

GENESEE COUNTY CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS E-NEWSLETTER

a quarterly publication

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THEY JUST WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

Judge Joseph J. Farah presides over the expungement docket.

He was asked to share his experience and the following article was filed.

Recent changes in Michigan law have converted what was once a near-impossible result into a highly achievable one in getting a felony conviction set aside or expunged.

Once upon a time, such leniency was reserved for a single felony with no other convictions. Seeing the harshness – and near lack of utility of such a narrow pathway to success – the law has undergone incremental changes to where it now stands.

Multiple felonies are now “expungable” with misdemeanor convictions having no bearing, for the most part, on those expungement efforts.

This broadened view, dubbed the *Clean Slate* legislation, has thrown open the courtroom doors to not hundreds, but thousands, of motions to set aside convictions across our state. Genesee County is no different as hundreds of requests have been presented locally, or certainly will be.

The value of having a felony expunged requires little in the way of explanation. Hiring, promotions, licensure, travel, and other things can be affected, such as educational opportunities. Accordingly, the amendments to expungement laws have greatly expanded the universe of the applicant – a salutary endeavor designed to remove the onus maybe a decades-old conviction visits on the applicant’s life.



Once an application is filed with the court, along with an updated Michigan State Police records check and notice to the prosecuting authority, the application is heard in open court on an appointed day and time (Monday or Tuesday afternoons).

The applicant has counsel, but not often.

The Attorney General is represented by a member of Prosecutor David Leyton’s office, almost invariably Mike Thomas.

The hearing encompasses a two-step process: (1) is the applicant eligible for relief, and (2) should relief be granted. This

“can I/should I” approach guides the process because, if the applicant is “ineligible” legally, no amount of equitable largess will properly lead to granting the application; it must be denied.

Statutory ineligibility comes from either the type of conviction (one punishable by life, or a criminal sexual conduct conviction for example); the number of convictions (normally four can spell doom to the applicant); or prematurity (the 3, 5, or 7 year waiting period has not been satisfied). From there, though, it is the rare situation where an eligible applicant is denied relief.

Chief Probate Judge Jennie Barkey once told me that the best days in court are “adoption days,” when families are created with court approbation. Children find permanent homes. Parents fulfill a dream. Emotions run high, happiness abounds, and the courtroom – often a place of dejection and despair – is transformed. Tears match smiles and lump-

throated celebration reigns.

Now setting aside a conviction and freeing the applicant from its burdens does not match the joys on the fifth floor. But that is not to say the process is not without rewards.

GRANTED: 180 applications to set aside a conviction.

(Continued on page 13)

THE CHIEF SPEAKS

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Friday, December 28, 1990, is a day I will never forget. I was walking down South Saginaw Street to my law office in the Mott Foundation building when a numbness came over both my legs just below my knees.

MY DARKEST DAYS

Knowing I might have some unusual ailment, I called my doctor who was a close, personal, friend. He was busy with patients and told me to lay down and call him again in an hour. An hour later I was unable to stand up.

Doctors initially thought I had Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which is a rare disorder where the body's immune system attacks your nerves. I was told 60



-80% of people are able to walk in six months. After about six weeks of therapy at FOH Hospital in Flint, I had a major setback, and decided to get a second opinion from the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Within several days I was told by specialists I did not have Guillain-Barre. Their diagnosis was that I had Transverse Myelitis, which is a disorder caused by inflammation of the spinal cord. Doctors said it was unlikely I would walk again. I stayed at the U of M Hospital

and began physical and occupational therapy.

For the next several days I stayed up all night wondering about my future life. Will my fiancée, Dana, stay with me? Will I be able to work again? Why did this happen to me?

LIFE CHANGING DAY

At U of M Hospital I was on a floor with patients who had various spinal cord injuries. One evening a younger man by the name of Bruce tried to begin a conversation. Still depressed, I simply ignored him. About 20 minutes later Bruce told me his story. He had been in a severe motorcycle accident and was paralyzed from the neck down. He was divorced and had custody of his three children until his accident. He told me he had no use of his

hands and arms. He was unable to feed himself, change the channel on the T.V., and needed assistance any time he went to the bathroom.

From his own observations, Bruce felt confident I could continue doing 80 - 90% of the everyday tasks I had done prior to my being hospitalized. He concluded by saying, "Just remember, things can always be worse; look at me."

ATTITUDE CHANGE

Bruce and I talked for hours that evening. Simply put, he brought me out of my depression and changed my whole attitude. I looked back and thought about the positive things in my life: My 78 year old father (a.k.a. Legal Beagle) came out of retirement from

(Continued on page 11)

ADMINISTRATOR CORNER

Several years ago, the probate and circuit court administrators agreed to create administrative leadership meetings for supervisors and other administrative staff, who assemble quarterly to review selected topics.

