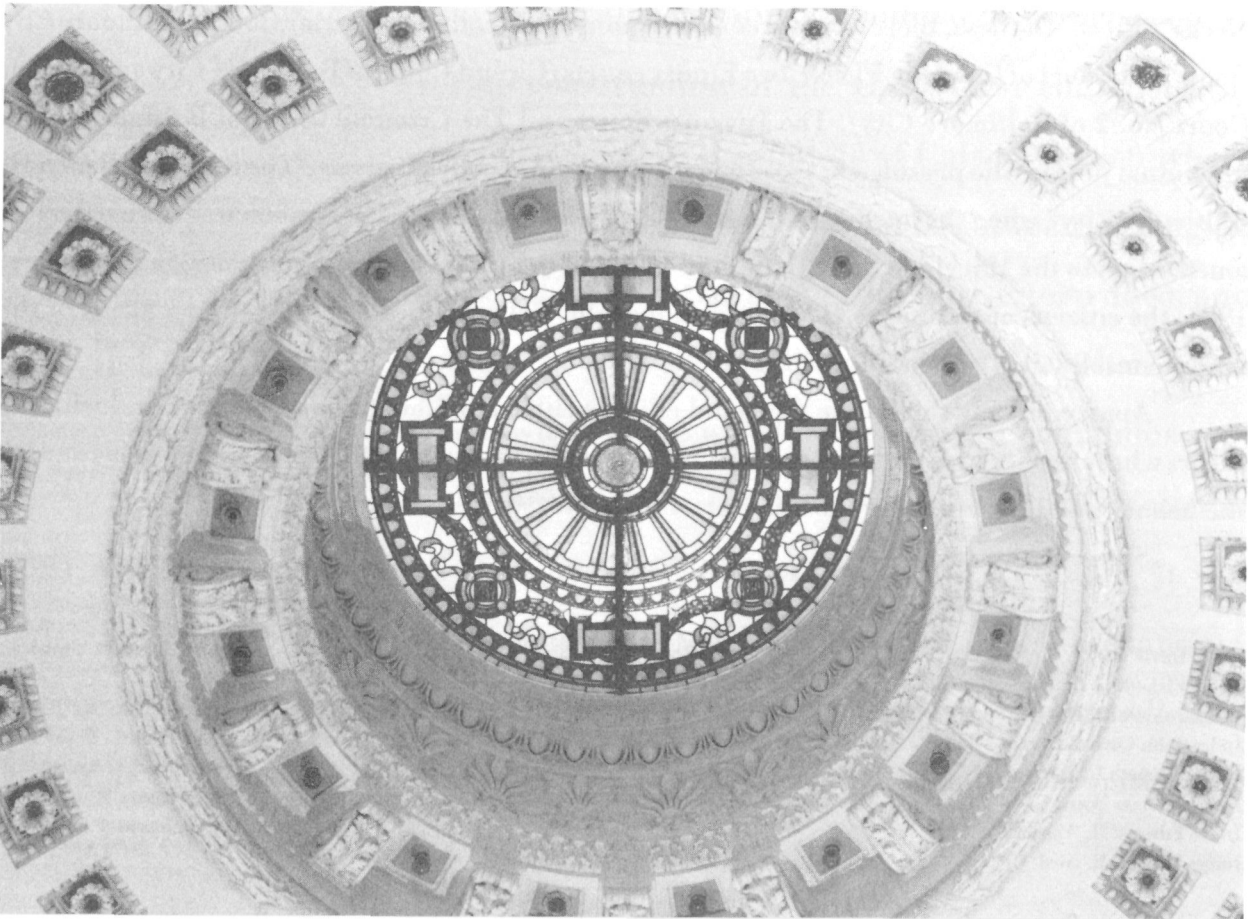


THE BALTIMORE CITY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSES



THE BALTIMORE CITY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSES

## WELCOME

Before January 1, 1983, the City Circuit Court consisted of seven separate courts and clerks' offices. Of these, there were three civil, common law courts (Superior Court, Baltimore City Court and Court of Common Pleas), two Equity courts (Circuit Court of Baltimore City and Circuit Court No. 2 of Baltimore City), The Juvenile Court and The Criminal Court of Baltimore. The individual judges who presided in these courts were known collectively as "The Supreme Bench Of Baltimore City" when they presided together on official occasions. This system was changed by an amendment to the Maryland State Constitution which the voters approved in 1980. In November, 1982, the citizens of Baltimore elected the Honorable Sandra L. Banks as the first Clerk of the newly-consolidated "Circuit Court For Baltimore City."

