

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

Submitted by:

Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

January 2011

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From: Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

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.”

Administrative Matters

Staffing

The Commission has 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.

Fiscal Matters

A fiscal overview report is included as the final page of this report.

Events

Award Program



The Commission established the Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Justice Award, intended to honor an attorney or judge who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession and to those in need of legal representation. The inaugural award in 2009 went to Judge George N. Leighton, whose life and career made him an obvious choice for the award. At 98 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/events/8>.

On June 14, 2010, the second annual Leighton Award was presented to former Chief Justice Benjamin Miller. As a trial court judge, an appellate court justice, and a justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois, former Chief Justice Benjamin K. Miller served the courts of Illinois for 25 years. With a sense of honesty, integrity, fairness, and humility, he has dedicated his career to improving the quality of justice in Illinois. Additional details are available on the Commission's website:
<http://illinoiscourthistory.org/events/4>.

The Commission is planning to present its third Leighton award to former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. This will take place on May 12, 2011.

Distinguished Lecture Series



On April 15, 2010 the first lecture was presented by Professor Leigh Bienen of the Northwestern University College of Law. Professor Bienen spoke on Florence Kelley, an early Illinois attorney and reformer. Details of this event and the video of the lecture are posted on the Commission's website:
<http://illinoiscourthistory.org/events/7>.

Historical Reenactment & Education Series



On May 2, 2011, the Commission will hold a panel discussion featuring former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and several other Illinois and Midwest women justices. After a brief dramatic introduction portraying Myra Bradwell, the panelists will discuss the changes experienced by women attorneys since Mrs. Bradwell's time. This event will be co-sponsored by the Chicago Bar Association and will take place in the Chicago History Museum.

Outreach

Website



The Commission's website, <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/>, has been created and contains considerable material of interest to attorneys, historians and the general public. The Commission has also established a Facebook page, used primarily to direct users to the website where more detailed information is available.

The website has become one of our best methods of communicating and locating persons interested in legal history and often able to help us. We are adding much material on county courthouses and their histories, including a set of images obtained from the Library of Congress, capturing many Illinois courthouses in the 1970s.

Tours

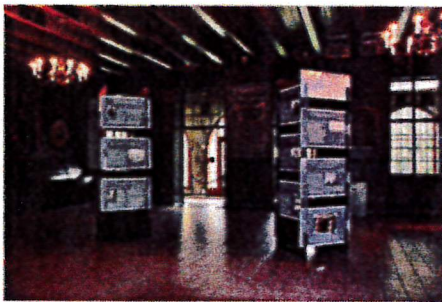
Commission staff is working in several ways to improve public access to and understanding of the Supreme Court Building:

- There is preliminary planning to develop a virtual online tour of the building and its art work.
- A cell phone tour has been completed. This will let visitors get a detailed guided tour with no staffing or equipment costs to the Commission since visitors use their own cell phones.
- A 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.

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. A small inexpensive exhibit is being developed to send to schools and to be displayed in libraries or classrooms. The Commission is working with the Myra Bradwell School in Chicago to develop classroom materials on the school's namesake and the nation's first woman attorney, Myra Bradwell.

Exhibits



In 2010 the Commission completed the following exhibits:

- Florence Kelley Event Exhibit—Two interpretive towers on Florence Kelley
- Florence Kelley—Two interpretive towers on Florence Kelley in the Northwestern Law School Library
- Albert Krehbiel—Supreme Court Building muralist in conjunction with donated painting unveiling
- Several legal and history conferences in conjunction with our “trade” table
- Illinois Student History Fair
- We have posted many of the above exhibits on our website to get double duty from them
- Online exhibit on County Courthouses with postcard images and with images of various artifacts: <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/exhibits/1>.

Bar Association and History Events

The Commission participates regularly in meetings and events of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and other local and specialty bar associations. We find these venues to be an excellent method of connecting with persons interested in legal history and with knowledge that they can share with the Commission. Some of the events attended by the Commission staff in 2010:

- Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association in St. Louis in June

- ISBA Solo and Small Firm Conference in Springfield in October
- Conference on Illinois History in Springfield in September
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the ISBA in Chicago in December

Preservation

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.

