

Annual Report

2022



Supreme Court Building, Springfield, Ill.

1132 *Pub. by B. S. Bennett*

Illinois Supreme Court
Historic Preservation Commission

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Planning began for the Learning Center at the Illinois Supreme Court. Commission staff met with Taylor Studios in July for a three-day workshop.

A federal grant provided funding for staff and resources to begin digitizing Illinois Supreme Court case files that are housed at the Illinois State Archives.



History on Trial: Chicago "Black Sox" finally took center stage in Springfield and Chicago to highlight the legal issues surrounding the 1919 World Series.

Staff members returned to making presentations in many venues across Illinois to educate the public about the judicial branch and the Commission.



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ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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January 17, 2022

Hon. Mary Jane Theis, Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Illinois
200 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Hon. JB Pritzker, Governor
State of Illinois
207 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706-1150

Hon. Don Harmon, President
Illinois Senate
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Hon. Emanuel Chris Welch, Speaker
Illinois House of Representatives
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

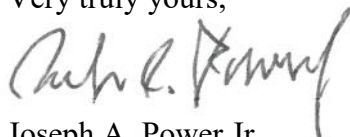
Dear Chief Justice Theis, Governor Pritzker, President Harmon, and Speaker Welch:

Enclosed is the Annual Report of the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) filed in accordance with Section 25 of the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Act (705 ILCS 17). The Annual Report reflects the activities undertaken by the Commission in calendar year 2022 to further its mission as articulated in the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Act.

This has been a productive year for the Commission. COVID-delayed projects finally got completed with others finally underway. The History on Trial: Chicago “Black Sox” performances in Chicago and Springfield saw large crowds with strong praise. The Learning Center planned for the Illinois Supreme Court Building has a vendor with detailed plans for highlighting the judicial branch to the public. Most importantly, the Commission received a two-year federal grant to begin a project to digitize nineteenth-century Illinois Supreme Court case files and make them available on the Commission’s website.

Looking forward to 2023, the Commission will open the Learning Center in September and make it available for school group visits. The digitization project will begin publishing case files online with more to come as the grant progresses. Another History on Trial production is in the works. Any questions or comments can be directed to myself or to the Executive Director, John Lupton.

Very truly yours,



Joseph A. Power Jr.
Chair

MISSION

The Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission was created in 2007 by an Act of the General Assembly (705 ILCS 17) to:

assist and advise the [Illinois Supreme] 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.



Jason Blohm and Kathryn Powell met with retiring Secretary of State Jesse White at the Illinois State Archives.

Sam Wheeler gave a tour of the Supreme Court Building to Commissioner David Sokol and his wife Sandra.



John Lupton spoke on Lincoln's birthday with Abraham Lincoln Association Secretary James Cornelius (l) and Illinois State Historical Society Director Bill Furry.

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

Learning Center

Work on the Supreme Court's Learning Center began in May 2022 when the Commission signed a contract with Taylor Studios, Inc. of Rantoul, Illinois, to create a plan to fill the roughly 15 x 40 feet space of the old Appellate Court conference room in the Supreme Court Building. Dr. Samuel Wheeler has led this project, working closely with staff members from Taylor Studios to provide the necessary content and to meet deadlines.



The Learning Center will feature exhibits that emphasize important historical cases. A time-line bordering the ceiling will highlight other cases and other notable events in the history of the Illinois judiciary. A podium at the center of the room will face the seven Supreme Court justices so visitors can experience “arguing” before the Court.

After a meeting in July 2022 to determine the Commission's wants and needs, Taylor Studios began the design process. The entire project remains on-time and on-budget with a soft opening in June 2023 and a formal opening at the September 2023 term of the Supreme Court.

One end of the Learning Center will have a display relating to a controversial case, allowing visitors to vote on that issue. An inverted pyramid shows how many cases move from the circuit to the appellate courts and supreme court.