Approximately thirty-five thousand citizens enter our Courthouses every year, including jurors whose services are truly needed and appreciated. To all who visit, we encourage you to enjoy the beauty and history within these important buildings. We welcome you.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. H. Kaplan, Administrative Judge

Robert I. H. Hammerman, Chief Judge

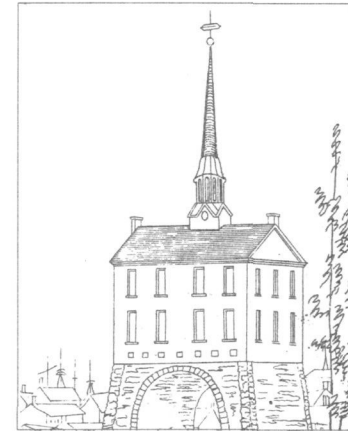
Judge David Ross  
Judge Elsbeth L. Bothe  
Judge Joseph I. Pines  
Judge John Carroll Byrnes  
Judge Kenneth L. Johnson  
Judge Thomas Ward  
Judge Edward H. Angeletti  
Judge Thomas E. Noel

Judge David B. Mitchell  
Judge Hilary D. Caplan  
Judge Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman  
Judge Marvin B. Steinberg  
Judge Clifton J. Gordy, Jr.  
Judge Mabel E. H. Hubbard  
Judge John N. Prevas  
Judge Ellen M. Heller

Judge Roger W. Brown  
Judge John C. Themelis  
Judge Richard T. Rombro  
Judge Ellen L. Hollander  
Judge Paul A. Smith  
Judge Andre M. Davis  
Judge Joseph P. McCurdy

## COURTHOUSE WEST—THE MITCHELL COURTHOUSE

In 1768, the Maryland General Assembly appointed a commission to



oversee construction of the City's first courthouse. It was constructed in the middle of Calvert Street, where the Battle Monument now stands between Lexington and East Fayette Streets. In 1809, it was torn down and replaced by a larger building—until 1895, when it was torn down to make way for the current courthouse.

Construction of this building began in October of 1895 and was completed in December 1899, at a cost of \$2,250,000. It was officially opened with a dedication ceremony held in the Bar Library on January 8, 1900. Eighty-five years later, on March 8, 1985, the courthouse was rededicated in honor of Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., a native son who became a nationally respected Civil Rights leader.

In 1982 the Mitchell Courthouse was designated an Historic Place and since then much of the interior has been cleaned and restored.

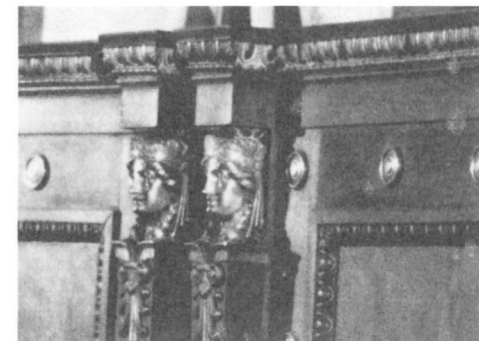
This outstanding example of Renaissance Revival—or Beaux Arts style architecture—was originally designed as a three-story structure with an open air courtyard in the center. Between 1950 and 1954, the building was extensively remodeled to expand its facilities. The mezzanines in between the original three floors were extended to create a total of six floors. The center courtyard was filled in with offices, corridors and elevators, changing the unique character of the building. However, much of its splendor remains, and serious attention is being given to a dramatic plan of restoration.



David Perez



Courtroom 600 was the historic Supreme Bench of Baltimore City Ceremonial Courtroom. The ornate domed ceiling, modeled after the Library of Congress, and Sienna marble columns imported from Italy, are just two of the features which make this one of the world's most beautiful courtrooms.

