

Michigan Political History Society NEWS

Vol. 8, No. 1

Michigan Political History Society • P.O. Box 4684 • East Lansing, MI 48826-4684

Winter 2002-2003

Political pundits speak off the record

by Delores Rauscher

A large crowd heard political pundits discuss the 2002 election results during the election wrap-up event "Off the Record—Live!," sponsored by MPHS and MSU's Michigan Political Leadership Program (see Fall News "MPLP," p. 3).

Capitol correspondent Tim Skubick moderated the panel discussion segments, Campaign Leaders Speak and Election Recap. Panel participants were communications director Chris DeWitt of the Jennifer Granholm campaign and chairman Dan Pero of the Dick Posthumus campaign, Steve Mitchell, Mitchell Research and Communications, Inc., and Ed Sarpolus, EPIC/MRA, a Lansing survey and research firm.

Bill Ballenger, editor of *Inside Michigan Politics*, spotlighted the Michigan's Election History segment, giving commentary to the preceding panel discussions as well as his own insights and assessments of the elections.

During the final segment, The Transition: A Snapshot Into the Future, Maxine Berman, former state Senator and advisor to Governor-elect Jennifer Granholm, offered glimpses of the future Granholm administration.

The reception following gave members a chance to mingle with many of Michigan's present, past, and future political leaders.

Courtesy of Amy Baumer, Director of Policy Analysis, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University



Panelists (L to R) Steve Mitchell, Ed Sarpolus, Dan Pero, and Chris DeWitt give their assessment of the recent elections.

Panelists analyze governor's race, the means and the end

The panelists' election analyses centered around Tim Skubick's first question: "Did Jennifer Granholm win the governor's race or did Dick Posthumus lose?"

Dan Pero and Chris DeWitt both felt that Granholm had won due to personal and professional advantages. She has charisma, is bright, articulate, and attractive. She had solidified good relationships with people in both parties during her four years as attorney general.

Continued on page 2

Hall of Justice opening makes history

by Marcia McBrien

"I hope that the long continued assurances from some quarters that one day this Court will be housed in a new court building may before long come true"

— Chief Justice John Dethmers, May 9, 1967

In 1970, three years after Michigan Chief Justice Dethmers expressed his hope for a "new court building," another

chief justice, Thomas Brennan, presided at the closing ceremony of the supreme court's courtroom in the Capitol building. One of the featured speakers, Senator Thomas E. Schweigert, also voiced the hope that the G. Mennen Williams building, where the court was to be housed, would only be "temporary headquarters" for the court.

Continued on page 6

At a Glance

Off the Record	1
Hall of Justice	1
Michael Barone	4
Join MPHS	7
Trivia Quiz	8

Political pundits

Continued from page 1

Ed Sarpolus and Steve Mitchell thought that she had also gained solid support from women voters, noting that she had an 8 to 9 percent margin among women voters. Although the polls showed that women under age forty tended to vote for Posthumus, Granholm won the over-forty female vote most likely because of her credentials—title, educational level, and professional background. Even among conservative women, Granholm made a good showing.

Mitchell noted, too, that Granholm won 26 percent of the pro-life vote.

She overwhelmingly won the votes as well among the African American community, thanks in part to the Posthumus campaign ads attacking Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. In fact, after the ads ran, African American support for Granholm shot up from 60 percent to 100 percent.

Unlike Posthumus, Granholm's own ads played well in her favor. Her "front porch" campaign ad and her theme of "protecting families and educating our children" resonated with voters.

Granholm's well-financed campaign could afford the extensive advertising costs. Pero lamented that the Posthumus campaign fell short on advertising funds. He estimated that the advertising cost alone during the 2002 gubernatorial campaign amounted to roughly \$1.5 million per week, compared to 1990, when advertising cost only \$1.5 million for the entire campaign. In addition, Pero argued that it was "time to scrap the campaign finance limit." The state limits spending to \$2 million, a figure set following Engler's 1990 election.