A RESOURCE FOR ALL

Take a Seat in the Gallery
The Illinois Supreme Court is open to the public. You can attend a Supreme Court proceeding right across the hall from this room or you can watch a livestream from the comfort of your home.

Scan this code to view the court's docket of upcoming cases, access recordings, or watch a livestream.

Hit the Stacks!
Have a question about law, legislative history, a specific case, or something else? Visit the law library down the hall. Law librarians are available to help you with your search.

Display panels will be informative with a color palette that is consistent with the colors in the Building.

Digitization Project

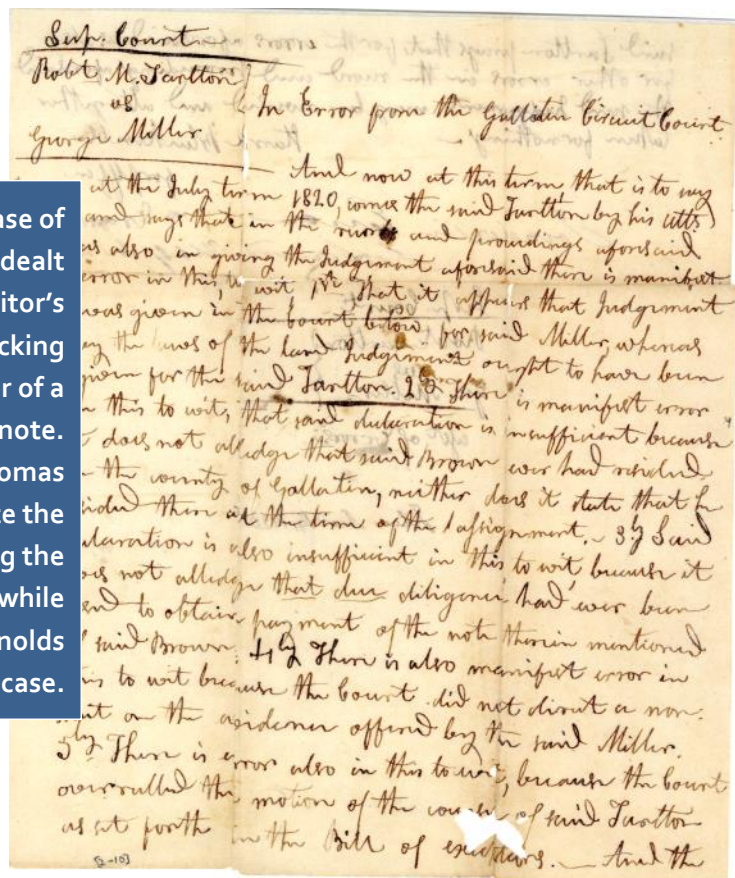
In May, the Commission learned that its grant proposal to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission had been accepted and fully funded. The \$135,000 grant will fund researchers and equipment to digitize approximately 3,634 Illinois Supreme Court case files from 1818 to 1865 and to make them freely available on the Commission's website. The two-year project will be completed in 2024.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PUBLICATIONS
& RECORDS COMMISSION

The 1823 case of *Tarlton v. Miller* dealt with a creditor's diligence in tracking down the maker of a promissory note. Chief Justice Thomas Reynolds wrote the opinion reversing the judgment while Justice John Reynolds dissented in the case.



Work began in July with the hiring of Kathryn Powell and Shanta Thoele, who created a spreadsheet of cases then transitioned to scanning case files. As of the end of December, Powell and Thoele have scanned 2,067 case files, totaling 48,615 pages.

This work would not be possible if not for the support of Illinois State Archives Director David Joens and Supervisor of Operations Catheryne Popovitch, who provided our staff with space and pulled case files.

Supreme Court Case File Conservation

Since July 2021, conservator Jason Blohm has been working to hydrate, flat-file, repair, clean, and deacidify Illinois Supreme Court case file documents housed at the Illinois State Archives.

