

COURTHOUSE *chronicles*

1997 - VOLUME 11

Randolph C. Knepper, *Editor*

An Annual Publication of the Baltimore Courthouse & Law Museum Foundation, Inc.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL MEETING



CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BELL, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE KAPLAN AND MAYOR SCHMOKE AT REDEDICATION OF CALVERT MONUMENT AT ST. PAUL STREET ENTRANCE TO MITCHELL COURTHOUSE

Baltimore's bicentennial of incorporation was celebrated in a gala program on October 22, 1997, at the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. The festivities began with the rededication of the Cecilius Calvert Monument outside the St. Paul Street entrance. Judge James F. Schneider, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and several clergymen spoke at the outdoor observance, which also featured patriotic music and a color guard in authentic 17th century costumes.

Cecilius Calvert was the second Lord Baltimore and the first Lord Proprietor of Maryland. Under his leadership, the colony enjoyed the first free exercise of religion in the English-speaking world.

Moving indoors to Ceremonial Courtroom 400, our Foundation and the Bar Association of Baltimore City jointly sponsored the 1997 Term of Court Ceremony, which also incorporated a special meeting of the Baltimore City Council. Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman began the program by presenting antique maps and a print of Baltimore Harbor to Mayor Schmoke, City Council President Lawrence A. Bell, III, and the citizens of Baltimore. Foundation President Joseph K. Pokempner and Association President Pamela J. Brown each made brief remarks. Mayor Schmoke and Council President Bell introduced commemorative

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

resolutions, approved by the full City Council present in special session.

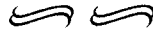
Foundation Secretary, Judge John Carroll Byrnes, presented *Histories of the Bench and Bar of Baltimore City*, which he cowrote and edited. Coincidentally, Robert B. Kershaw, who was Layout Editor of the book, received the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation Achievement Award, presented annually for dedicated service. Foundation President-Elect, Robert T. Gonzales, presented Mr. Kershaw with his award.

In a more solemn portion of the program, Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan made a portrait presentation in honor of deceased Judge John R. Hargrove and a special resolution in memory of Sandra E. Banks. Judge Hargrove was the first African-American prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Baltimore, and then the first such Deputy U.S. Attorney. His distinguished judicial career began in the former People's Court and he became the first administrative judge of the newly-formed District Court. In 1974 he became a circuit court judge and in 1984, a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, where he served until his death.

Ms. Banks began her career in the court system in 1978, when she was elected Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, one of the six constituent courts of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, predecessor to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. She was the first woman to be so honored. In 1982, she was elected as Clerk of the Circuit Court, in which position she remained until her untimely death

in 1997, at age 49.

When the Courtroom 400 proceedings concluded, those who attended and participated were invited to a wine and cheese reception in the Mitchell Courthouse's second floor Calvert Street lobby.

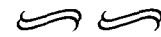


RESTORED COURTROOMS AND NEW DOMESTIC RELATIONS FACILITIES HEAD RENOVATIONS

Both Baltimore Circuit Courthouses had extensive renovations and improvements during 1997, featuring restored courtrooms and new domestic relations facilities. The addition of six new judgeships in 1996 and 1997, as well as a one time \$2 million appropriation from the State Legislature, provided the impetus for the changes.

Courthouse East is the home of two new domestic relations masters hearing rooms. Their first floor location brings them close to the Medical Services' Division, which was completed in 1996. One of the hearing rooms was moved from room 540, which was then converted to a fully operational courtroom, with jury room, for Judge Gary Strausberg. Similarly, courtroom 339 was refurbished with a jury box and jury room for use as Judge Bonita Dancy's courtroom. The chambers of Chief Judge Robert Bell of the Court of Appeals, located on the sixth floor, were completely refurbished. Those three rooms have a greatly-enhanced appearance and more functional use of space.

The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse continued to be renovated. Neoclassical masterpiece Courtroom 600 was restored with new HVAC systems and a jury room. Jury rooms for Courtrooms 406 and 451 were refurbished with new carpeting and painting. During the Fall, work began to convert room 434 from the Lawyers' Conference Room to a fully operational courtroom. The project also includes three new jury rooms on the fifth floor to accommodate courtrooms one floor below. The Lawyers' Conference Room will be relocated to the fifth floor, next to the Bench Conference Room, which will also be renovated.



LAW MUSEUM SEEKS VOLUNTEER GUIDES

Each day on which court is in session, volunteer guides welcome visitors to the Museum of Baltimore Legal History, pointing out features of the displays and answering questions from noon until 1:00 p.m. At least, that is the plan, as soon as a sufficient number of guides sign up. The Museum is located in the beautiful courtroom 243 of the Mitchell Courthouse. It has been visited by more than 15,000 people since 1984.

