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APRIL 2015

MAGNA CARTA: Symbol of Freedom Under Law

The theme for Law Day 2015 is the Magna Carta and its significance to the development of the rule of law in modern society. We have 800 years of historical experience to judge its importance and reflect upon its wisdom.

The Magna Carta was handwritten in Latin on a piece of paper the size of a 27" computer screen. It is less than 4,000 words, shorter than the United States Constitution.

King John of England never signed the Magna Carta. Instead, the

king's seal was affixed to more than 40 documents produced by his writing office. Various counties throughout England received a copy.

- The would-be treaty between the king and the rebellious nobles did not survive its first year of issue.
- Pope Innocent III annulled the charter within 10 weeks of its issuance.
- King John suddenly died in 1216. The charter was reissued in shortened version by his successor Henry III.
- Another reissue was made in 1217 and the final version of 1225 was incorporated into

English law in 1297.

- Subsequent kings extended the most important provisions of the Magna Carta into the English constitution and law. What provisions of the Magna Carta are incorporated into our current legal system?



which cannot be denied except by due process of law.

Individual Rights – The Magna Carta included a recitation of basic human rights to be accorded to all free men. When the Declaration of Human Rights was presented to the

United Nations by Eleanor Roosevelt, she referred to it as the Magna Carta for all mankind.

Due Process – The Magna Carta provided guarantees that free men cannot be deprived of life, liberty or property without legal process. This basic, but important principle, is the foundation of the United States constitutional guarantee to the

right of due process.

Trial by Jury – The idea of a verdict rendered by one's equals or peers finds its origins in the Magna Carta. The U.S. constitutional right to a trial by jury when accused of a serious crime stems from this foundational right in the Magna Carta.

Right to Travel – The Magna Carta provided that free men had a basic right to travel in and out of the kingdom. The United States Supreme Court has quoted the Magna Carta to demonstrate the ancient roots of the right to travel freely, as part of the individual liberties

"We must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus, trial by jury, and the English common law find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence." [Winston Churchill, March 4, 1946]

Source: Law Day 2015 Planning Guide, 2015 American Bar Association

THE CHIEF SPEAKS



The spring of 2015 has already proven to be a time of planning for the court of the future.

Double Jury Courtroom

By the time this newsletter is published, the court will be poised to review responses to a request for proposals regarding upgrades to the double jury courtroom in both design and technology.

When the courtroom is used by the maximum number of litigants and counsel, the site line between the witness box and some of the participants is

compromised. You might ask why this matters.

The ability of a party and their counsel to observe the witness is critical to courtroom proceedings. In the past, the court technology staff assisted judges by temporarily installing a monitor to provide a visual image of the witness.

We are striving to find an architectural solution that will improve the overall functionality and design.

The courtroom will also be upgraded to state of the art technology. The addition of hardware that will be permanently located in the courtroom, perhaps stored in a "smart podium," will be available for use by all attorneys. Monitors for jurors, witnesses and at counsel tables are under consideration to deliver a more efficient and acceptable presentation.

The court tech team will offer periodic "*technology tune up*" sessions for attorneys anticipating a trial in the double jury courtroom.

Criminal-Civil Courtrooms Connected to County Network

I am pleased to inform you that all of the criminal-civil division courtrooms are now wired to allow attorneys from the prosecutor's office to access their electronic resources from a courtroom during trial. Prior to this upgrade, access to information via the county network was not available.

Circuit courtrooms also have Wi-Fi access to allow all attorneys to do research or access critical information during a courtroom proceeding. I want to thank the Genesee County Building and Grounds Department for their work on

this project. They continue to provide extraordinary support to the court.

The leadership of the court tech team, comprised of Rob Gifford and David Combs, is also acknowledged. Courtrooms, end user support, website maintenance, video conferencing, access card system maintenance, electronic workflow development and planning for the future are part of their daily routine. -cjrby

Trial Activity Report	
1.1.15 - 3.31.15	
Division	# of half days of activity
Civil Criminal Division	
11 criminal jury trials	109
7 civil jury trials	53
18 jury trials	162
Family Division	
119 non jury domestic trials	160
1 DL jury trial	8
120 trials	168
Total	
138 trials	330 half days

ADMINISTRATOR CORNER

As the court administrator I have the privilege of attending the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) Regions I and II Circuit Court Administrators (RIIICCA), quarterly meetings.

This is a group of circuit court administrators who come together four times each year, under the leadership of Deb Green, SCAO Region I, Court Administrator and Jim Hughes, SCAO Region II, Court Administrator.

We typically meet at Oakland County Circuit Court for lunch and a business meeting. The purpose of the meetings are to gain the collective insight of trial court administrators, as it relates to topics un-

der consideration for action by SCAO.

Frequently, we review new initiatives that SCAO has undertaken or is considering for implementation. Likewise, trial court administrators lift up topics for which direction or support from SCAO is being sought.

The conversation is free flowing with an exchange of ideas between administrators from most of the large trial courts around the state. Each of us brings a different perspective. The respectful atmosphere and commonality of responsibility surpasses any difference in size of court.

Based on a suggestion from our court, a RIIICCA IT

Group was recently formed. The first meeting was held in December 2014 and consists of court technology staff from the same group of courts. Rob Gifford and David Combs at-

tended this meeting. As electronic workflow, e-filing and all things non-paper ramp up, this connection will serve us well. - bam



DOWNTOWN HAPPENINGS



After what seemed to be a bone chilling winter, spring is finally on its way! Many of us are looking for ways to use our breaks or spare time to get out in the fresh air. Here are some great happenings in the City of Flint or perhaps near you!