Granholm also held up against Posthumus's critical shots. Even though Granholm's desire to "tweak" Proposal A gave Posthumus a strong campaign issue, Granholm offered good responses and Posthumus failed to hit the issue solidly

Write for the News

For detailed information on submissions, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the editor, Delores Rauscher, 412 Marshall St., East Lansing MI 48823. If you prefer, send an e-mail to the editor at rausche5@msu.edu, and she will send you the guidelines as an attachment.

enough to hurt her.

Pero also thought that Governor Engler's proposal to cut state revenue-sharing to cities had dug "a deep hole that they had to climb out of to get back in the race." And even though Engler helped raise the \$11 million they had for the campaign, Engler and Posthumus's lack of communication—such as Engler's failure to let Posthumus sign the directional or slant drilling legislation—proved a plus for the Granholm campaign.

Another factor in Granholm's favor was that her aggressive primary election campaign gave her leverage going into the governor's race. The national assumption was that she would win the governor's race. So a challenge for Posthumus was convincing people that he could win.

According to Mitchell, Posthumus never gave people "a reason to vote for him." While Granholm punctuated key voter issues like education, Posthumus touted himself as someone who was "ready to lead," even though Posthumus had been holding leadership positions since the seventies.

Both Pero and DeWitt blamed the media for the campaigns' lack of substance, saying that the media did not report on issue statements outlined in White Papers submitted to them. "The press is pathetic," Pero complained. He said that the press spends its money on measuring attitudes and making news rather than covering the news.

DeWitt and Pero also answered audience concerns that the governors' debates were so few and not held in public forums. DeWitt and Pero responded that three debates had been planned but that one was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. They added that debates take a major toll on candidates.

Although Granholm won and Posthumus lost when the counting was done, Sarpolus noted that polling results suggested that there would be only a 3 to 4 percent margin between winner and loser.

The unofficial election totals indicate about a 4 percent margin between the two.

... in other races

Steve Mitchell said that redistricting virtually predetermined the outcome of the legislative races, leaving only four substan-

Photos courtesy of MPHIS President Barbara Sawyer-Koch



MPHS Board Director Sharman Moore (far left) chats with event speaker Bill Ballanger (far right).



An attentive audience looks on as a question is asked.

tially contested. He contended that Michigan goes Democratic during presidential election years but it goes Republican during off-years. The reason for this variation, he explained, is that one million registered voters do not vote in off-presidential election years. He concluded that the secretary of state's office and attorney general went to the Republicans this election as a result of Democrats not showing up at the polls. In addition, he noted demographic changes have affected election outcomes. For instance, Oakland County, which was 60 percent Republican, is now 54 percent Republican.

Ballanger looks at the past

Bill Ballanger put the 2002 election in historical context. He said that this year's gubernatorial election for an open seat was the closest since World War II. New governors have taken twenty of the thirty-six governors' seats up for grabs. As a result, the country now has twenty-six Republican governors and twenty-four Democratic governors.

Ballanger also countered Mitchell's election assessment, contending that Michigan is marginal in non-presidential election years. There is no set pattern; election outcomes depend primarily on the candidates themselves and on money. He pointed to the 1984 U.S. Senate race between Carl Levin and Jack Lousma. Lousma trailed from the start and Levin attacked him on the issues. Like Posthumus in this year's election,

Lousma was not slated to win, and, as a result, did not receive adequate funding and endorsements.

He agreed with the earlier panelists' contentions about the media. The media ridiculed Posthumus as racist and bland, while accentuating Granholm's positives, he said.

As for the task before Granholm, Ballenger brought up the major budget deficit and the Republican legislature, attorney general, and secretary of state. However, he noted that an uncooperative legislature might give ammunition to her and the Democrats in 2004.

He likened the 2002 election and Granholm's predicament to that of 1952. Eisenhower won the U.S. presidency by a landslide, while incumbent Governor G. Mennen Williams won by a mere 1500 votes. All other seats went Republican, including incumbent Democrat U.S. Senator Blair Moody's. In Michigan the legislature of '52 was held by a Republican majority—sixty-six (as compared to this year's sixty-three). The state Senate had twenty-four Republicans and only eight Democrats. Neither Governor Williams nor John Swainson who followed him ever had a Democratic legislative majority with which to work.

