. Welch, Frank J. Kelley, Charles R. Rutherford, Wallace D. Riley (President), Hon. Avern L. Cohn, Lawrence P. Nolan (Treasurer), Christine D. Oldani

Not Pictured: Frederick G. Buesser, III (Vice President), Lawrence G. Campbell, Leonard D. Givens, Hon. Charles L. Levin, Hon. Conrad L. Mallett, Jr., Hon. Denise Langford Morris, Hon. Wendy L. Potts

#### Save the Date!

### Join the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court and Fellow Society Members At the Annual Membership Luncheon

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 – Noon at The Detroit Athletic Club Detroit, Michigan





## The Road Ahead: A Message from the Executive Director

s the Historical Society enters its 19<sup>th</sup> year, we are looking forward to continuing and completing many exciting projects.

#### PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

As always, we will continue to create and distribute the quarterly newsletter, filling it with articles about the history of the Court and its justices. We are in the process of completing the editing of the 2006 Coleman Intern's work and look forward to publishing the stories of the special circumstances in which some of the justices came to or left the bench.

We will also continue to improve and update the website, www.micourthistory.org. For your convenience, in 2007 we will add the capability to accept credit card donations on-line.

#### ORAL HISTORIES

We have completed the oral history of former court clerk Harold Hoag and are in the process of editing the transcripts. Our plans are to have the transcript and audio file on-line by summer.

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

This year's Annual Membership Luncheon is scheduled for April 18, 2007 at the Detroit Athletic Club. Look for your invitation in the mail in March.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Paul Carrington, author of <u>Stewards of Democracy: Law As a Public Profession</u>, has been invited to deliver a legal vignette about Thomas M. Cooley.

#### **COLEMAN INTERNSHIP**

The Historical Society is pleased to announce that Laura Langolf has been hired as the 2007 Coleman Intern. Laura,

a junior at Michigan State University, is majoring in Professional Writing specializing in Editing and Publishing and minoring in History and Philosophy. Laura will bring her exceptional research, writing, and editing skills to her work with the Society.



#### Have you paid your 2007 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 Fax (517) 373-7592

Name		[] Check enclosed	[] Credit Card (Circle one)
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Total Payment \$		Signature	

Laura will be working on several projects over the course of the next two semesters. First, she will be developing a list of "firsts" among Territorial and state Supreme Court advocates, preparing biographies of some of those advocates, and researching the history of qualification requirements to practice before the early courts.

During the spring semester, she will also be developing a list of former court clerks, criers, and recorders and will prepare short biographies for each. She will also be preparing a history of the clerks office and describing its current role in the judicial system, preparing a history and description of the commissioner's office and creating a list of commissioners.

Laura will also be assisting the top cases committee by scanning opinions, gathering supporting materials, pictures, and articles, and assisting with preparing the project for web and print publication.

Finally, as I prepare for the arrival of a baby in late May, Laura will be training to assist with some administrative and office duties for the Historical Society and will be taking over some of those duties while I am on leave.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

As more and more of our members reach Life Member status, it has become increasingly important to attract new members to our organization. In 2007, we plan on focusing on recruiting student members, developing the Advocates Guild (see ad below), and inviting more law firms to join as corporate members.

#### MISSION STATEMENT AND THANK YOU

With your generous support, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society continues to strive to fulfill its mission and to deliver publications and events that familiarize Michigan citizens with the importance of the history and role of the Michigan Supreme Court.

We are sincerely interested in the input and advice of our members. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, or questions about our programs and events. I can be reached at 517-373-7589 or abergman@micourthistory.org

I hope to see each of you at one of our upcoming events. Thank you for your generous support.

- Angela Bergman

### Telling the History of the Court from the Other Side of the Bench: The Historical Society Creates the Advocates Guild

ELCOME

ADVOCATES GUILD

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society is pleased to announce the election of an Executive Board for its newly created Advocates Guild. Mary Massaron Ross, of Plunkett & Cooney, PC, will serve as First Chair of the Board; Richard D. McLellan, of Dykema Gossett, will serve as Second Chair; Timothy Baughman, Wayne County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; Mark Cooney, Thomas M. Cooley Law School Oakland Campus; and Rosalind Rochkind, of Garan Lucow Miller PC, will also serve on the Executive Board.

The Advocates Guild, which will begin its programs and publications in 2007, was created to assist in the educational and other charitable work of the Historical Society, to foster an interest in the role of advocates before the Michigan Supreme Court, and to work to preserve documents, records, and memorabilia regarding the history of the Court, and in particular, of the advocates who have appeared before it.