	Cleaned	Repaired	Flattened	New Folder	Re-Folder
Jan 2022	0	410	28	0	0
Feb 2022	682	393	22	40	433
Mar 2022	944	518	0	17	824
Apr 2022	439	527	27	17	322
May 2022	696	495	30	28	365
Jun 2022	743	496	29	28	306
July 2022	810	192	14	27	286
Aug 2022	639	653	23	18	0
Sep 2022	882	445	35	42	1
Oct 2022	935	291	37	30	0
Nov 2022	881	167	34	36	0
Dec 2022	562	289	38	30	0



Blohm and the Commission are dedicated to maintaining the collection of case files because they are an important element in preserving the history of the Illinois Supreme Court. These files encompass not only the history of the court, but of the entire state. Employing patience and a steady hand, Blohm's conservation work will ensure the case files are safe for public handling and long-term storage. In addition, completed files will be ready for digitization when the time comes.

OUTREACH

History on Trial: Chicago “Black Sox”

After several years of planning and COVID postponements, the Commission produced the latest presentation in its History on Trial series concerning the 1919 Chicago White Sox. The theatrical presentation focused on the Sox players gambling ties in their World Series loss to the Cincinnati Reds and the legal issues involved. The Commission wishes to thank Associate Commissioner Scott Szala, who managed all aspects of the dramatic production, and Dean Corrin and the Theatre School at DePaul University for managing staging and actors.



The Chicago production was held on November 2 in the Spertus Institute and hosted by CBS2 news anchor Irika Sargent.



PRAISE FOR THE PRODUCTION

- “I didn't know much about the Black Sox scandal other than it involved the Chicago White Sox and the World Series... But now I do! Cool initiative bringing legal history to life from the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission.”
- “Awesome event! Cannot wait for the repeat in Chicago on Nov. 2nd!!! The Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission produces tremendous educational content for students, citizens and the legal profession.”
- “What a spectacular presentation and panel discussion. Fabulous all the way around....thanks to all involved! The DePaul actors were simply amazing.”

The Springfield production was held October 25 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum with Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism Director Erika Harold as moderator.



Panelists included:
Scott Szala, retired Winston & Strawn partner
Jacob Pomrenke, Society for American Baseball Research
Mary Robinson, former administrator of ARDC
Hon. Neil Cohen, Cook County Circuit Court
William Lamb, author of *Black Sox in the Courtroom*
Raymond Doswell, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum



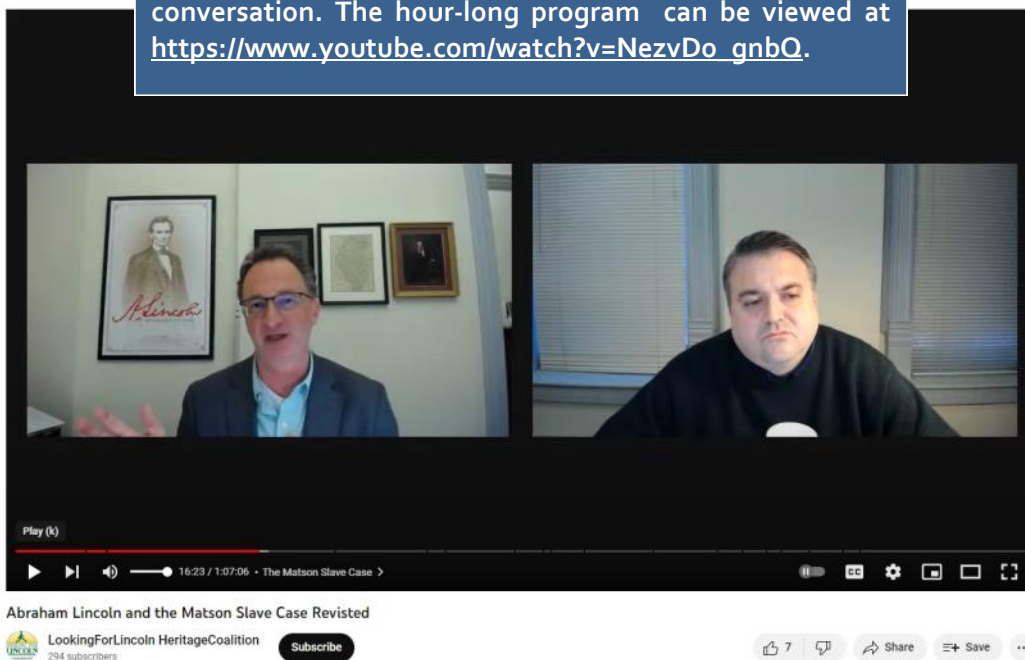
Panelists in Chicago watch a video clip of one of the controversial plays in Game 1 of the 1919 World Series in which Sox pitcher Eddie Cicotte throws errantly to prevent an easy double play.