Implicating redistricting as the origin, Ballenger offered statistics denoting representation variables in legislative seat totals for the 2002 legislative races. Republicans got 50.4 percent of the consolidated total vote for legislative seats; they landed sixty-three of the 110 seats. Democrats got 49.6 percent of the total vote; they got forty-seven seats. The percentage margin of difference in total vote for legislators is then eight-tenths of one percent. The percentage margin of difference between parties for the number of seats they now hold is 14 percent. He noted that redistricting also affected the U.S. Congressional races; Republicans got nine of those fifteen seats.

Berman looks to the future

Maxine Berman believes that the transition from Engler's administration to Granholm's will be a smooth one, thanks to Lynn Jondahl. His intelligence, integrity, and sense of humor will make for a smooth transition, she said. Bob Naftaly, former director of Management and Budget under James Blanchard's administration, has been asked to head the budget team.

Although Berman would not speculate on further appointments, she noted that

the team is reaching out to the Republican legislators. Those in the new legislature have no experience working with a Democratic governor.

She said that Governor-elect Granholm is committed to an inclusive cabinet, with regard to color, gender, and geographic and party representation.

* The ads discussed were briefly as follows: The Republican Party sponsored a \$500,000 ad intimating that Granholm had made a deal with Kilpatrick to grant favors and appointments to Detroit residents and African Americans in return for Kilpatrick garnering voter support in her favor. The allegation was said to come from a Kilpatrick memo, although Granholm said she had never received such

a memo. Posthumus defended the ad, noting that its issue was not "race-baiting" but "corruption" in office. In addition, Governor Engler blamed Granholm for making race an issue in the election by giving her support for reparations for slave descendants. Granholm then accused Posthumus of using "gutter strategy."

The popular former Governor Harry F. Kelly challenged Williams in 1950. Williams defeated Kelly by 1154 votes after recount. Kelly had been the only Republican to win the governor's office during a year when Roosevelt was running for president. In 1952 Williams defeated Fred M. Alger by only 8618 votes after recount.

MPHS President Barbara Sawyer-Koch provided notes for this article. ■

Trivia Quiz Answers!

1. **G. Mennen Williams** (1949–1961) was Michigan's longest-serving governor. He was elected to six consecutive terms.

2. **Fred M. Warner** (1905–1911) was born in Nottinghamshire, England, in 1865. He was elected to three consecutive terms. Three others were born out of this country but came to the United States while infants or small children: John B. Swainson—Canada, George W. Romney—Mexico, and Governor Jennifer Granholm—Canada.

3. **Fred W. Green** (1927–1931) won 69.9 percent of the vote when he defeated Democrat William Comstock in 1928. He had also defeated Comstock in 1926. (Comstock finally became governor on his fourth try in 1932.)

4. **Frank D. Fitzgerald** (1935–1937, 1939) died shortly after winning the governorship in 1939.

5. **Edwin B. Winans** (1891–1893) was the first Democrat elected governor in Michigan for 40 years, the last Democrat having served in 1852, two years before the founding of the Republican party. Only one other non-Republican served during those 40 years, Josiah W. Begole (1883–1885), a Fusionist (combination Greenback and Democrat). Winans was originally a Republican. Of the forty-seven governors to date, there have been twenty-seven Republicans, seventeen Democrats, two Whigs, and one Fusion party.

6. **George W. Romney** (1963–1969) fought a budget deficit during the sixties. The state finally climbed out of debt when it instituted a state income tax of 2.6 percent on personal income and 5.6 percent on corporations.

7. **James J. Blanchard** (1983–1990) won a plurality of votes of 878,491. Blanchard got 1,632,138 votes to opponent William Lucas's 753,647 votes.

8. **Steven T. Mason** (1835–1839) was only nineteen when he became secretary of the Michigan territory and then served as acting governor periodically until he was elected governor in 1835. He was twenty-five when Michigan gained statehood.