The agenda is developed with 2-3 speakers, each given a limited amount of time to highlight an initiative within their area of responsibility that has proven to be successful.

It is a time to communicate and share success. Often the topics generate conversation of how a particular approach may translate to other areas of the court to promote more efficient or informative service to court users.

One of the early initiatives that arose from the administrative leadership meetings

was how could the court reduce its dependency on the county general fund. It was during a challenging budget process for Genesee County.

An idea was developed to implement 7 strategies that could save at least \$7,000 annually for the 7th Circuit Court of Genesee County.



The concept was presented to the County Board of Commissioners with a challenge that county departments might be called upon to review practices in ways that may seem small

but when added together could be significant.

It was pointed out that a mindset of how to reduce expenditures might produce unintended and positive results.

The circuit court met our goal of the 7 initiatives that saved considerably more than \$7,000 each. The first one was to eliminate the mailing of paper checks to the attorneys on the court appointed list. Electronic fund transfer (EFT) was made mandatory.

We also reviewed other court vendors and solicited them to move to electronic payment.

This payment method is routine now, but 8-10 years ago, it was not so prevalent. The cost to process a paper check for Genesee County was calculated, along with the actual

postage and the number of checks being sent out, to arrive at a defendable cost reduction calculation.

My recollection was that it cost at least \$5.00 to send out a paper check, once all of the contributing factors were included. Multiple court and county offices are involved in the actual payment process. The administrative leadership meetings start at 8:00 A.M. and wrap up by 9:00 A.M. The Chief Judge is always invited and often attends. It is an opportunity for the Chief Judge to take the pulse of what is happening in the court, outside of a courtroom.

The court is a separate branch of government. It is also an institution. The institutional issues include annual budgets and financial practices subject

(Continued on page 13)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Casey Hardin

Probate Court

Casey Hardin is a deputy clerk register for the Probate Court. Casey former-

ly worked for Genesee County 911 in the FOIA division.

Circuit Court

Rudi Easler (not pictured) is the judicial advisory assistant for Judge John A. Gadola. Rudi graduated from University of Toledo, earned her master's degree from Georgia State University, and received her law degree from University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.



Jessica Prewitt

Friend of the Court

Jessica Prewitt is a program clerk for Friend of the Court. Jessica formerly worked at GCCARD as a caseworker.



- Thanks to Doreen Fulcher, Tricia Wright, Deanna Hawkins, and Nichole Ruby for once again decorating the courthouse for the holidays. It looks fantastic and really sets a festive mood. Photos are included in this edition.

- Jury trials conducted in 2021: 14 criminal jury trials completed. 5 cases resolved immediately before jury selection or before the trial was completed

and 2 civil jury trials that went to verdict.

Strict COVID19 protocols were followed, the double jury courtroom was used for jury selection and for many of the trials. A team effort by judges and court staff proved to be a successful strategy.



SEQUESTRATION OF WITNESSES



67th District Court Judge Mark C. McCabe writes "*Ask the Judge*" for the *Tri-County Times*.

Sequestration of Witnesses appeared in the November

In my years on the bench, I have found that at the start of almost every criminal or civil trial and at hearings when witnesses are to be called, a motion to sequester witnesses is made by one side or the other or both. Invariably the motion is granted. I would daresay that all of my fellow judges rule the same way.

There are some very important reasons for this and accordingly I present the following.

The word "sequestration" comes to us from the Latin word "sequestrare," which means to "place in safekeeping."

As to witnesses, it describes the legal term for the removal of potential witnesses from the courtroom until it is their turn to testify and informing them that they shouldn't discuss the case with or reveal their testimony to any other witness.

This is a procedure, which goes back to biblical times and is sometimes called putting a witness "under the rule."

The United States Supreme Court has described the purpose of sequestration as follows: "The aim of imposing the rule on witnesses is twofold. It exercises a restraint on witnesses tailoring

their testimony to that of earlier witnesses and it aids in detecting testimony that is less than candid."

Under both the Federal and Michigan Rules of Evidence, there are three exceptions to sequestration: (1) a party who is a natural person; (2) an officer or employee of a party who is not a natural person designated as its representative by its attorney; (3) a person whose presence is shown by a party to be essential to the presentation of the party's cause.

An example of the third exception is when the officer in charge in a criminal case is allowed to stay in the courtroom to help the prosecutor.

If a witness violates a sequestration order there are three recog-

nized sanctions: (1) contempt; (2) permitting cross examination as to the violation; (3) precluding the witness from testifying.

Witness sequestration has proven to be an effective way of determining the truth and has been called one of the "greatest engines" that man has invented to gauge the individual honesty of each witness.

For a very interesting perspective on all of this, I recommend "Sequestration Of Lay Witnesses And Experts" by my former evidence law professor Ralph Slovenko, available online.