Public Presentations

Commission staff returned to making in-person presentations at various civic, educational, bar, and historical organizations.

John Lupton and Samuel Wheeler discuss Abraham Lincoln's Matson Slave Case in a Looking For Lincoln conversation. The hour-long program can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NezvDo_gnbQ.



Wheeler was a speaker at a number of events, including the Jim Edgar Fellows Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the Adams County Historical Society, Lincoln Land Community College's Annual Lincoln Lecture, and the Boy Scouts Lincoln Pilgrimage from New Salem to the Lincoln Tomb. Wheeler was also one of the featured speakers at the Road Scholar weeklong-program on Lincoln.

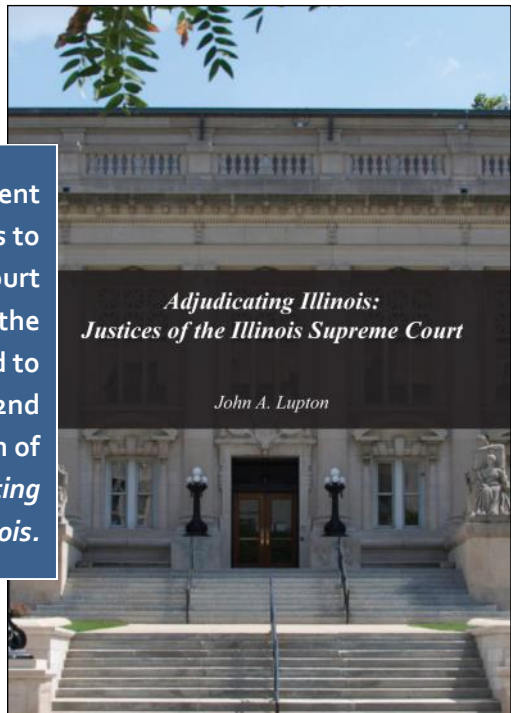
Lupton spoke at several events during the year, including the Road Scholar program, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Illinois State Bar Association. He led tours of the Supreme Court Building for the Lincoln Academy and Aurora University to name a few. Lupton appeared on WGN radio: <https://wgnradio.com/karen-conti/you-know-about-abraham-lincoln-the-president-but-what-about-abraham-lincoln-the-lawyer/>



