

Winter 2009



A Message from the Society President Reflections on 2008

he past year was an important one for the Society. We reflected on where we have been in the past twenty years and looked forward to the future with big projects like the Verdict of History. We also said goodbye to our longtime executive director, Angela Bergman, who is moving cross country, and welcomed her successor, Carrie Pickett.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Annual Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club on April 24, 2008, marked the twentieth anniversary of the Historical Society. In a slight break with tradition, the luncheon entertainment this year was A (Habeas) Chorus Line, equal opportunity lampooners and fine musicians. Chief Justice Taylor recalled the events of the past twenty years, putting into context the work in which the Society has been involved for the last two decades.

I also had the honor of presenting Professor John W. Reed with the 2008 Legal History Award. The award was created in 2002 to recognize individuals whose support of the Society and/or work in the law has significantly affected Michigan's legal history. Professor Reed qualifies on both counts.

The Advocates Guild hosted its annual dinner on October 2, 2008, in the top floor rotunda of the Hall of

Justice. The Society is grateful to the Justices and Court Clerk for graciously hosting our new advocate members, who enjoyed personal photos with the Court, a reception in the Justices' private conference room, tour of the robing room, and dinner with the Justices.

ARCHIVES AND ORAL HISTORIES

The Society continues to coordinate with the Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University to provide the oral histories of thirteen former justices. These are online and available at any time of the day or night.

The Society also continues to maintain the portraits of former justices for the Court, and to inspect and evaluate the paintings annually.

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

The Society received a \$45,000 Administration of Justice Grant from the State Bar Foundation for our Verdict of History project, which began publication in the *Michigan Bar Journal* in December. The Verdict of History is a multi-year project that began in 2003. Through twenty significant cases, the project is a study of the development of Michigan jurisprudence as it affects the lives of Michigan citizens. If you have not yet begun to read the Verdict of History, I encourage you to visit our website at www.micourthistory.org.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Society's membership roster continued to grow with the inclusion of new members via the Advocates Guild.

The Society is grateful to our members, both new and sustaining, for your support as we continue the mission put forth by then Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley when she created the Society in 1988—to promote the study of the history of Michigan's courts and to increase public awareness of Michigan's legal heritage.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Society elected two new board members at our April meeting. Matthew C. Herstein practices construction law, surety law, and litigation with Deneweth, Dugan & Parfitt, P.C. Stephen K. Valentine, Jr., is a principal in the firm of Valentine & Associates, P.C. and an internationally recognized expert in contract negotiation, employment law, and commission recovery litigation. Both Mr. Herstein and Mr. Valentine were elected to three-year terms expiring in 2011.

Save the Date!

Join the Michigan Supreme Court Justices and fellow Society members for the

Annual Membership Luncheon

Thursday, April 30, 2009 12:00 The Detroit Athletic Club Detroit, Michigan



Special Thanks

to our 2008
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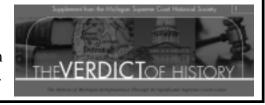
2008 MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Standing (left to right): Matthew Herstein, Hon. Alfred Butzbaugh, John W. Reed, Janet Welch, Stephen Valentine, Jr., Christine Oldani, Hon. Charles Levin, Hon. Michael Harrison, Mary Massaron Ross, Charles Rutherford, Hon. Avern Cohn, and Richard Reed.

Seated (left to right) Hon. Wendy Potts, Treasurer Lawrence P. Nolan, President Wallace D. Riley, Secretary Carl W. Herstein, and State Bar Immediate Past President Ronald Keefe.

Read the history of Michigan jurisprudence through its significant Supreme Court cases. Special tear-out section in the *Bar Journal* from December through March. Read it online at www.michbar.org/journal.



Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Update

In its sixth year, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center continues to offer programs and resources that educate the public about the judicial branch of government. Schools remain the largest percentage of visitors, and many teachers bring their classes year after year.

To support teachers' needs, the Learning Center provides many curriculum resources electronically. In addition to the Educational Resources section of the website (courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources.htm), the Learning Center has launched *Justitia*, a seasonal newsletter for educators. Anyone may subscribe by e-mailing LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov.

In the coming months, the Learning Center will also host several programs, including:

- Law Day (May 1)
- Exploring Careers in the Law, 10th–12th grades (June 22–26)
- Exploring Careers in the Law, 7th–9th grades (July 13–17)

If you wish to schedule a tour or know of anyone who would like to participate in special programs at the Learning Center, please contact Rachael L. Drenovsky, Learning Center Coordinator, at (517) 373-5027 or drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov for more information.



