



Society Update

The Official Publication of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society

Summer 2013

Dorothy Comstock Riley Legal History Award Honors Both Founder, President for 25th Anniversary



Treasurer Lawrence Nolan looks on as Society President Wallace Riley is handed the newly re-named Dorothy Comstock Riley Legal History Award by Vice President Charles Rutherford during the Society's Annual Luncheon on May 2, 2013.

During the meeting of the Board of Directors immediately preceding the Annual Membership Luncheon in May, the Board of Directors unanimously approved two motions.

The first motion, made by Treasurer Lawrence P. Nolan and seconded by Vice President Charles Rutherford, was to re-name the *Legal History Award* to honor Society founder Dorothy Comstock Riley (MSC 1982–1983, 1985–1997). As Chief Justice, Dorothy Comstock Riley founded the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society to preserve the court's history and increase public awareness of our legal heritage.

The second motion was to nominate Society President Wallace D. Riley as the fifth recipient of the newly re-named award. Mr. Riley has led the Society as its President since the Society was formed in 1988.

President Riley had been asked to excuse himself from the meeting before discussion of the *Legal History Award*. He was surprised at the Luncheon by the presentation of the award, and in his remarks expressed his wish to share the recognition with the Board of Directors.



- The plaque representing the Dorothy Comstock Riley Legal History Award will be on display in the Hall of Justice.
- Previous winners include Governor John Engler, 2002; Dorothy Comstock Riley, 2003; Rosa Parks (posthumously), 2006; and John W. Reed, 2008.
- The award was created to recognize individuals who have greatly affected Michigan's legal history through support of the Society and its efforts, or through their work in the law.



Former Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan was the vignette speaker at the 25th Anniversary Luncheon. The event was held at the Detroit Athletic Club on Thursday, May 2, 2013, and attended by a record number of Society members and friends.



Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. welcomed the crowd and introduced his fellow justices and former justices who were in attendance.



President Wallace Riley reflects before the presentation begins. Also seen here are Polly Brennan, wife of former Chief Justice Brennan, and Society Treasurer Lawrence Nolan.



Former Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor (MSC 1997-2008) and former Justice Charles Levin (MSC 1973-1996) both attended the Luncheon. Also in attendance were former Justices James Ryan, Elizabeth Weaver, and Marilyn Kelly.



Justice Brian K. Zahra speaks with Cooley Law School Dean John Nussbaumer and State Bar of Michigan President Bruce Courtade before the Luncheon begins.



Newly elected Justice Bridget Mary McCormack sat with a group of attorneys at the Luncheon, including Professor John W. Reed.



Advocates Guild and Society Life member Martin Critchell catches up with a colleague before the Luncheon begins.



Christine Oldani who formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Society chats with William Booth and another Luncheon guest.



Thomas M. Cooley Law School Professor Gerald Fisher chats with another member before the Luncheon.

The Society also hosted a special anniversary dinner to thank its board of directors & emeritus members and current & former Supreme Court justices on Friday, May 3rd, at the DAC.



Former Justice Dennis Archer (MSC 1986-1990) was in attendance.



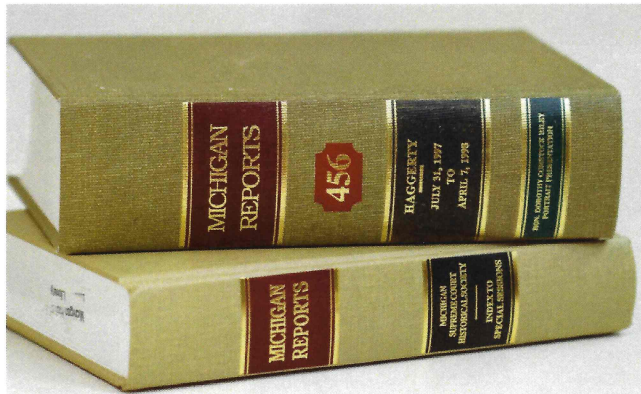
Former Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan (MSC 1967-1973) spoke about term limits in his luncheon vignette, which was entitled "The Party's Over." To read the full text, visit our website at www.micourthistory.org.



Former Justice Patricia Boyle (MSC 1983-1999) and newest Justice David F. Viviano were also present.



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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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