- The Crim is coming! Check out the Crim website to register for any of their upcoming races. The Health Plus Tour De Crim will be held May 16th. The Crim sponsors several other races over the summer including several for our youngsters. Check out their website for any of their upcoming races between now and the big day. There are also several training groups you can find to help you get in shape for the big day! www.crim.org

- Check out the 48th Annual Flint Art Fair June 20-21st, www.flintartfair.org

- Mike Zelly, President and CEO, The Disability Network, sent a thank you letter to acknowledge the 2014 holiday contribution by members of the court staff. Mr. Zelly cites that there are 82,000 citizens with disabilities in Genesee County who all stand to be benefited in some way from the outreach.

- Jim Hughes, SCAO Region II, Court Administrator, wrote in an email on January 12, 2015, "this is a great newsletter. . . a great way to foster communication internally and externally for the court."

- The Sloan Museum will once again present the Auto Fair, June 27th & 28th, www.sloanautofair.com

- The Greater Flint Arts Council presents the Flint Art-walk on the second Friday of every month at various locations.

- Jazzwalk, held the 4th Thursday of each month at various downtown locations.

- Tunes at Noon – Local musicians provide lunchtime concerts downtown during summertime

- The Flint Farmers Market is a short walk & offers at least 8 eateries & 50 vendors with flavors ranging from Middle Eastern to BBQ, Sushi to Mexican and everything in between.

- You can attempt to catch the latest craze in dining with Flint's own food truck, Vehicle City Tacos, by following their Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/VehicleCityTaco> or check out their Facebook.

- Check out the Genesee County Parks website for upcoming classes or events, rentals on pavilions, or information on your local beach, boating, camping, and more: <http://www.geneseecountyparks.org>

- We are all excited about getting our gardens started. For a plethora of information on anything outdoors or classes, check out the MSU extension website: <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/genesee>

-cv

- Beginning in May 2015, the court tech team will be offering a monthly brown bag lunch & learn opportunity called *Tech Talk Q & A*. Location, day and time to be determined. Watch for an announcement. Sign up, submit your questions and the court supplies the beverage.

- Cindy Grossbauer, circuit court clerk-legal division supervisor, has agreed to join the *Hearsay* team. Watch for articles from the perspective of the clerk's office starting in the July 2015 edition.

- Payment to Defender Program Attorneys are now submitted, processed and paid via electronic workflow and electronic fund transfer (EFT) payment. Thanks to Rob Gifford and Mary Langdon for their work on this development. Payment is quicker and hard copy checks eliminated.

- Congratulations to Judge Beagle for receiving the Art Hurand Award from the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce for his work in the community with youth and athletics.

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

There are two scheduled events in April that are recognized and honored each year.

- April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. The Whaley Children Center acknowledges this event with their **Paint the Town Blue** initiative. Beginning March 27th a pinwheel garden will be placed



on the courthouse lawn. On April 1 @ 10:00 a.m. local community leaders will gather on the courthouse lawn for a pinwheel dedication ceremony. On the same day @ 8:00 p.m. a candlelight vigil will be held. The pinwheel garden will remain on the lawn until May 1, 2015.

- National Crime Victims Rights week is April 19th through April 23rd. This year's theme—*Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims*—emphasizes the role of the entire community, individually and collectively, to support victims of crime and empower them to direct their own recovery.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Tom Temple

Please welcome Tom Temple, the law library paralegal, to the court staff. Tom has a degree in paralegal studies from Eastern Michigan University and a criminal justice degree from the University of Michigan –Flint. His paralegal work experience includes two Oakland County law firms and

volunteering at a self-help legal center located in the Washtenaw County Courthouse. Tom started working for Genesee County in October 2014 at the Register of Deeds as a customer service representative. Please stop by and say hello. We want to make him feel welcome to the team.



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| April 3, 1838 | Construction began on Michigan's first prison at Jackson. In time it became the largest walled prison in the world. |
| April 3, 1933 | Michigan became the first state to repeal federal prohibition. |
| April 8, 1931 | The robin was designated as the official state bird. |
| April 13, 1954 | Ernie Harwell working for the Baltimore Orioles made his first broadcast from Briggs Stadium (later Tiger Stadium). |
| April 25, 1959 | The St. Lawrence Seaway opened. This 400 mile waterway connected Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean bringing trade and foreign marine species. |
| April 28, 1910 | The Flint Police Department ordered the first "paddy wagon," a truck with a cage to hold prisoners, from the Buick Motor Company. |
| April 29, 1911 | Michigan's official state flag with the state seal on a blue field was approved by the legislature. |

Source: Historical Society of Michigan



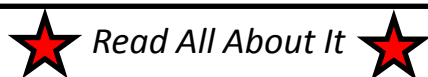
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V	N	H	O	O	C	E	E	B	H	B	Y	O	L
O	G	A	P	K	A	H	G	N	I	K	O	O	C

We want to hear from you! Send us an email letting us know what you would like to see in the newsletter and feedback on the current edition. You can also submit ideas and information about activity in your department.

hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com

The ovoid edible delivered by the Easter bunny takes center stage in this list of words about eggs and some serving suggestions

Baking	Egg Salad	Sandwich
Breakfast	Fresh	Scrambled
Brunch	Fried	Shell
Cooking	Frittata	Soufflé
Custard	Omelets	Tasty
Dishes	Over Easy	White
Dozen	Poached	Yolk
Eggnog	Quiche	



Hearsay is now available on the Circuit Court website www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter

CORRECTIONS, OMISSIONS [AND FORGIVENESS FOR BOTH]

An article in the January 2015 edition about specialty courts omitted that the Veterans Treatment Court had 9 graduates in 2014. We are sorry for the omission, but gratified by the success of the participants.

Also omitted from the January 2015 edition was recognition of recent adoptee and speaker at the Adoption Day Festivities, Alyssa Somaya Zarmina Delgado. Her contribution was important to the success of the event.