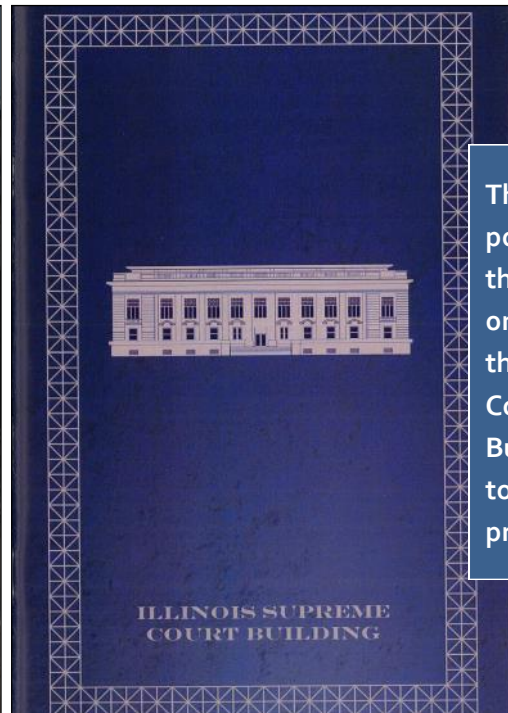
Publications

The Supreme Court Communications Office publishes *Illinois Courts Connect*, an online monthly newsletter that provides information about the judicial branch to the public. The Commission contributes an article for each issue highlighting the history of the Court. Articles written by Commission staff in 2022 can be found at <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/media/media-news>.

January 2022	Cicero Riots and George Leighton
February 2022	Catherine Waugh McCulloch
March 2022	Edward Coles and Slavery
April 2022	Peoria French Claim Cases
May 2022	Federal Agency Awards Grant
July 2022	Theophilus Smith Impeachment
August 2022	Racial Covenants and Lorraine Hansberry
September 2022	History on Trial: Chicago “Black Sox”
October 2022	History on Trial: Chicago “Black Sox”
November 2022	Election of Judges
December 2022	Illinois Women Firsts



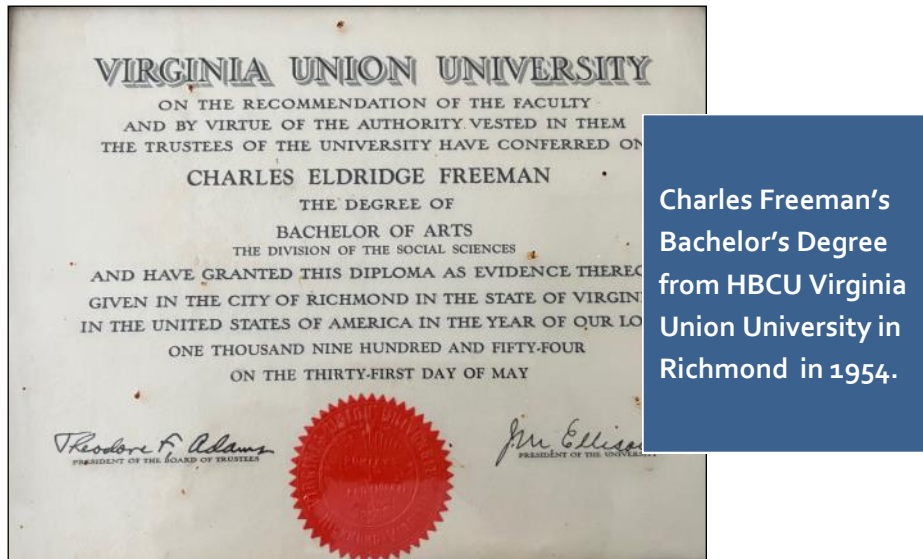
Recent additions to the Court prompt the need to create a 2nd edition of *Adjudicating Illinois*.



The popularity of the booklet on artwork in the Supreme Court Building led to a 3rd printing.