FEDERAL U.S. DISTRICT COURT APPROVES FINAL SETTLEMENT IN FLINT WATER LITIGATION

In a 178-page opinion and order entered on November 10, 2021, United States District Judge Judith E. Levy approved an historic \$626.25 million settlement for individuals impacted by the Flint water crisis.

The final amended settlement agreement provides the framework for compensation to qualifying settlement claimants, and outlines the process

for registering and submitting claims under the settlement.

As stated in the opinion and order, the settlement resolves pending in the U.S. District Court, the 7th Judicial Circuit Court, and State of Michigan Court of Claims.

Judge Farah has presided over the civil matters related to the Flint water cases in the circuit court.

Wanting to preserve continuity, Judge Farah has been separately assigned to the probate court to handle petitions related to the water cases, given his familiarity with the unique nature of the claims and parties involved in the litigation.

Judge Farah stated, "I will continue to handle all contested matters in the state litigation, and will be tasked to preside over the multi-thousands of children cases and others

seeking court approval of their claims in probate court. Considerable court involvement is likely to begin in January 2022."

The approved settlement agreement is structured to provide the majority of proceeds to minor children and those who were younger than 18 at the time of the crisis. —so

COURTHOUSE SQUARE PROJECT (1998-2003)



er and I handled the matter quite seriously and I said that we would record it somehow for him, but delay was not possible. This conversation has been recounted many times over the years.



Some of the readers will remember the *Courthouse Square Project* which added the Beach Street facing annex to the courthouse and restored the historical courthouse. Others, have no recollection due to age or circumstance.

It was an important time in the history of the court. The Probate Court Building (MacAviney Building), was torn down. The Genesee County Jail was imploded, having been closed by federal court order (US District Court Judge Stuart Newblatt) and replaced by the existing jail.

Because of the materials involved in the construction of a jail, demolition by implosion or otherwise is a major undertaking. The fact that it was also close to the courthouse presented additional safety and security issues.

A few of the photos follow.

I cannot relate these events without adding a personal vignette. Judge Jennie Barkey's son, Joe (Joey) was young when the implosion was to take place. Big trucks and other equipment were a daily event. It was all a young man's dream.

Joe really wanted to see the implosion, but his family was going to be out of town on the day of the event. Jennie brought him to my office and said "Ok, ask her." Joe asked if we could do the implosion on another day because he would not be able to see it. His moth-

Photo #1 depicts the connecting walkway between the courthouse and the jail. It was a security enhancement from the former practice of walking inmates over to the court. Some will remember that it took on the name of "Freeman's chute." Judge Donald Freeman was known for the frequency with which he sentenced defendants to lengthy prison sentences.

The remaining photos show the jail and probate court building at various stages of demolition and the actual implosion. There was a demolition watch staging area on the top of the former McCree Parking Ramp. It was quite an event that went off without a hitch.

As the annex began to take shape, photo #2, the insulating panels were yellow. I took a call from an individual who said that he liked the color that we had chosen for the new courthouse! As I recall, he referenced being a University of Michigan fan and thought we were assuming the maize and blue color scheme.



You are cordially invited to attend the private viewing for the implosion of the Former Genesee County Jail
by: Gerald A. Fodale, President



A continental breakfast will be served

November 14, 1998

Doors open at 7:00 a.m.
Implosion at 9:00 a.m.

610 Beach Street
Flint, Michigan

Directions from Detroit: I-75 North to I-475 North.
Exit at Court Street and follow to Stevens St. North, To Third Street West. Follow Third Street to the parking structure at the corner of Third and Beach.

A couple of photos depict the state of the courtroom furniture when the restoration project was started.

The chair was located in the 3rd floor courtroom, currently occupied by Judge Mark Latchana. I took a picture of this to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners when asking for funds to re-furbish the historical furniture. In service since 1926 and restored in 1998! A pretty good return on investment.



The table was from one of the Probate Court courtrooms.



20 years ago, a holiday party brought some of the courthouse staff together at a local eatery.

Below: Kathy Duval, former judicial secretary to Judge Bob Weiss and Judge Bruce Newman, Referee Peggy Odette and Judge Bruce Newman. They are reviewing the lyrics to a few songs penned by the court administrator, highlighting some of the personalities of the local bench. Judge Newman was a good sport and appeared to be having a good time.

Below: Judge Thomas Gadola was reading the lyrics about one of his colleagues. He seemed amused!