9. **Luren D. Dickinson** (1839–1841), born in 1859, was seventy-nine when he took office in March 1939, after the death of Governor Frank Fitzgerald. He was also the longest-serving lieutenant governor, serving six terms under five different administrations.

10. **Epaphroditus Ransom** (1847–1849) was the first of several governors who served in two or more branches of the state government. He was a circuit court judge and supreme court justice before serving as Michigan's Chief Justice from 1843–47.

11. **David H. Jerome** (1881–1883), the eighteenth state governor, was Michigan's first native-born governor. He was born in Detroit in 1829.

12. **Chase Salmon Osborn** (1911–1913) was from Sault Ste. Marie, although he was born in Indiana. He was an avid wildlife conservationist.

13. **Frank D. Fitzgerald** (also answers number four) was the only governor to regain the governorship after once losing it.

14. **Austin Blair** (1861–1865), whose statue stands in front of the state Capitol building, was governor during the Civil War.

Photos courtesy of the State Archives of Michigan



Steven T. Mason, Michigan's first governor. "Fellow citizens: cling to Michigan, but live and act for your country—your whole country."



Fred M. Warner, Michigan's twenty-sixth governor. "Good roads benefit all the people of the state."

Words consulted: Willis F. Dunbar and George S. May, *Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995. Raymond Sikkenga, *Doers & Dreamers: The Governors of Michigan*. Spring Lake: River Road Publications Inc., 1987. George Weeks, *Suicards of the State: The Governors of Michigan*. Ann Arbor: *The Detroit News* and the Historical Society of Michigan, 1987.

Featured speaker Michael Barone and panelists give views

By Delores Rauscher

MPHS and the Michigan State University Museum Development Council sponsored a 2002 pre-election event featuring Michael Barone, senior writer for *U.S. News and World Report* and author of several books and numerous articles (see "Michael Barone, well-traveled, well-informed" in Fall 2002 MPHS News). Barone, along with program panelists, state Senator Joanne Emmons and state Representative Gretchen Whitmer, spoke before a mixed group, including MPHS members and Michigan State University staff, faculty, and students.

Steve Webster, Vice-President of Government Affairs at MSU, welcomed the guests and the audience. Dr. Kurt Dewhurst, Director of the MSU Museum, relayed a bit of the museum's history, pointing out that the museum has always served the state by presenting exhibits that accommodate the general public as well as the college campus. Before introducing Michael Barone, Fred Anderson, State Director of Government Affairs for AT&T and board member of the MSU Museum Development Council, advised the audience of the usefulness of the *Michigan Manual* as a source for state history and politics.

Barone's talk covered three related subjects. He relayed a bit of his own personal history in which he focused on aspects of his life that have informed his politics. He presented biographical instances that showed how cultural politics played out in his own upbringing.

"Class warfare politics is cultural and not economic in nature," he said. "Income is not a good indicator of voting patterns." In fact,

he said, if you knew a person's leanings on the issue of gun control or abortion, you could predict with 80 percent accuracy whether that person was a Democrat or a Republican.

While economic factors do play a role in voter choice, they are not usually pivotal when one looks at trends in recent American history, he said. Instead, culture and religion play major roles in cultural identification and thus predominantly affect voters' propensities.

Looking back on his early years, Barone noted cultural influences that had molded his own political views. His family was Catholic and Democrat. Even as a child, he said, he puzzled over why people vote as they do. He once asked his mother why their family voted Democrat, to which she matter-of-factly replied, "Catholics are always Democrats."

Following the tradition of his family, Barone remained Democrat during his young adult life. In 1964 he worked nights and evenings in Pontiac, Michigan, making calls for his party. But after his work in the sixties, his political leanings began to move to the Right.

He said he observed that the social programs of the sixties did not work in Detroit. Liberal programs did not help the social state and, in fact, as he saw it, may have contributed to the problems they were meant to help.