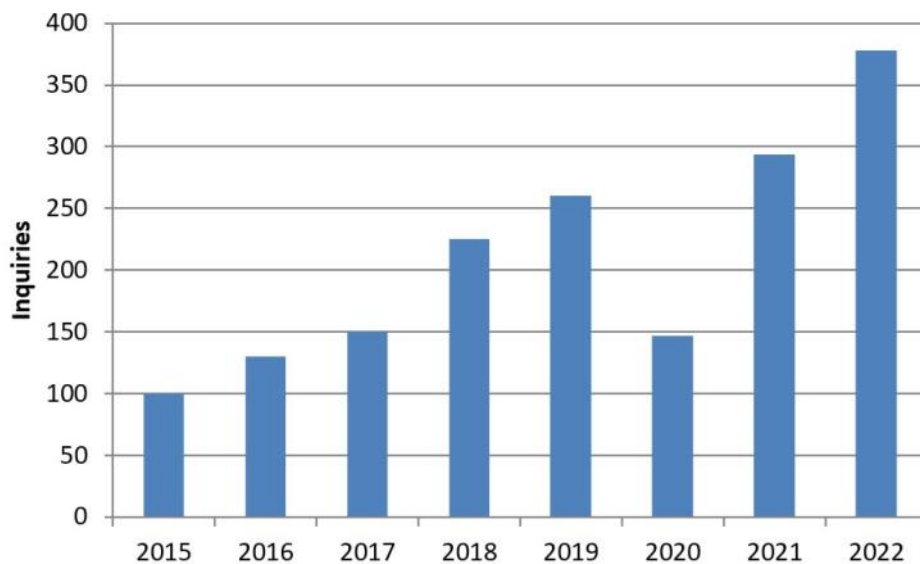
Collections

Benjamin Belzer, the Commission's part-time Collections Manager, continued responsibility for managing the archival collection. The Commission received several new donations, including a number of documents and artifacts from the family of Justice Charles E. Freeman and from retired Justice Anne M. Burke.



Information Source and Impact

The staff of the Commission has become experts in the fields of legal and judicial history. Outside entities and media outlets frequently solicit the Commission for information on the history of courthouses, justices, the legal profession, and court cases. In 2015, the Commission began monitoring inquiries. In 2022, it received 378 queries about legal-related topics. The Commission has already received inquiries about the digitization project from Ph.D. students.



Website & Social Media

Matt Burns, Director of Administration, manages the Commission's website and social media presence. The social media outlets are primarily used to make announcements and to direct users to the website, where more detailed information is available. John Lupton operates a LinkedIn page that also serves to advertise the Commission's work.

Website: www.illinoiscourthistory.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/judicialhistory/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/judicialhistory>

The Justices page has information about all 124 justices who have served on the Court since 1818 with biographies and photos.

The Commission is actively collecting biographical information on all the Justices who have served on the Illinois Supreme Court. Below is a picture of each Justice for whom we have posted material. Click on the photo to get a list of basic biographical data and a list of links to materials we have collected. You may find additional photos, photos of homes or tombstones, full-length biographies with footnotes, and for recent Justices, we have an oral history program underway with audio and video presentations becoming available as we progress.

 1818-1822 Justice Joseph Philips VIEW DETAILS	 1818-1848 Justice Thomas C. Browne VIEW DETAILS	 1818-1819 Justice William P. Foster VIEW DETAILS	 1822-1825 Justice John Reynolds VIEW DETAILS	 1819-1848 Justice William Wilson VIEW DETAILS
 1822-1825 Justice Thomas Reynolds VIEW DETAILS	 1825-1842 Justice Theophilus W. Smith VIEW DETAILS	 1825-1848 Justice Samuel D. Lockwood VIEW DETAILS	 1841-1855 Justice Samuel H. Treat VIEW DETAILS	 1841-1842 Justice Thomas Ford VIEW DETAILS
 1841-1843 1857-1878 Justice Sidney Breese VIEW DETAILS	 1841-1847 1853-1857 Justice Walter B. Scates VIEW DETAILS	 1841-1843 Justice Stephen A. Douglas VIEW DETAILS	 1842-1843 1843-1864 Justice John D. Caton VIEW DETAILS	 1843 Justice John M. Robinson VIEW DETAILS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Commissioners

Joseph A. Power Jr., Chair
Hon. Vincent F. Cornelius
Hon. Kirk W. Dillard
Martin Green
Thomas Q. Keefe
John “Jay” Rock
J. William Roberts
Dr. David M. Sokol
Marcia M. Meis, *ex officio*,
Director, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts



Joseph A. Power Jr.