Below: Others who were pressed into service for the sing-along included Jackie White (Judge Hayman's judicial secretary), Marian Sprague (Judge Fullerton's judicial secretary), Dawne Nicholas (Judge Beagle's judicial secretary), Ruby Allen (Judge Ransom's judicial secretary), Jodi Wood (Judge Yuille's judicial secretary) and Kim Day (Judge Neithercut's judicial secretary). Kim was wondering, "Do I really need to do this?" -bam



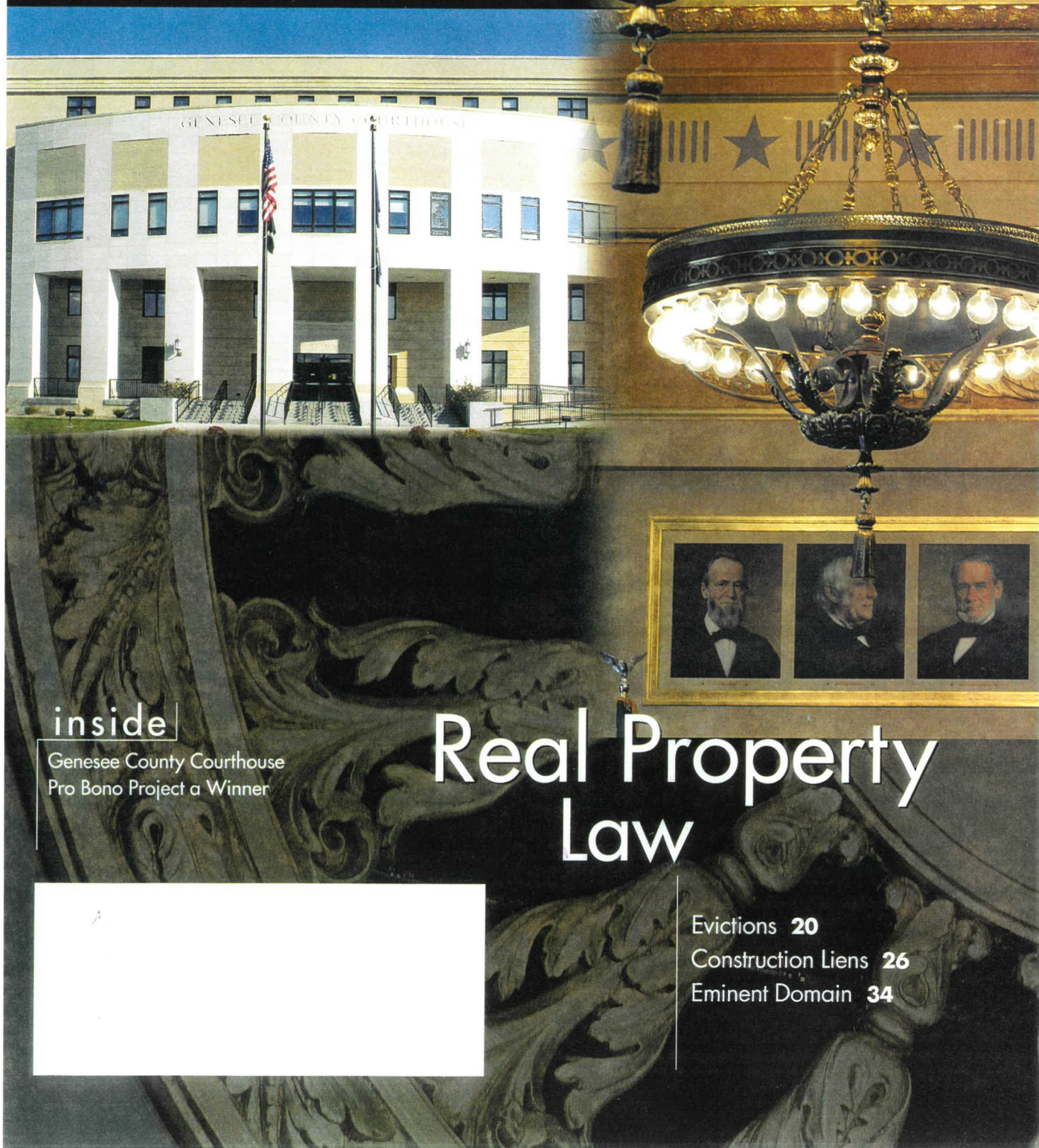
Top-Right: The songs were sung by members of the courthouse staff. From left, Barbara Menear- court administrator and lyricist, Robyn Lucka (jury office), Chris Russell (defender program), Janet Patsy (deputy court administrator), Cindy Holbrook (appellate assignment clerk), Ruby Allen (Judge Ransom's judicial secretary) and Steve Rohr (Judge Ransom's law clerk).