He commented that the country has changed since he grew up. Now obsolete, he said, are the old impressions of class warfare politics. Corporate responsibility issues are not necessarily big issues anymore and low union memberships have left little muscle there. The fact that we are a different sort of America today could hurt one party or the other in this

and future elections.

He then made a few predictions about the 2002 elections, grounding those predictions on his belief that culture is a better indicator of voters' choices than economics. (See "Barone makes forecasts . . ." below.)

State Senator Joanne Emmons followed Barone. She spoke of her early years in politics, citing Dick Posthumous as a mentor whom she appreciated. Posthumous, she said, was responsible for her career opportunity to lead the Senate finance committee, the first woman to hold that position. She lamented the folly of term limits, noting that we are getting younger, less well-informed candidates. She noted that "90 percent of lobbyists are opposed to term limits."

State Representative Gretchen Whitmer also focused her comments on the elections. She called Michigan a "bellwether state," while, at the same time, it is a state whose politics are difficult to predict. Michigan's 2002 elections "will be driven by issues," she said, and she noted that the budget would be a major issue. "Turbulent budget times will make for interesting times in Michigan," she said.

The program wrapped up with a question and answer session in which members of the audience asked Barone for his opinion of a variety of issues.

When one audience member asked how much of an issue race is in today's elections, Barone replied that he did not see race or gender as obstacles to winning elections. "Americans are just about ready to vote for just about anybody of description or background," he said.

One MSU student asked for Barone's thoughts on free speech and the use of speech codes. Barone said it was "shameful and astonishing" that the U.S. suppresses free speech. He pointed out that "the First Amendment does not guarantee an audience."

Barone makes forecasts based on culture

Political pundits across Michigan and the nation are questioning why economic issues did not appear to dominate voter preferences in the 2002 elections. Michael Barone thinks

Courtesy of Delores Rauscher, MPHS News editor



MPHS President Barbara Sawyer-Koch thanks the panelists and audience for their attendance and encourages new memberships.

Courtesy of Delores Rauscher, MPHS News editor



Michael Barone makes predictions for the 2002 elections.

he knows one good reason why.

"We are a different sort of America [today]," asserted Barone, "and neither party knows how to handle it."

Barone told the audience at the MPHS and MSU Museum Development Council co-sponsored pre-election program that it is predominantly culture and not economics that dictates people's political choices. He bases his belief on his study and observation of political trends during the past forty years but especially on voter tendencies since the Reagan administration.

Barone's theory of cultural politics as presented in his discussion meshed with this year's election patterns.

He said that the "cultural politics" of the past decade or so has resulted in a convergence in voting for the Congress and the president. He pointed out that there have been three successive presidential elections without either major candidate getting the majority of the votes. Congress, too, is nearly evenly split between two major parties, he noted.

For the 2002 elections, Barone predicted the voting trend of the recent past would continue. He said there was a 50 percent chance the Republicans would control the U.S. Senate after the mid-term elections and a 70 percent chance that they would control the House.

It may have surprised many, but probably not Barone, that in this year's election the historical pattern of the party in control of the White House losing seats in the mid-term elections did not hold. Nor did recent stock market losses correlate with Republican winnings in the 108th Congress. Republicans won back the U.S. Senate with fifty-one Republicans to forty-seven Democrats. The U.S. House of Representatives numbers also wound up fairly close but with Republicans winning 228 seats over the Democrats' 203 seats.

Barone anticipated that most of the movement would be in the governors' races across the country. He predicted a likely party switch in the governor's race in Michigan. In addition, he forecast two other instances of party switching—that the Republican candidate would win Hawaii's governor's race and that a Democrat would win Kansas's. And, he added, women will make some gains.

As a result of the elections, the nation now has twenty-four Democratic governors and twenty-six Republican governors. Democrat Jennifer Granholm won 51 percent of the vote in Michigan's governor's

race and Dick Posthumus brought in 47 percent. Democratic candidate Kathleen Sebelius won Kansas's governor's race with 53 percent of the vote over Republican Tim Shallenburger's 45 percent. In Hawaii Republican Linda Lingle got 52 percent of the vote compared to Mazie Hirono's 47 percent. In the North Carolina U.S. Senate race Republican Elizabeth Dole garnered 54 percent of the vote, while Democrat Erskine Bowles received 45 percent.

