

**Annual Report to the
Illinois Supreme Court
Illinois General Assembly
and the
Governor of Illinois**

Submitted by:

Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

January 2010

Introduction

The Supreme Court Historic Preservation Act provides that the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission is to file an annual report with the Supreme Court, the Governor and the General Assembly, regarding the Commission's fiscal and program activities. As provided by the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Act (705 ILCS 17/15), the Commission:

“...shall assist and advise the Court in regard to the acquisition, collection, documentation, preservation, cataloging, and related matters with respect to historic aspects of buildings, objects, artifacts, documents, and information, regardless of form, relating to the Illinois judiciary. “

Activities

Staffing

The Commission has hired the following staff:

William L. Wheeler, Executive Director
Madeline Gumble, Director of Administration
Matt Burns, Director of Outreach
John Lupton, Director of History Programs

Meetings

The Commission has met regularly, setting its meetings about 2 months apart.

Office Space

Office space has been leased at 625 South Second Street, near the Supreme Court Building.

Furniture and Equipment

Nearly all office furniture and equipment has been obtained through the State and Federal Surplus Property Offices. New computers, copying, scanning, audio and video equipment has been obtained.

Award Program

The Commission established the Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Justice Award. On July 22, the Court and the Commission presented the inaugural award to Judge George N. Leighton, whose life and career made him an obvious choice for the award. At 96 years of age, Judge Leighton is still actively engaged in the practice of law. As an attorney and judge (state and federal), he did much to help the disadvantaged in society. The Chicago Bar Association provided a reception for this event. Additional details are available in the Events section of the Commission's website: <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/>.

Website

The Commission's website, <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/>, has been created. It is still in a rudimentary form, but will undergo some dramatic changes with the addition of much material within the next few months.

Supreme Court Building

The General Assembly appropriated funds to the Capital Development Board for work on the Supreme Court Building. The Commission will be working closely with the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and with the Capital Development Board to move this project forward. At present no financial commitments can be made as the funds have not yet been released.

Tours

Commission staff is working in several ways to improve public access to and understanding of the Supreme Court Building:

- There is preliminary planning to develop a virtual online tour of the building and its art work.
- A booklet is nearly completed, describing the art work in the building.
- A cell phone tour is being developed. This lets visitors get a detailed guided tour with no staffing or equipment costs to the Commission since visitors use their own cell phones.
- An small weather-proof audio box is being considered for installation outside the Supreme Court Building. This would give information on the building and on tours and schedules.

Krehbiel Mural



Background--In 1906, when Albert Krehbiel proposed that he be chosen to paint the murals in the new Supreme Court Building, he submitted a competition piece, showing the quality of his work. He was chosen and executed a mural that is nearly identical to the competition piece. This particular mural directly faces the Justices when they are in session.

Gift—The Krehbiel family has made a gift to the Court of this painting. The painting has now been repaired and framed, with much of the costs being covered by private donations, including the Krehbiel family.

Unveiling Ceremony—On March 9, the Court will unveil the painting and accept the generous gift from the Krehbiel family. The Commission will host the event which will be attended by some of the Krehbiel family. As a part of the event, a small exhibit of the artist's items will be on display, including paint brushes, palette, gold medals won in Paris, letters and photographs.

Use of the Image—The mural will be used by the Commission in several ways. It has been printed on canvas in several sizes and is available for purchase. It is anticipated that it will be used in several other products the Commission is considering offering for sale on its website for the purpose of promoting interest in Illinois judicial history.

Oral History



The Commission has completed an oral history interview of retired Chief Justice McMorrow. In addition, interviews were recorded with Dick Williams, 90 year old architect of the modern Second District Appellate Court in Elgin. Priorities for oral history interviews will start with former justices, then current justices, and then former staff members, and senior members of the bar having had substantial work before the Supreme Court with exceptions as required due to health, travel, and availability.