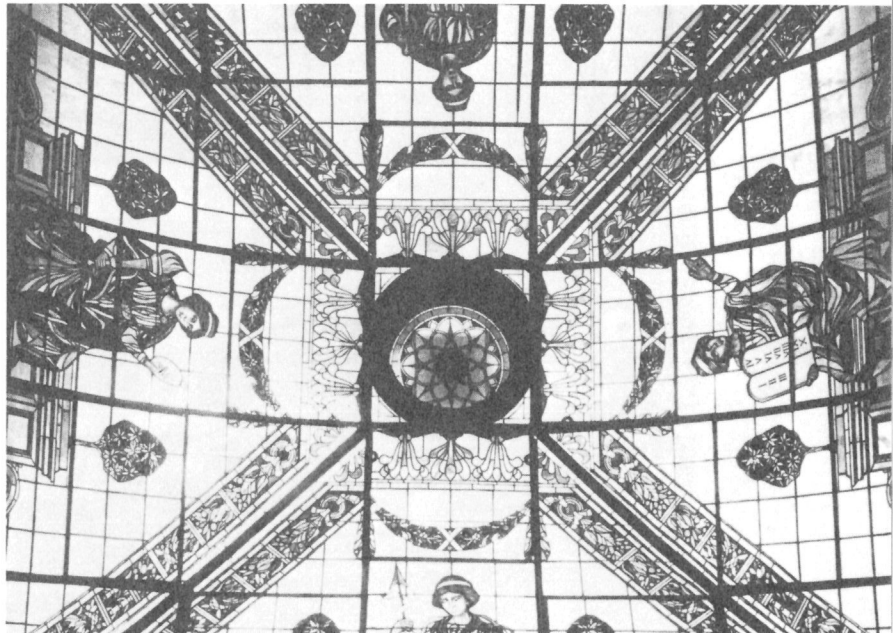




Recently restored marble flooring and lighting, and the original ornate balustrades adorn the Calvert Street Lobby.



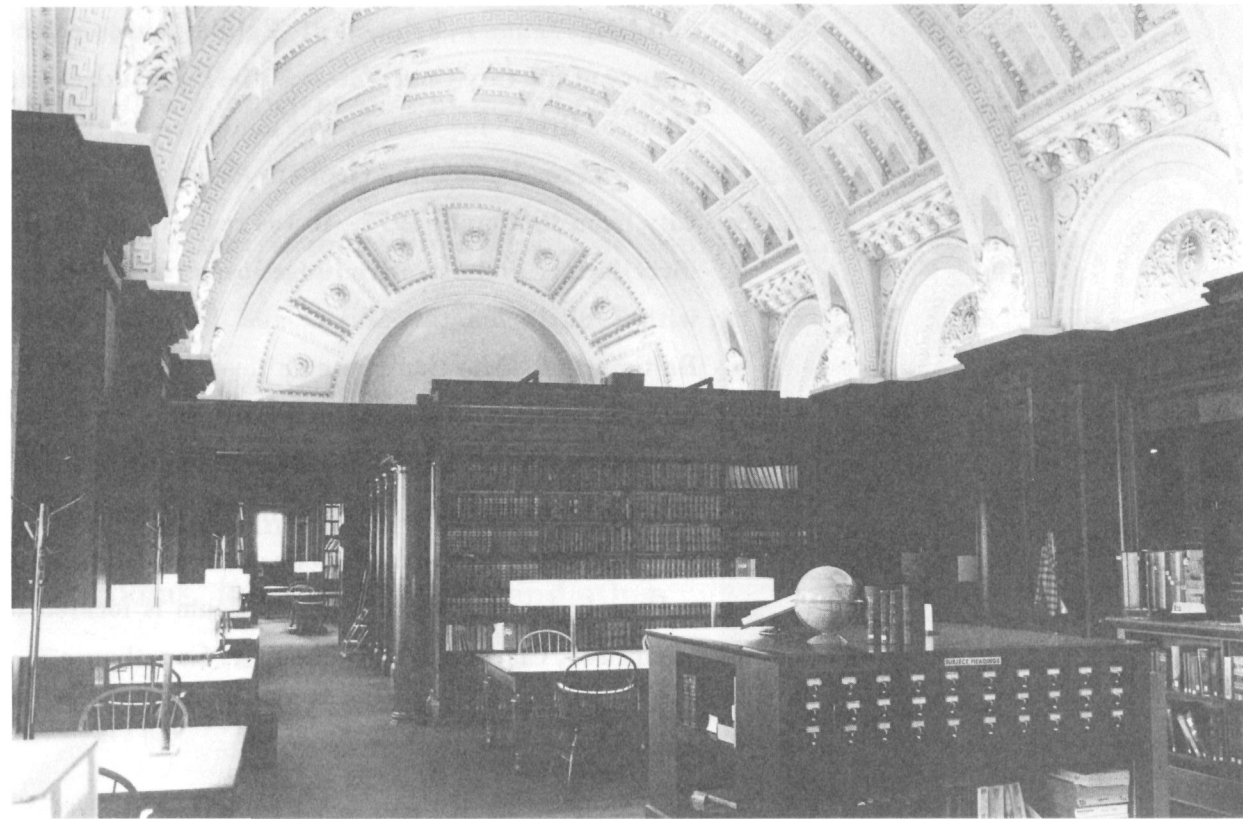
Recently restored art glass domed skylights, located above stairways on either side of the Calvert Street Lobby, are among America's finest.