Barone feels he is not much of an

As for the Democratic party overall, Barone had a few observations. He said that the Democrats have suffered because Democratic voters are split on issues. He noted that Democratic fund-raising is also split. And that the Democrats also culturally split over war with Iraq. He likened the cultural divide in the party today to that of the cultural divides the party had in 1968 and 1972, which made it difficult for Democrats to win elections then as now.

Courtesy of Delores Rauscher, MPHS News editor



Senator Joanne Emmons, Michael Barone, and Representative Gretchen Whitmer discuss state and local politics.

expert on state and local politics in Michigan. But he summed up Michigan's politics by noting that the political balance has not changed. He did not see a big two-party divide coming. He advised that in order to find out what the trends would be, one must look at the numbers in the political districts. He noted that there would be some close races there. "I don't think people are watching Michigan beyond the governor's race," he said.

Barone was right about Michigan's close district races and right, too, not to forecast beyond the governor's race. In Michigan, there was no convergence in voting for the executive and legislature. While Democrat Granholm took the executive helm, the Republicans gained five House seats, giving them sixty-three seats to the Democrat's forty-seven. Although the Republicans lost one seat in the state Senate leaving them with twenty-two seats, they still hold six seats more than the Democrat's sixteen. In addition, the Supreme Court remains under Republican dominance with a five to two ratio.

As for specific predictions beyond this year's elections, Barone made one. He said that in 2008 we will see a presidential race between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Condoleezza Rice. He said he wasn't kidding.

Michael Barone has several books and publications that detail his political theories. Among them are *Our Country: The Shaping of America from Roosevelt to Reagan* (1990); *State Legislative Elections: Voting Patterns and Demographics* (1998), co-authored by William Lilly III and Laurence J. DeFranco; *The New Americans: How the Melting Pot Can Work Again* (2001).

Also, one independent and one undeclared at the time of this writing.

Also, one independent and three undeclared at the time of this writing.

Races had not yet been officially certified in Michigan and may not yet have been certified in other states at the time of this writing. ■

Hall of Justice *Continued from page 1*

But the court was not to break ground on a permanent building until October 12, 1999, almost three decades after the Michigan Supreme Court left its capitol courtroom for its “temporary” location in the Williams building. On October 8, 2002, the state’s judicial branch finally realized the long-held dream of permanent headquarters.

On that day, the Michigan Supreme Court opened its 2002–2003 term with the first oral argument of that term. As has been the court’s custom since 1995, the court held the hearing in its old chambers in the Capitol.

But when the court temporarily recessed, what followed was anything but customary. A procession of more than 100 state jurists assembled behind the Capitol and marched a third of a mile west across the Capitol mall to Michigan’s new Hall of Justice. They were led by a color guard from the Michigan Army National Guard and members of the Glen Erin Pipe Band of

Lansing. At the end of their route, seated in front of the Hall of Justice, waited an audience of hundreds. In the audience were members of the Department of Management and Budget, which oversees the construction of the Hall of Justice, as well as representatives of the Christman Company, which constructed the building. Also present were members of Albert Kahn Associates, the architects for the project, and Spillis Candella and Partners, designers of the building’s interior.

When the procession arrived, accompanied by music from the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan opened a special session of the Michigan Supreme Court to dedicate the Hall of Justice. The Most Reverend Kenneth L. Povish, retired Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, gave the invocation. A group of middle school students, winners of the State Bar of

Michigan’s annual Law Day Essay Contest, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. As a pair of A-10 fighter planes flew in formation overhead, members of the Children’s Choir of Royal Oak and the Cass Technical High School Concert Choir of Detroit sang the national anthem and “God Bless America.” Speakers included Chief Justice Corrigan, Governor John Engler, Senator Harry Gast, Justice

In addition, Michigan’s Hall of Justice is a fitting symbol of the justice system’s place in American democracy. In her remarks, Chief Justice Corrigan likened the Hall of Justice, which curves toward the state capitol, to “arms outstretched, both shielding and embracing. What it says . . . is that the judicial branch is a bulwark protecting, through faithful adherence to our Constitution and laws, the democratic process that goes on across the way at the legislature.”