THE COURTHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT WAS FEATURED ON THE COVER
OF THE MICHIGAN BAR JOURNAL DECEMBER 2003

MICHIGAN Bar Journal

December 2003



inside

Genesee County Courthouse
Pro Bono Project a Winner

Real Property Law

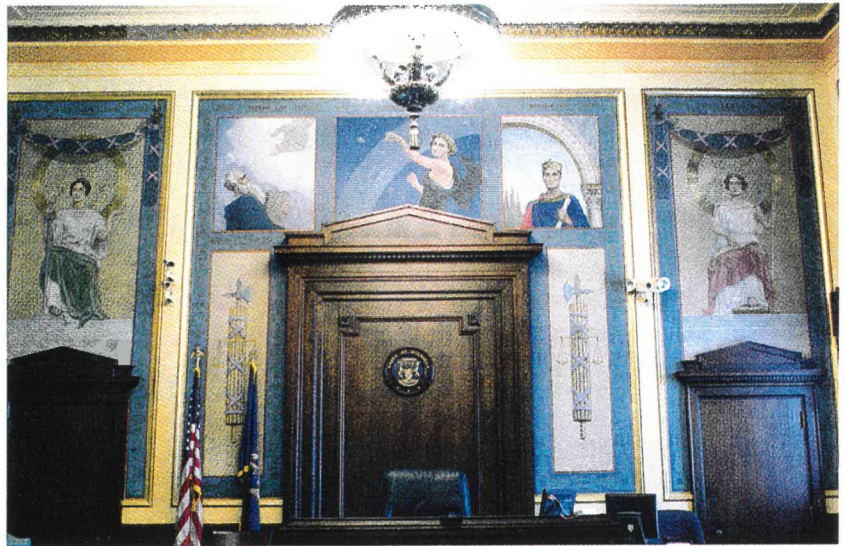
Evictions 20
Construction Liens 26
Eminent Domain 34

OF INTEREST

By Lauren Nowenstein

Renovations Transform Historic Genesee Courthouse

With its timeless beauty, the Genesee County Courthouse is a piece of living history in Flint, Michigan. The courthouse, which has been undergoing extensive renovation and restoration work, is home to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, the Genesee County Probate Court, and offices of the county clerk and county prosecutor. Many important cases and events in Michigan history have taken place within its walls. It has served as the workplace of several of Genesee County's pioneering judges—Elza H. Papp, the county's first female circuit court judge; Ollie B. Bivins, Jr., Genesee County's first African-American circuit court judge; and Louis D. McGregor, the first judge from Genesee County to ascend to the Michigan Court of Appeals.



Located in the courtroom used by 7th Circuit Chief Judge Pro Tempore Richard B. Yuille, this mural shows the progression of law using representations (from left to right, center section of mural) of Mosaic Law, Natural law, and Roman Law.



Restored original American Walnut courtroom furniture.

The neo-classical style courthouse, constructed in 1926 of granite, wrought iron, marble, Indiana limestone, and other materials, is listed in the national and state registers of historic places. It is one of several structures to have stood on the property, located at 900 South Saginaw Street, succeeding previous courthouses built in 1838, 1839, 1867, and 1904. The courthouse renovation and restoration, which has taken almost five years, was part of a \$25 million project that included other county departments and facilities. Major improvements to the building included the upgrading of heating, cooling, and electrical systems and the combination of the circuit and probate courts into an upgraded structure. Other changes involved the addition of attorney-client conference rooms, private corridors and elevators for inmate transportation, and improved public restroom facilities. The law library and jury management areas were also moved to an upgraded

space and the courthouse was made accessible for public use from two entrances—Saginaw and Beach Streets.

The project was a long-standing goal of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, who allocated funds and provided a leadership role. Robert M. Ransom, Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court and Allen J. Nelson, Chief Judge of the Genesee County Probate Court, as well as the Genesee County Building Authority, also played a major role in the project. Private donors and organizations within the legal and lay communities were actively involved in funding the project. The Genesee County Bar Foundation, the Genesee County Bar Association, the Flint Trial Lawyers Association, the Ruth Mott Foundation, and the Whiting Foundation, were among the many donors.

Due to the efforts of local artists and craftspeople under the guidance of Court Administrator Barbara A. Menear and Deputy

Restored outdoor lighting at the Saginaw Street entrance.



Court Administrator Janet Patsy, the courthouse's intricate murals, brilliant light fixtures, and original American walnut courtroom furniture appear much as they did 77 years ago. According to them, the impact of the restoration work far exceeds the \$2 million that it cost to achieve the results.

Detailed original murals cover the walls in two of the courtrooms. By researching the history of the courthouse, Menear and Patsy found that a mural in another courtroom was removed when suspended ceilings and air conditioning were added in the 1970s. Using pictures and pieces of the original mural that were left above the ceiling, the mural was re-created under the leadership of Flint artist Stefan Davidek. Through their research, Menear and Patsy also identified and gave proper credit to the murals' painter, Edgar Spier Cameron, whose identity was previously unknown.