All attorneys who have appeared MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT before the Michigan Supreme Court in calendared appeals are invited to join. Annual membership dues are \$150.00 - \$100.00 for Historical Society membership and \$50.00 for Advocates Guild membership.

#### Advocates Guild members are entitled to:

- Subscription to the quarterly Historical Society newsletter, the Society Update
- Invitations to the Historical Society's Annual Membership Luncheon and other special events
- Invitation to the Annual Advocates Guild dinner
- Subscription to the Advocates Guild newsletter

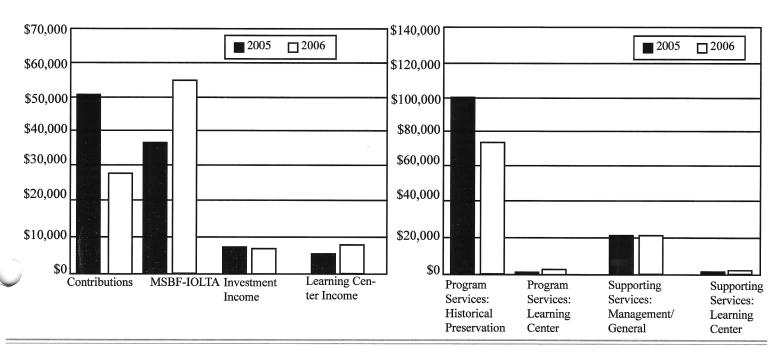
To join or to request more information, simply contact Angela Bergman at 517-373-7589 or abergman@micourthistory.org or go to the Historical Society's website at www.micourthistory.org

#### Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc. Statements of Activities – Cash Basis Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

Public Support and Revenues:	<u>2006</u>	2005			
Contributions/Dues	\$ 27,894	\$ 51,630			
MSBF-IOLTA Funds	\$ 54,191	\$ 36,682			
Sales	\$ 70	\$ 0			
Investment Income	\$ 5,873	\$ 6,108			
Learning Center	<u>\$ 7,095</u>	<u>\$ 5,551</u>			
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	\$ 95,123	\$ 99,971			
Expenses:					
Program Services: Historical Preservation	\$ 73,399	\$100,150			
Program Services: Learning Center	\$ 2,488	\$ 1,101			
Supporting Services: Management and General	\$ 21,465	\$ 20,659			
Supporting Services: Learning Center	\$ 1,137	\$ 914			
Total Expenses	\$ 98,489	\$122,824			
Net Gain/Loss for the Year	\$ (3,366)	\$(22,853)			
Net Assets – Cash Basis					
Beginning of Year	\$421,072	\$418,820			
End of Year	\$464,339	\$421,072			
Change in Net Assets	\$ 43,267	\$ 2,252			

#### **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.

#### Life Members Benefactor

Over \$5,000 Alan T. Ackerman, 1988 Thomas E. Brennan, 1988 Patricia Hill Burnett, 2006 Avern L. Cohn, 1989 Lawrence P. Nolan, 1989 Richard D. Reed, 1989 Wallace D. Riley, 1988 Clifford W. Taylor, 1989 Randall Taylor, 2000 Emmet E. Tracy, 1997 Robert P. Young, 1999

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Angela Bergman, 2001
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Lambro Niforos, 2003
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### Contributing \$100-\$249

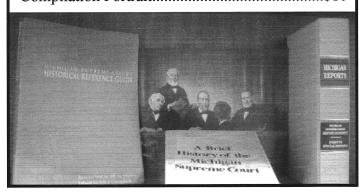
Peter Francis Clark, 2006 James G. Gross, 2006 Raymond Henney, 2006 Joyce Laing, 2006 Mary T. Nemeth, 2006 Steven G. Silverman, 2006 Paul J. Tetreault, 2006 Brad Thompson, 2006 Michael J. Weber, 2006

#### Special Thanks to Our 2006 Corporate/Law Firm Members

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John P. Jacobs, P.C.

# Call 517-373-7589 To Order Your Favorite Historical Society Publication Now!

Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide	\$15
Index to Special Sessions	
A Brief History of the Michigan Supreme	
8x10 Color Photograph of the Big Four Compilation Portrait	\$10



#### **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.

#### Founder:

Dorothy Comstock Riley *Officers:* 

Wallace D. Riley, President
Frederick G. Buesser, III, Vice President
Carl W. Herstein, Secretary
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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

E-mail Abergman@micourthistory.org; Website: www.micourthistory.org

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