The Commission welcomed several new members in 2022:



Martin Green was appointed by Governor JB Pritzker. Green previously worked in the office of the Illinois Attorney General and Governor Jim Edgar. He is currently the Vice President of Governmental Relations for the Illinois CPA Society. He also serves as a Colonel in the Illinois Air National Guard in Springfield.



Thomas Q. Keefe was appointed by House Speaker Chris Welch. His peers have voted him the best Downstate Lawyer, and among the top 10 of all lawyers, in the State of Illinois. Keefe is a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only group of 100 of the best plaintiff lawyers. He is a partner at Keefe, Keefe and Unsell in Belleville.



John “Jay” Rock was appointed by Senate President Don Harmon. He is a founding partner at Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC in Chicago. He began his career as an Assistant State’s Attorney in Cook County. Rock was named one of the “Forty Attorneys Under 40” by the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*.

Supreme Court of Illinois Liaisons



This year saw the retirement of Justice Anne Burke and Justice Rita Garman from the Court after long and distinguished careers on the bench.



Rita Garman retired in July 2022, and Anne Burke retired in November 2022. Since both were involved in the creation of the Commission in 2007, they wanted to remain involved in its activities. The Commission decided to name both of

them Emeritus Commissioners so they can continue to attend meetings and assist with the direction of the Commission. While we will miss their guidance from the bench, we will continue to benefit from their wisdom and interest.



Justice Anne Burke hangs up her robe for the last time after the conclusion of the November 2022 term of Court. The wardrobe, which Burke donated to the Commission, also houses the robes of Mary Ann McMorrow and Rita Garman. Burke received the wardrobe from former Clerk Carolyn Grosboll, whose family owned it since the 1800s.

Associate Commissioners

The Associate Commissioners serve as the operational body, in support of the Commission, which serves as the governing body. Associate Commissioners attend meetings and provide input into the Commission's programmatic activities.

Congratulations to Associate Commissioner Chair Justice Joy Cunningham, who was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in December 2022 to succeed Justice Anne Burke.

Hon. Joy V. Cunningham, Chair
Matthew R. Carter
Hon. Neil H. Cohen
Hon. Margarita Kulys-Hoffman (ret.)
Hon. Margaret McBride
Hon. Aurelia Pucinski
Scott J. Szala



Hon. Joy V. Cunningham

Staff

John Lupton, Executive Director
Matt Burns, Director of Administration, Director of Outreach
Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Director of History Programs
Jason Blohm, Conservator
Virginia Geiger, Administrative Assistant
Benjamin Belzer, Collections, Oral History, and Research
Kathryn Powell, Research Technician
Shanta Thoele, Research Technician



Kathryn Powell

Kathryn Powell joined the staff in July 2022. She has a B.A. from SIU-Edwardsville and an M.A. in History from the University of Illinois Springfield. She has extensive experience in archival work.

Shanta Thoele also joined the staff in July 2022. She recently retired after more than 35 years at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.



Shanta Thoele

Meetings

The Commission met four times in 2022 on March 11, June 10, September 9, and December 2. Meeting agendas and minutes are available upon request to the Executive Director.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Commission increased its expenditures by 24 percent from FY2021. This was principally due to converting an hourly employee to full-time status as well as beginning several new projects. Notably, the Commission obtained a federal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to digitize Supreme Court case files from 1818 to 1865. The Commission completed production for History on Trial: Chicago “Black Sox” with performances in Springfield and Chicago. Lastly, the Commission began planning to create a Learning Center in the Illinois Supreme Court Building that will open in FY2023. With COVID-19 subsiding, staff members returned to traveling to make presentations across the state. In the coming year, the Commission plans to solicit funding to underwrite field trips to the Learning Center for Illinois middle and high school students.