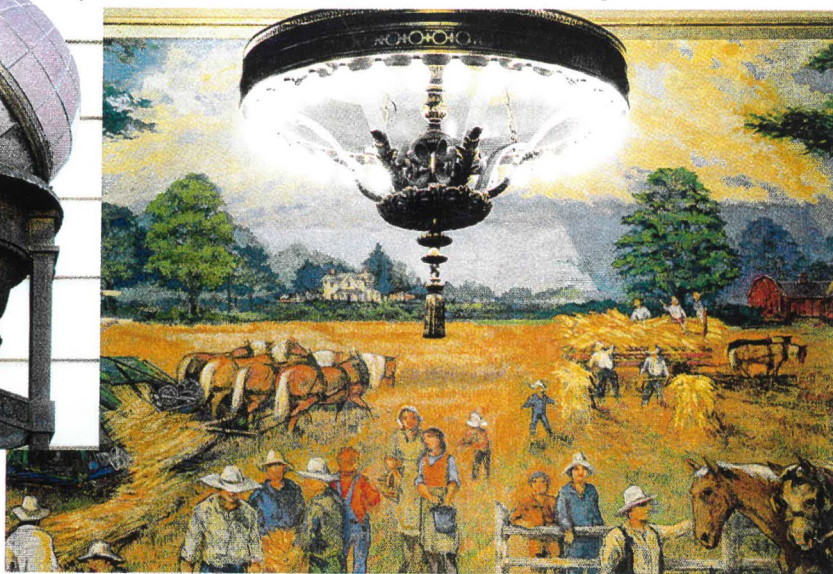
During the project, the paint and coloring on the walls of the courtrooms was also restored, original stenciled patterns and borders were uncovered, courtroom furniture was refurbished, and some of the interior lighting fixtures were used as models for the re-casting of nearly identical new versions.

According to Menear, the lawyers who frequent the courthouse notice and are appreciative of the improvements, especially the murals. In fact, she said that one of the judges has joked with her that he sometimes finds lawyers standing at the podium looking up at the murals instead of looking at him. "He makes the comment now that he has to share the spotlight with the beautiful murals," Menear said. ♦

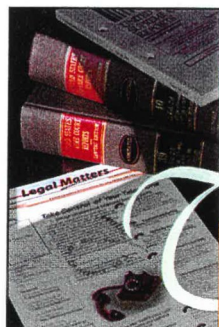
Lauren Nowenstein is a staff writer for the Michigan Bar Journal.



Photos by Michael M. Smith



This mural, in the courtroom used by Chief Judge Robert M. Ransom, was re-created by Flint artist Stefan Davidek and his staff. It represents the industries that have fueled economic growth in Flint and the surrounding area.



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VINTAGE HOLIDAY DINNER PHOTOS



munity in new ways. A great meal and gifts are still the order of the day.

These vintage photos show the record turn out and some members of the legal community pitching in to make it a success.

Lynne Ransom



The Genesee County Bar Association and Genesee County Bar Foundation Community Holiday Dinner was started in 1992. The first event was held at the Masonic Temple, with the all important support of Larry Battiste and the fine staff of the Temple Dining Room.

(below) was named the best dressed elf of the year! She is sitting in Santa's chair, likely awaiting his arrival when the camera caught her pose.

Attorney Brian Barkey continues to be the heart and soul of the Community Holiday Dinner. He has been deemed the "Chairperson for Life."



In December 2015, the 25th year was observed with 1292 meals served and 573 children having their photo taken with Santa Claus. Each child received a gift, with festive entertainment provided. There were 174 volunteers assisting with decorating, serving, clean up, gift wrapping and spreading festive cheer and good wishes to all.

Enjoy the retrospective and be satisfied that it all continues in 2021. -bam

The event continues to be underwritten by the Genesee County Bar Foundation and members of the Genesee County Bar Association.

COVID19 and other circumstances have brought changes to the dinner. As you can read in Attorney Brian Barkey's article, local restaurants and non-profits have been tapped to continue to reach the com-



GCBA/GCBF HOLIDAY GIVING



GCBA/GCBF
Holiday
Giving by
Brian M.
Barkey

This article is re-printed with permission of the author and the editorial staff of *Bar Beat*, a GCBA publication. (Nov/Dec 2021 edition)

As you know, because of the COVID crisis, we were not able to hold our traditional Holiday Dinner last year for the first time in 28 years. The risk of spreading infection was overwhelming and we had no choice. Ironically, the need created by COVID was much greater. Area businesses were forced to close, area shelters were overwhelmed, and food

distribution centers were exhausted every week. The nation shut down.

Area shelters where we had delivered fliers every year learned of our dilemma last year, and one of them called us. Their kitchen had been so busy that they had to close it over Christmas for repairs. They were faced with the prospect of serving sandwiches for Christmas dinner or, worse yet, turning hungry families away. What could we do?

Well, we went to work on ideas that served this need but did not accelerate the risk. The GCBA/GCBF Holiday Giving project was born. We called Italia Gardens, a locally owned restaurant and they were enthusiastic to help. They prepared and delivered a holiday meal. We served over 300 people at three area

shelters during the two weeks before Christmas. None of the meals were sandwiches. We had the children living at those same area shelters pick presents from an Amazon Wish List, and we bought them and had them delivered. These kids actually got their Christmas wish! In every instance these wonderful things were enthusiastically and gratefully received.