On a more practical level, the six-story Hall of Justice, which will house 330 state employees, offers benefits to both the judicial branch and the public: improved public services, greater efficiency, and reduced expense. From the Hall of Justice Learning Center to the simple necessity of public lavatories, the Hall of Justice makes Michigan’s judicial branch far more accessible and welcoming. The judicial branch’s prior accommodations in Lansing—seven offices in five

locations—could not be said to be either accessible or welcoming.

A brief story illustrates how isolated and hidden the judicial branch was in the state Capitol before its move to the Hall of Justice. After September 11, the leader of a prayer group contacted the Supreme Court Office of Public Information. In the wake of the September 11 tragedy, she explained, her group had decided to come to Lansing, there to pray over each branch of government. Where was the judicial branch located, she asked?

In response, the court’s public information officer told her, “Ma’am, I hope you plan on making an early start. Not only will you have a lot of stops, but you’re going to have a terrible time finding parking at every one.”

Just locating the judiciary would have been a challenge for the caller. Before relocating to the Hall of Justice as of October 21, 2002, the Michigan Supreme

Courtesy of Mary Ann McDavid, Michigan Judicial Institute



The dedication ceremony for the new Hall of Justice building makes history.

Michael F. Cavanagh, Lansing Mayor David C. Hollister, and State Bar President Reginald M. Turner, Jr. To formally open the building, the Supreme Court Justices, along with members of the Court of Appeals who will have offices in the Hall of Justice, rapped their gavels in unison. The benediction was delivered by Rabbi David A. Nelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park.

At the heart of the ceremony was the historical significance of the Hall of Justice. Governor Engler told the assembled justices and judges, “It’s good to have you home,” underscoring the generations-long wait of Michigan’s judiciary for a headquarters. Justice Cavanagh reminded the audience that the state’s legal heritage includes the traditions of Michigan’s Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi Native American tribes. Indeed, the Michigan Supreme Court’s new courtroom is round, echoing the form of the tribes’ sentencing circles.

Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and related agencies—State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, Supreme Court Commissioners, and Michigan Board of Law Examiners—were housed in separate buildings blocks apart. Finding the courts required a map, patience, and a keen eye for the few available parking spaces, since neither court had its own public parking area. Other inconveniences awaited the visitor, including a lack of public restrooms. Visiting school groups could view the supreme court courtroom and attend oral arguments, but there was little else for students to see and do.

By contrast, members of the public who visit the Michigan Supreme Court in the Hall of Justice will find ample public parking. No need to peer at a map, or pore over the list of tenants in an office building—the Hall of Justice is a dramatic and easily located landmark. The building's Jeffersonian architectural style echoes the design of the Capitol. Near the Hall of

“It's good to have you home.”

Justice entrance, the words “truth,” “equality,” “freedom” and “justice” are engraved in granite, reminding visitors of the judicial branch's mission.

On the first of the Hall of Justice's six floors, visitors will find the 3,800-square-foot Hall of Justice Learning Center. The Learning Center, which provides a mix of artifacts, graphics, videos, interactive displays, and computer programs, is being studied by other states as a model for their own judicial branch learning facilities. While the Learning Center was designed for a wide audience, special consideration is given to middle school students who are preparing for their Michigan Education Assessment Program.

Also on the first floor is a conference center that will be used for continuing education by judges from across the state, as well as court staff and others who work in the judicial branch. The conference center represents significant savings for the judicial branch; in the past, holding a judicial education conference required

renting space in a hotel or other conference facility. The Michigan Judicial Institute, which provides continuing education to judges, is also located on the first floor.