The former Superior Court of Baltimore was in Room 400 of the Mitchell Building. It continues as the Circuit Court Ceremonial Courtroom, and a 1991 restoration of this Room was sponsored by the Bar Association of Baltimore City.

The Bar Library, founded in 1840, is one of the oldest private libraries in the country, and features a copy of the first printed law book and a recently commissioned portrait of Chief Justice Marshall.



## MUSEUM OF BALTIMORE LEGAL HISTORY

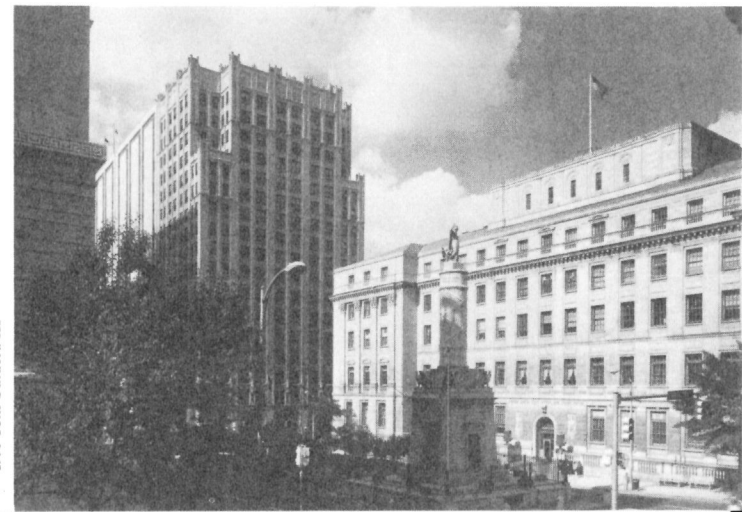
The museum of Baltimore Legal History was founded in October, 1984 by General Philip Sherman and Judge James F. Schneider. Exhibits chronicle the history of the City Court Houses, the Bar, Judges and "famous firsts" for women and minorities in the law. The Museum housed the Orphans Court of Baltimore City from 1900 until 1977. It was restored under the direction of Administrative Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan with funds from the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the Maryland Humanities Council, the City and State Bar Associations and other private contributions. It has been called the most beautiful courtroom in Maryland, combining the atmosphere of an English taproom with the delicate embellishments of a French drawing room. The Museum is located in Room 243, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse.



David Perez

## COURTHOUSE EAST

Across Calvert Street from the Mitchell Courthouse stands the old U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, now owned by the City of Baltimore and known as "Courthouse East." It was constructed in 1930-32 of Indiana limestone in classic style with a Spanish roof. The main branch of the U.S. Postal Service in Baltimore moved to Front Street in 1972, leaving a small postal station on the first floor. The federal courts moved to a new U.S. Courthouse on Lombard Street in 1976. On December 28, 1978, the United States Government deeded this building to the City of Baltimore to house facilities of our Circuit Court, including Clerk's Offices, courtrooms, judges' chambers and other offices.