The situation has not changed much in the year since then. COVID has flared again and the landscape of closed and shrunk-en businesses (including the ones we need to host our traditional Holiday Dinner) has remained pretty dismal. But we have learned from last year's experience. When we called the same three shelters this year, they were very happy with our proposal to repeat the Holiday Giving project this year. Word got

around, and we have added three more shelters. This year we will be serving Carriage Town Miniseries, Shelter of Flint, Whaley Children's Center, East Side Mission and the residential programs at the YMCA and Salvation Army. We are exploring the willingness of at least three other restaurants to cater meals for residents at these shelters.

I tell this story about the charitable work done by our Association every chance I get. It sets us apart from the reputation of other lawyers across the state, and I cannot tell you how proud this makes me. Thank you for your continued support.

THE CHIEF SPEAKS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

his home in Florida to help maintain my law practice. For the two months I was at U of M Hospital, Dana drove down to Ann Arbor from Flint every day to check on me. A half dozen local lawyers volunteered to take over several of my cases without compensation.

Nearing the end of my hospital stay, Circuit Judge Phillip Elliott resigned from his position. With the support of so many people, I applied for the vacancy and in June of 1991 I was appointed to fill the vacancy by the Governor. A few months

later, on September 7, 1991, Dana and I exchanged vows.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS
As I reflect back on the year of 1991, I learned some valuable lessons and what really matters in life. Life experiences have taught me to not get caught up in all the bad news around me.

We presently live in a divided country. The pandemic remains a serious problem. A U.S. House Select Committee continues to investigate the January 6th attack on our nation's capital. This past year we have had heat waves, floods, wild fires, and

droughts. This past weekend devastating tornados ripped across five states from Arkansas to Illinois, killing 88 people. The death toll in Kentucky stands at 74 including 12 children. The recent tragedy at Oxford was the 32nd school shooting this year.

We cannot single handedly stop the ongoing gun violence, or the ongoing political and social unrest, however, we can learn what really matters in our daily lives. Family, faith, friends, love, health, and happiness are what really matter to me. Along with kindness, purpose, and a positive attitude. Happiness often comes

from having a purpose, loving, and accepting yourself and others, and maintaining good health.

Forget all the bad news. Ask yourself, what really matters to me?

On behalf of my fellow Judges, we send Holiday Greetings to each of you, along with best wishes for the new year! -cjdmmb

Fredricka Savage is
the columnist for
geneseeLIVING

Take advantage of the unseasonably warmer winter days and enjoy some of Genesee County's favorite holiday events. There are also some new happenings to check out while enjoying your holiday time off.

Flint Firebirds (Ontario Hockey League), Dort Financial Center, 3501 Lapeer Rd., Flint • flint-firebirds.com
December 29 vs. Saginaw Spirit

Now Showing at Longway Planetarium, Cosmic Christmas and your favorite planetarium shows (check website for showtimes and dates), 1310 E. Kearsley St., Flint sloanlongway.org

The Mission Safari Exhibit is at Sloan Museum in the Courtland

Center Mall, 4190 E. Court St., Burton • sloanlongway.org

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum • 2142 N. Genesee Rd., Burton • geneseecounty-parks.org/events for full calendar of events & information
• December 21: Treehouse Story Time
• December 27: Snowshoeing 101
• December 28: Winter Bird Hunt

Exhibits at Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint • flintarts.org
• Saturdays and Sundays: Free Glassblowing Demonstrations

Exhibits at Greater Flint Arts Council, 816 S. Saginaw St., Flint • genesee.fun.com
• New! Michigan Water Color Society 2021-22 Traveling Show (*opens December 10*)
• December 10: Second Friday ARTWALK

Exhibits at Buckham Gallery, 121 W. Second St., Flint • buckhamgallery.org

Exhibits at Mott-Warsh Collection Gallery, 815 Saginaw St., Flint • m-wc.org/mwgallery.html
• Midday at MW: Guided Tours (Thurs/Fri/Sat)

Exhibits at Cause & Affect Gallery, 126 N. Leroy St., Fenton • causeandeffectgallery.com
• See It, Hear It, Speak Out!

Live Music at Cranberries Cafe, 10250 Hegel Rd., Goodrich • cranberriescafe.com

Live Music and Trivia Night at Barley & Vine, 1072 S. Elms Rd., Suite B, Flint • barley-andvinemi.com/

Mondays: Live music at Churchill's Food & Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw St., Flint, churchillsflint.com/event

Saturdays: Dance & Karaoke Good Fun with Marlow "The Entertainer" at Cobblestone Bar & Grille, G-7490 Fenton Rd, Grand Blanc

NYE Party: Laugh Until You Pee a Little at Gateway Center – 5400 Gateway Centre Boulevard. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show, which features Bill Bushard, Melissa Hager and music from Papa Kiszka and the Voortex. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

Justin Rose at the Burger Bar & Tap – January 12, 2022 8-11 p.m. Enjoy good music, eats, and spirits and arcade games.