A Message from the Executive Director Where We're Headed in 2009

My first five months with the Historical Society have been gratifying, albeit busy!

In September I attended the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Conference in Rochester, New York, where I met my counterparts from around the country including the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society.

The second annual Advocates Guild dinner was held in October, on the first day of the Court's new session. I had the chance then to meet the seven Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court as well as many of our advocates. This was also the date of the Society's Board of Directors' meeting where I was officially welcomed as the new executive director of the Society.

January brought us the investiture of our 104th Justice, and the first to be sworn in at the Hall of Justice (please see the related article on the next page).

2009 promises to be an exciting year! Here is a synopsis of what we have planned for the year ahead.

Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 30, at the Detroit Athletic Club. It has been a long, cold winter and I am looking forward to this event. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Professor Otto Stockmeyer of Cooley Law School will present a vignette on *Sherwood v. Walker*, the famous "cow case," which is part of our Verdict of History project in the *Michigan Bar Journal*.

Law Student Prize

The Board of Directors has approved a new \$500 prize to be awarded annually to an outstanding legal history scholar from each of the state's law schools. The first prize winner is Stephanie Fields of Michigan State College of Law, who studied American Legal History with Professr Charles Ten Brink this past fall. Ms. Fields will be awarded her prize at the Annual Luncheon in April.

Publications

The Verdict of History continues in each monthly *Bar Journal* through March. Feedback on this project has been positive. Lesson plans on the Verdict of History are available for junior high and high school teachers.

Coleman Intern

Signature

Stephanie Schnelz has been selected as this year's Coleman intern. Ms. Schnelz is a pre-law senior at Michigan State University. She is active in her sorority and has a strong interest in women's issues.

Stephanie's primary assignment is to conduct research on the women justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, including the five female Chief Justices and the two female majority courts, for a new exhibit sponsored by the Society in the Learning Center. Stephanie is also assisting with administrative tasks in the Society office. Her enthusiasm makes her a pleasant addition to the Society.

Have You Paid Your 2009 Membership Dues Yet?

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The Investiture of Justice Diane Marie Hathaway

n Thursday, January 8, 2009, the Hall of Justice welcomed nearly 515 people to the investiture of the Michigan Supreme Court's newest justice, Diane Marie Hathaway.

Justice Hathaway is the 104th justice of the Court and the seventh woman. She is the first Supreme Court justice to be sworn in at the Hall of Justice, which opened on October 12, 2002.

The Society worked with Justice Hathaway to print and mail the investiture invitations, as well as collect all of the responses for the event. The Society was also responsible for coordinating the printing of the investiture program.

Justice Hathaway was introduced by Lieutenant Governor John Cherry and sworn in by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, who was chosen earlier that day to lead the Court.



Photo by Dave Trumpie www.trumpiephotography.com

Family members shared anecdotes about Justice Hathaway, who never missed a day of school from kindergarten through high school graduation. Above Justice Hathaway is shown as she was presented with an oversized gavel by her daughter Dana and Third Circuit Court Judge Amy Hathaway.

Rededication of Big Four Mural at Cooley Law School



Photo by Tom Gennara www.gennara.com Justice Thomas Brennan, founder of Cooley Law School, and Cooley Law School Dean Don LeDuc pose with a reproduction of the Big Four portrait.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2009, former Justice Thomas Brennan and Cooley Law School Dean Don LeDuc unveiled the newly refurbished mural of the Big Four.

The mural depicts the "Big Four" justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. From left they are James V. Campbell, Benjamin Graves, Thomas M. Cooley, and Isaac Christiancy. The "Big Four" served the Court from 1868 to 1875.



Photo by Tom Gennara www.gennara.com

The mural measures 60"x90". The quote at the bottom of the mural is from Justice Cooley who said, "Law students must not forget they are fitting themselves to be ministers of justice."

The mural was first hung on the side of Cooley's Temple Building at 217 S. Capitol Avenue in downtown Lansing in June 2002. It was recently damaged by the elements, requiring a new reproduction to be commissioned.

Photo reproductions of the Big Four are available from the Society for \$10.00. Please visit our website at www.micourthistory.org or call (517) 373-7589 to order your 8x10 copy of the Big Four.

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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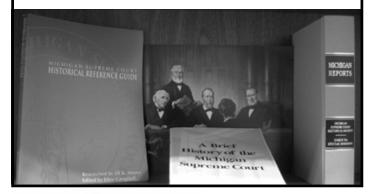
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Mission Statement

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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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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