Inventory

Commission staff are undertaking a comprehensive inventory of objects fixed and movable with historical interest. This inventory will supplement general property inventories already taken and will focus on the provenance of each item.

Digitization

We are exploring, in partnership with the State Archives, the feasibility of digitizing a number of especially important early legal records and files.

Research & Publications

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

Publications

In addition to the several booklets already published, publications nearing completion are: 1) As we complete work on biographies of individual justices, we are mounting them on our website. After all biographies are completed, we will submit the manuscript to a press for publication into a book. Both Northern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University have expressed interest in publishing the book. 2) In the 1950s, Roger Severns authored a serial publication of the history of the courts from the 1600s to the 1800s. We have obtained permission to reprint it in its entirety, and we are working on

updating annotation to reflect modern scholarship. Southern Illinois University has tentatively approved its printing into a book 3) Albert Krehbiel painted the murals in the Illinois Supreme Court Building. He received his training at the Academie Julian in Paris, France. Krehbiel's descendants have loaned us the letters he wrote during that educational period. We are in the process of transcribing the letters and publishing them into a documentary edition. We have solicited a few presses to gauge their interest in publishing it.

Oral Histories

One major task of the Commission is to obtain oral histories of individuals with close experience with the Illinois judiciary. We have a hierarchy of people we want to interview. At the highest level is retired justices of the Illinois Supreme Court. We have completed oral histories of Justices McMorrow, Harrison, Stamos, and Nickels. We have completed preliminary interviews with Justices Miller and Fitzgerald and will be completing their interviews soon. We have contacted Justices Heiple and Rathje, and they have expressed interest in being interviewed. Justice Rarick is the only retired justice who has not responded, but we hear that he has had some health issues. The second level consists of current justices. We understand that they would not want to discuss their current service as a justice, and these interviews would simply be their life history up to election on the Supreme Court. After a justice retires, then we would be able to do a follow-up interview. The third level consists of staff. With the recent retirements of the Supreme Court Clerk and Librarian, we have an opportunity to obtain oral histories with fresh memories. The fourth level consists of attorneys who had prominent casework before the Illinois Supreme Court. A fifth level consists of family members or friends who knew or had significant interaction with deceased members of the Court.

Court Shorts

Court shorts contain entertaining or insightful stories about the Supreme Court, its justices and cases. Nearly two dozen Court Shorts are now complete and posted or ready to be posted on the Commission's website: <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/stories>. These stories range from the famous Charles Dickens' desire to visit Judge Breese's court in 1842, to Judge Caton's road rage in 1844 to the 1896 neighborhood fight over the moving of the World's Fair Ferris Wheel.

Biographies

As noted in the Publication Planned section, we are working on completing biographies of all 115 justices who have sat on the Supreme Court. We have completed 57 biographies—or just under one half of the total—and all 57 are available on our website: <http://illinoiscourthistory.org/justices>. The website includes a short biography listing birth/death dates and other biographical material including a portrait. Full biographies are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 words with “cradle-to-grave” synopsis of a justice's life and gives information about youth, education, political and legal careers, service on the high court, discussion of important opinions, and death and burial information. We have two contractual researchers who write the biographies, which are then edited for consistency by our Director of History Programs. As we complete additional biographies, they will be mounted on our website.



Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

Fiscal Report FY11 Summary Level

Month ending 12/31/2010

prepared by
Madeline Gumble
Director of Administration

Cash

GRF transfer in	\$	5,000,000
Interest Deposits	\$	308,762
Sales & Donations	\$	14,162
Expenditures	\$	1,393,213
12/31/2010 end bal	\$	3,929,711

FY09 Expenditures	\$	177,318
FY10 Expenditures	\$	805,392
FY11 Expenditures	\$	410,503
Total Expenditures	\$	1,393,213

<u>FY11 Expenditure Detail</u>	
Employee Salaries	176,427
Employee Benefits	100,608
Lease & Building	23,496
Professional Contracts	32,662
Services	47,515
Employee Travel	4,493
Printing	7,115
Supplies	7,768
Equipment	2,051
Computers	4,193
Telephone	3,424
Awards	750
FY11 Total	\$ 410,503

<u>Receipts Detail</u>	
Donations	13,445
Sales	448
Refunds & Misc	269
FY10 Total	\$ 14,162