Concerts at the Machine Shop Concert Lounge, 3539 S. Dort Hwy., Flint • themachinechineshop.info
• Framing Hanley at the Machine Shop – January 29, 2022 from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance.

Click the links below to find other fun *things to do* in Genesee County.

EXPLORE
FLINT & GENESEE

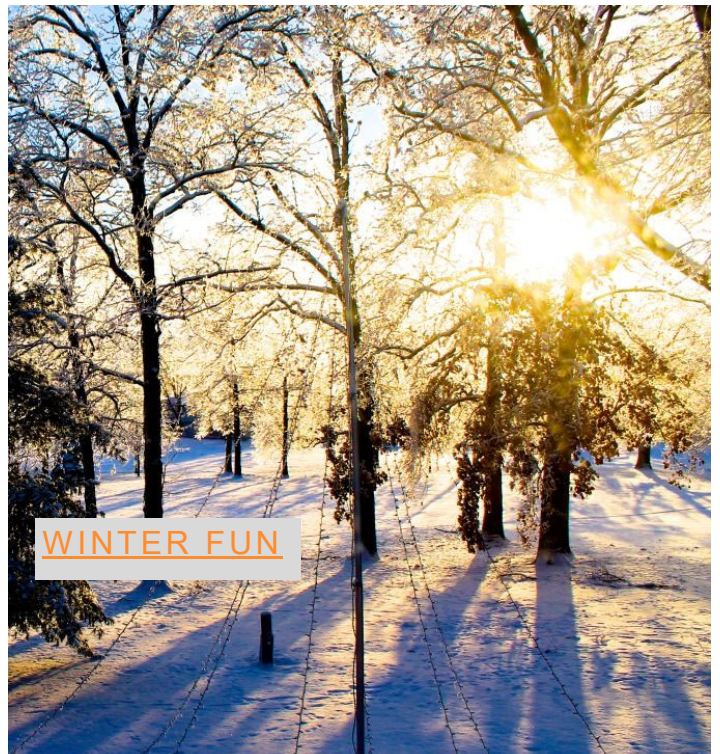
THINGS TO DO

OUTDOORS & RECREATION



THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS

WINTER FUN



ADMINISTRATOR CORNER (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)
to oversight and audit.

We have human resource issues and collective bargaining agreements with many of the court staff. Facility management, security, courtroom technology, court record management and access to justice initiatives are but a few of the daily topics.

It takes a quality team with a variety of backgrounds and skill to run a top-notch court.

The administrative leadership meetings were suspended during the early part of COVID19 and are now back online, with the most recent meeting being held on December 9, 2021.

Membership includes:

Judge Duncan Beagle, Chief Judge
Judge Elizabeth Kelly, Chief Judge pro tem
Barbara Menear, Circuit Court Administrator
Sam Olson, Probate Court Administrator/Register
Mary Hood, Attorney-Referee
Tony McDowell, Director-Friend of the Court
Rhonda Ihm, Deputy Court Administrator, Juvenile Services
James Terry, Deputy Court Administrator, Fiscal Services & Technology
Jessica Clemens, Financial Operations Supervisor
Christine Greig, Jury Board Supervisor
Kenda Herrick, Juvenile Probation Supervisor
Sheonna Hill, Juvenile Records Supervisor
Susan Johnson, Specialty Courts Supervisor
Chad Sharpe, Director - Juvenile Justice Center
Tricia Wright, Supervisor, Legal Division, Clerk's Office
Jennifer Strauel, Administrative Secretary
-bam



THEY JUST WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

Seconds after my first set aside was granted ("This conviction from this moment forward is off your record, sir."), the courtroom exploded in applause, from complete strangers joining in the joy and accomplishments of the applicant.

People have been moved to tears of joys tempered by disbelief and filled with hope. If memory serves, a man with a conviction from a case with a 1956 prefix asked for that conviction to be expunged, because now in his

80's, he "wanted a clean record before ... well, you know." My own staff and assistants have fought back, sometimes unsuccessfully, unbridled empathy.

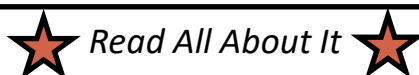
The changes in the law have worked their elements of forgiveness, of redemption, of recognition that a societal debt has been paid and a ticket for the future has been punched.

In the final analysis, my court has seen decades of exemplary behavior from those who now make a simple plea in seeking to

shed their conviction: just to be like everyone else. The Legislature and the Governor got this one right. -jjf

¹By the way, the presiding judge was Judge Gadola. Obviously not John Gadola, nor his dad Tom, but John's grandfather!

²Thus far, Judge Farah has granted 180 applications to set aside convictions.



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