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On March 24, 1990, six new courtrooms on the second floor were dedicated. The new facilities, constructed at a cost of \$8 million, feature state-of-the-art audio-video equipment and well furnished chambers and courtrooms. The Bar Association of Baltimore City recognized Administrative Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan for his leadership of the project, in which he was ably assisted by Mary B. Widowski, Deputy Administrator, and the City of Baltimore under Mayors Schaefer and Schmoke.



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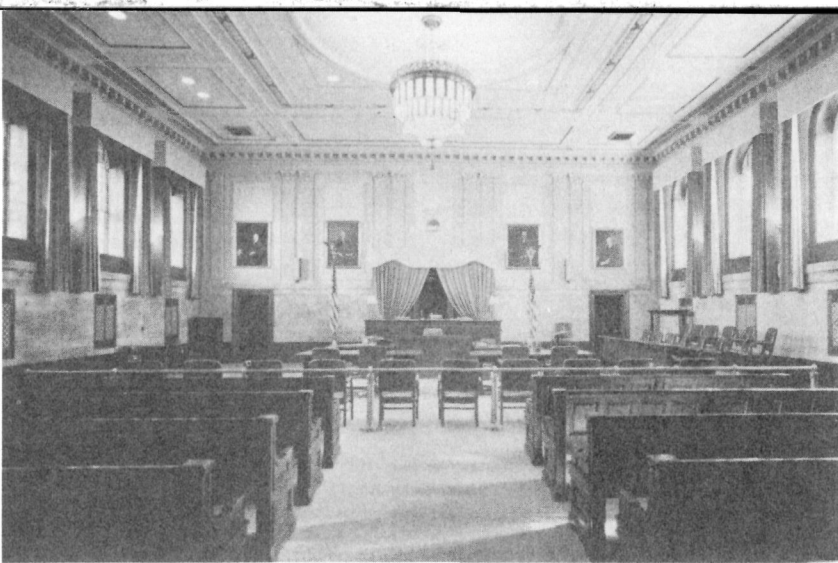


Courtroom Two of Courthouse East is typical of the new courtrooms on the second floor in its conservative-design and traditional furnishings. Proceedings in these courtrooms are audio-visually recorded.

Judges' Chambers on the second floor are spacious and tastefully furnished.



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Two of the three original federal courtrooms on the fifth floor of Courthouse East demonstrate the respect and attention which should be given to rooms of justice.





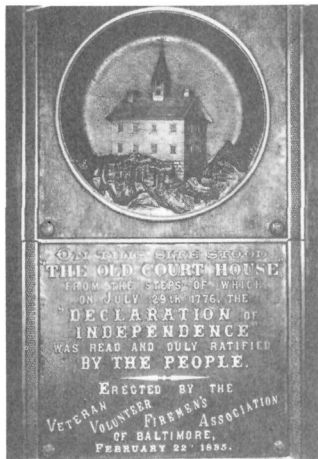
# THE BALTIMORE COURTHOUSE & LAW MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 to encourage citizens to share in the opportunity to work with the Judges and the City in Courthouse restoration and beautification, placement of appropriate art, improved maintenance and support for the Museum of Legal History. Specifically, the Foundation:

*Encourages grants and budget commitments from the city, state and federal governments, and contributions from private individuals and foundations.*

*Solicits memorabilia, historical artifacts and appropriate furnishings and artwork.*

*Invites the involvement of lawyers, volunteer docents, historians, curators, preservationists, engineers, architects, artists, community leaders and interested private citizens.*



For more information on our courthouses or the renovation effort, or volunteering in the Museum of Baltimore Legal History, please send your name and address to:

*The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc.  
c/o Judge John Carroll Byrnes, Secretary  
111 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202*

This booklet was published in 1992 by the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation Inc. with the valuable assistance of Ken Karlic.