FY22 Expenditure Detail (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
<i>Regular Positions</i>	\$418,263
<i>Benefits</i>	\$362,299
<i>Lease</i>	\$43,630
<i>Contractual Services</i>	\$27,898
<i>Telecommunications</i>	\$6,378
<i>Commodities</i>	\$5,909
<i>EDP</i>	\$5,077
<i>Travel</i>	\$2,135
<i>Printing</i>	\$921
<i>Total</i>	\$872,510

Appropriations and Expenditures (Supreme Court Historic Preservation Fund)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Change</i>
2009	\$10,000,000	--	\$177,300	--
2010	\$10,000,000	0%	\$805,400	354.3%
2011	\$10,000,000	0%	\$919,800	14.2%
2012	\$10,000,000	0%	\$579,300	-37.0%
2013	\$10,000,000	0%	\$628,800	8.5%
2014	\$10,000,000	0%	\$598,100	-4.9%
2015	\$10,000,000	0%	\$643,100	7.5%
2016	\$10,000,000	0%	\$556,100	-13.5%
2017	\$10,000,000	0%	\$514,300	-7.5%
2018	\$4,500,000	-55%	\$390,000	-24.2%
2019	\$4,500,000	0%	\$526,800	35.1%
2020	\$4,500,000	0%	\$557,000	5.7%
2021	\$4,500,000	0%	\$703,859	26.4%
2022	\$4,500,000	0%	\$872,510	24.0%
2023	\$4,500,000	0%	\$1,140,200 (est.)	30.7%

Cash Balance (Supreme Court Historic Preservation Fund)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>December 31, 2009 (FY10)</i>	\$4,775,722
<i>December 31, 2010 (FY11)</i>	\$3,929,711
<i>December 31, 2011 (FY12)</i>	\$3,207,802
<i>December 31, 2012 (FY13)</i>	\$2,568,486
<i>December 31, 2013 (FY14)</i>	\$1,749,061
<i>December 31, 2014 (FY15)</i>	\$1,152,920
<i>December 31, 2015 (FY16)</i>	\$636,960
<i>December 31, 2016 (FY17)</i>	\$243,347
<i>December 31, 2017 (FY18)</i>	\$17,057
<i>December 31, 2018 (FY19)</i>	\$1,021,695
<i>December 31, 2019 (FY20)</i>	\$986,463
<i>December 31, 2020 (FY21)</i>	\$415,337
<i>December 31, 2021 (FY22)</i>	\$1,096,622
<i>December 31, 2022 (FY23)</i>	\$874,654



LOOKING AHEAD

For 2023, the Commission remains involved in planning for activities and events.

- Organizing the Supreme Court’s “Riding the Circuit” program
- Completing and opening the Supreme Court’s Learning Center
- Managing webinars and in-person talks to reach new and diverse audiences
- Continuing work on the federal grant to digitize Supreme Court case files
- Continuing work on conserving Supreme Court case files
- Applying for additional sources of funding
- Expanding the collections of the Commission
- Publishing new material on Illinois judicial history
- Working with circuit clerks statewide to digitize historic case files

Illustration Credits:

Cover: James Dobrovolny Post Card Collection, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

Inside Cover: Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 2 Illinois State Archives, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 4-5: Taylor Studios, Inc.

P. 6 Illinois Supreme Court, Illinois State Archives

P. 7 Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 8-9: Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 10: Video screenshot Looking For Lincoln, Video screenshot Lincoln Land Community College, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 11: Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 12: Charles Freeman Collection, Supreme Court Historic Preservation; Graph, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 13: Website, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 14: Joseph A. Power Jr., courtesy of Power Rogers; Martin Green, courtesy of Martin Green; Thomas Keefe, courtesy of Keefe, Keefe & Unsell; Jay Rock, courtesy of Rock, Fusco & Connelly

P. 15: Anne Burke, and Rita Garman, courtesy of the Supreme Court of Illinois; Burke robe, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

P. 16: Joy V. Cunningham, courtesy of Illinois Supreme Court; Kathryn Powell and Shanta Thoele, Supreme Court Historic Preservation