The second floor houses the Court of Appeals Clerk's office and courtroom, along with Court of Appeals research offices and information systems. The State Court Administrative Office for Region II (an area that comprises south-western and south central Michigan) is also on the second floor. The third floor features the Court of Appeals judicial chambers and a library, along with judges' conference room.

On the fourth floor, the Supreme Court Commissioners, Board of Law Examiners, Supreme Court Clerk's Office, and Supreme Court Reporter of Decisions offices are located, as will be the Supreme Court Crier's office. The fifth floor houses supreme court administrative staff, the State Court Administrative Office, Finance Department, and Human Resources. The sixth floor includes the supreme court's judicial chambers, the justices' conference room, and the Supreme Court courtroom. Located throughout the building, on all floors accessible to the public, are conference rooms and restrooms for use by visitors.

The security of visitors, staff, and judges is an important consideration, particularly when the building is such a prominent feature of the capitol mall landscape. In addition to X-ray screening and magnetometer equipment, more than seventy closed circuit video cameras monitor the interior and exterior of the Hall of Justice. Other security features, and professional security staff, help protect the safety of public visitors and court staff.

By consolidating seven offices into one building, Michigan's judicial branch will save a substantial amount in rent—one conservative estimate placed the total saved at \$203,995,977 over the next 25 years. Less easy to quantify, but just as real, are the benefits of having offices and staff located in one building: reduced mailing and transportation costs, less duplication of services (for example, maintenance,

shipping and receiving, and storage), and better communication. In addition, the judicial branch's previous Lansing facilities were not readily adaptable to wiring modifications required for current technology. The Hall of Justice has been constructed, not only to meet the demands of current technology, but with an eye to permitting future improvements.

The Hall of Justice should serve as a reminder to the judiciary and to the public of the essential role the

justice system plays in American democracy. Although the Hall of Justice will house the judiciary, it is also a building for the people of Michigan. As Chief Justice Corrigan reminded the audience at the dedication ceremony, “This courthouse is the people's building.”

Marcia McBrien is an attorney and the Public Information Officer of the Michigan Supreme Court. ■

... the Hall of Justice is a dramatic and easily located landmark.

Michigan Political History Society NEWS

is published three times each year by the Michigan Political History Society, P.O. Box 4684, East Lansing, MI 48826-4684

President

Barbara J. Sawyer-Koch

Vice President

Kevin A. Kelly

Secretary/Treasurer

David Murley

Past President

Peter Kuhnmuensch

Legal Counsel

Tom Downs

Editor

Delores Rauscher

Designer

Jean Eggemeyer

Join MPHS!

For membership information contact Joyce Crum, at (517) 366-5742.

Trivia Quiz:

Jennifer Granholm made history this past election when she was elected Michigan's first female governor. Can you correctly match the Michigan governors listed in the Name Bank at right with the statements about them below? (Answers inside.)

1. First and only six-term governor.
2. First foreign-born governor.
3. Governor who won the largest percentage of the vote of any candidate before or since.
4. The first and only governor to die in office.
5. First Democratic governor elected after the Republican party formed in 1854.
6. First state income tax instituted under his administration.
7. Governor who garnered the largest plurality of votes.
8. The youngest governor.
9. The oldest governor when taking office.
10. First governor to head both the judicial and executive branches of the state.
11. First governor born in Michigan.
12. The first and only resident of the U.P. to be elected governor.
13. First governor to regain the governor's seat after once being defeated.
14. Only governor whose statue graces the Capitol grounds.

Courtesy of the State Archives of Michigan



Who is he?

NAME BANK

(One of the names answers two of the questions.)

1. Chase Salmon Osborn
2. Fred M. Warner
3. Frank D. Fitzgerald
4. James J. Blanchard
5. Austin Blair
6. George W. Romney
7. G. Mennen Williams
8. David H. Jerome
9. Steven T. Mason
10. Edwin B. Winans
11. Epaphroditus Ransom
12. Fred W. Green
13. Luren D. Dickinson

Michigan Political History
Society

P.O. Box 4684

East Lansing, MI 48826-4684