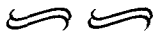
Judge James F. Schneider and Philip Sherman, Museum co-chairs, will conduct a brief and informative training for new volunteers. To sign up, please call Judge Schneider at (410) 962-2820.

JUDGESHIPS ADDED

The Circuit Court for Baltimore City added two new judgeships in 1997, bringing the total to thirty sitting judges, the highest number ever. New judges during the year are:

Marcella A. Holland
M. Brooke Murdock
Alfred Nance
Allen L. Schwait

Judge Thomas Ward retired in 1997. Circuit Court Clerk Sandra E. Banks died at age 49, after fourteen years in her elected position.



LAW MUSEUM FETES BICENTENNIAL, RECEIVES DONATIONS

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History featured a display honoring the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of Baltimore City and publication of *Histories of the Bench & Bar of Baltimore City*, cowritten and edited by Foundation Secretary John Carroll Byrnes. The display featured 18th and 19th century documents discovered in the basement of the Mitchell Courthouse and a scale model of Baltimore's first courthouse, which stood on the site of the Battle Monument.

The Wig and Pen Club, an organization of attorneys, judges and journalists, donated a collection of archives and photographs to the Museum, together with a generous donation. Mrs. Betty Gould, widow of docent Justinus Gould, donated a collection of books, artifacts and a framed print in his memory.



From left to right:

New Judges MARCELLA A. HOLLAND, M. BROOKE MURDOCK,
 ALFRED NANCE, ALLEN L. SCHWAIT.

Rear: PAMILA J. BROWN, President BABC



MEMBERS OF SAINT MARIES CITY MILITIA COLOR GUARD FLANK
 JUDGE JOHN CARROLL BYRNES AT TERM OF COURT CEREMONY IN COURTROOM 400.

FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. is a charitable organization established to support the preservation of Baltimore's circuit courthouses, to operate the Museum of Baltimore Legal History, and to foster growth in the collections of the courthouses and museum.

The Officers are:

President	Robert T. Gonzales, Esq.
President-Elect	Sidney G. Leech, Esq.
First Vice-President	Charles G. Byrd, Jr., Esq.
Second Vice-President	Glenn W. Birx, A.I.A.
Treasurer	Marc P. Blum, Esq.
Secretary	Hon. John Carroll Byrnes
Executive Secretary	Hugh J. Marbury, Esq.

The Advisory Board of Governors is composed of:

Mr. Harold Adams	Mr. Raymond Haysbert
Herbert J. Belgrad, Esq.	Mark K. Joseph, Esq.
Hon. Meyer M. Cardin	Mr. John Paterakis, Jr.
Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III, Esq.	George L. Russell, Jr., Esq.
Eugene M. Feinblatt, Esq.	Dean John Seibert
Dean Donald Gifford	Mr. Walter Sondheim
Mr. Otis Warren	

Directors elected for the term 1998 - 2001

Pamila J. Brown Esq.	Mr. Walter Edward Leon
Francis B. Burch, Jr., Esq.	Ms. Betty Jean Murphy
David H. Fishman, Esq.	Thomas P. Perkins, Esq.
Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman	Hon. Samuel I. Rosenberg
Hon. Marcella A. Holland	Ferrier Rose Stillman, Esq.
Hon. Patricia C. Jessamy	

They join the existing Directors:

Peter F. Alexrad, Esq.	Hon. Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
Hon. Solomon Baylor	Mr. Lawrence T. Mullen
Hon. Lawrence A. Bell	Christopher W. Nicholson, Esq.
Marc P. Blum, Esq.	Joseph K. Pokempner, Esq.
Hon. John Carroll Byrnes	Sheila K. Sachs, Esq.
Howard L. Cardin, Esq.	Walter Schamu, A.I.A.
Lisa Gladden, Esq.	Hon. James F. Schneider
Andrew Jay Graham, Esq.	Philip Sherman, Esq.

MEMORIAL SERVICES HONOR ELEVEN

Eleven attorneys who died in 1996 were remembered at the annual memorial services of the Bar Association of Baltimore City on May 21, 1997. For each deceased, a colleague, family member or friend presented a brief "memorial minute," recalling his achievements and a characteristic or humorous anecdote.

The audience assembled in Ceremonial Courtroom 400 heard remarks from Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman, BABC President William R. Levasseur, Memorial Committee Chair Joseph K. Pokempner and Judges Andre M. Davis and Allen L. Schwait. All attendees were invited to a wine and cheese reception immediately following the services in the second floor lobby of the Mitchell Courthouse.

Those honored were:

Calhoun Bond
Ward B. Coe, Jr.
Moses J. Cohen
John S. Hebb, III
Wellington T. Matthews, Jr.
Christopher J. McEvelly
George V. Parkhurst
Edward B. Sandler
Edward F. Shea, Jr.
Hon. Marvin B. Steinberg
David S. Sykes