Rockford Event

On October 15, 2009, Madeline Gumble and Bill Wheeler spoke at an event in Rockford to honor five area women judges. The event was co-sponsored by the local chapters of the Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters. In addition to speaking, Bill and Madeline took a small exhibit depicting early Illinois women, including two from Rockford, admitted to the bar.

Distinguished Lecture Series

The Commission plans to sponsor at least one distinguished lecture yearly, with a speaker who is an expert in some aspect of Illinois legal history. The first speaker will be Professor Leigh Bienen of the Northwestern University College of Law. This lecture will take place in May or June in Chicago and will be co-sponsored with the Chicago Bar Association. Professor Bienen will speak on Florence Kelley, an early Illinois attorney and reformer.

Historical Reenactment Series



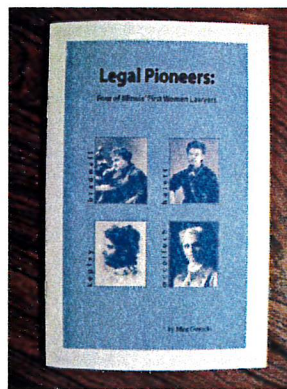
The Commission plans to undertake a historical reenactment of an important Illinois legal case, perhaps annually, but at least periodically. The first is now being planned for the fall of 2010. It will take place in the Chicago History Museum auditorium in partnership with the CHM. The topic will be Myra Bradwell, arguably Illinois' first woman attorney and unarguably an amazing business woman and force in several reform movements.

Digitization

The Commission is working with the University of Illinois Law School and Law Library, planning to digitize the Chicago Legal News. This publication, owned and managed by Myra Bradwell, became an essential tool for attorneys throughout the country. In addition to reprinting cases and statutes, it contains a wealth of news items and opinions regarding the early treatment of women and minorities and all other issues of interest to Myra Bradwell. There is a possibility of obtaining grant funds to support this work.

Research

Research has been focused on topics to develop a program or project. Some research has been more generic, but has been in areas that the Commission believes will lay the foundation for efficient future program development. Some of the topics of research so far:



- Early women admitted to the Illinois bar; with permission from the Illinois Bar Journal, an article on this topic was reprinted
- Early African-Americans admitted to the Illinois bar
- Work of Myra Bradwell's firm, the Chicago Legal News
- Stephen Douglas' work as presiding judge over the Joseph Smith extradition hearing
- All buildings occupied by the Supreme Court
- Genealogy of the Justices—which seats were occupied and succeeded to by each Justice
- Biographies of all Justices for use on the website and perhaps in a book
- Professionalization of legal studies/elimination of the apprenticeship system

- We are near to having copyright to reprint—probably on the website—and annotate two important books on Illinois legal history: *Prairie Justice* by and *Three Hundred Years of Illinois Courts 1673 to 1973* by

Grants

Commission staff has investigated several federal and private grant programs and will be applying for some of them within the next year. It is hoped that these programs can supplement the Commission's state appropriations.

Public Education

The Commission is considering several ways to educate students and the general public. These include website features, exhibits to be provided to schools, publications, and a teachers' institute.

Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

Fiscal Report

Month ending 12/31/2009

prepared by
Madeline Gumble
Director of
Administration

Cash

	GRF transfer in	\$	5,000,000
	Interest Deposits	\$	288,158
	Expenditures	\$	512,436
12/31/2009	end bal	\$	4,775,722

	FY09 Expenditures	\$	177,318
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	FY10 Expenditures	\$	335,119
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FY10 Expenditure Detail

	<i>Employee Salaries</i>		142,145
	<i>Employee Benefits</i>		74,448
	<i>Lease & Building</i>		22,825
	<i>Professional Contracts</i>		31,678
	<i>Services</i>		23,967
	<i>Employee Travel</i>		5,255
	<i>Printing</i>		8,192
	<i>Supplies</i>		8,734
	<i>Equipment</i>		8,788
	<i>Computers</i>		5,373
	<i>Telephone</i>		3,714
	<i>Total</i>	\$	335,119