

COURTHOUSE *chronicles*

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Randolph C. Knepper, *Editor*

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

CHIEF JUDGE GAVEL PASSED AT TERM OF COURT CEREMONY



FORMER CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT I.H. HAMMERMAN PRESENTS HIS GAVEL TO SUCCESSOR JOSEPH H.H. KAPLAN

The annual Term of Court Ceremony jointly sponsored by the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation and the Bar Association of Baltimore City on October 14, 1998, was the scene of the passing of the gavel of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman had served as Chief Judge from 1984 until his retirement in August, 1998. He had first been appointed to the District Court in 1967 and his thirty-six year tenure is the Maryland record for longevity on the trial bench. Judge Hammerman's numerous awards for public service include a 1997 recognition for Humanitarian Work from the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Monumental City Bar Association.

Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan assumed the position of Chief Judge after serving on the Circuit Court since 1977 and as Administrative Judge since 1984. Chief judges are the most senior judges in each circuit. Judge Kaplan has been a director of this Foundation since its inception and, as Administrative Judge, prime mover in the renovation of Baltimore's Circuit Courthouses.

The ceremony, held in Courtroom 400 of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, also featured the unveiling of a portrait of the late Judge Joseph C. Howard. Judge Howard was the first African-American to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, in 1979. Earlier, he had been the first African-American directly elected to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, predecessor to the Circuit Court, in 1968. The portrait, painted by artist Simi Knox, was presented to Judge Thomas E. Noel by Joseph C. Howard, Jr., Judge Howard's son.

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CELEBRATION OF MITCHELL COURTHOUSE CENTENNIAL AND MILLENNIUM PLANNED

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation is joining with the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in celebrating the centennial of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse and the beginning of the third millennium. The celebration, scheduled in October 2000, features several planned events and programs, including:

A gala ball, chaired by Judge Marcella A. Holland, which will inaugurate significant improvements to the building initiated by Chief Judge Kaplan.

William H. Cahill, Jr. and David F. Albright lead an effort to document many of Baltimore's great law firms.

Judge Gary I. Strausberg, assisted by Kathleen Birrane, chairs a project to memorialize 24 "deceased, exemplary lawyers and judges who contribute in an extraordinary way to the public good."

Displays and exhibits for the Mitchell Courthouse and the Museum of Baltimore Legal History are being developed by Eddie Leon, Philip Sherman, Judge James F. Schneider, Katherine K. Howard, Alison E. Goldenberg and Michael S. Greene.

A Centennial Book will be published by H. Frances Reaves and Robert B. Kershaw in cooperation with *The Daily Record*. Also, a commemorative video is planned by Jane G. Michaelson and Glenn M. Grossman with MPT.

Howard A. Janet, Roland E. Richardson and Sidney G. Leech are handling finances.

The Centennial Coordinating Committee was convened in 1988 by Judge John Carroll Byrnes, chair of The History Project. Also assisting are: Pamela J. Brown, H. Brian Deady, Robert L. Ferguson, Jr., Dan Friedman, Robert T. Gonzales, Lee Gordon, Eric R. Harlan, Deborah A. Hill, Chief & Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, Thomas S. McElory, Theodore S. Miller, Joseph K. Pokempner, Katherine T. Sanzone, Nancy L. Sloane, John W. Sondheim, Ada Strausberg, Mary Widomski, and Matthew S. Zimmerman: If you are interest-

ed in participating in the work of this historic observance, please write to Brian E. Messaris, Esq., c/o Tydings & Rosenberg, 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE IN BOTH COURTHOUSES

Renovations in Courthouse East and the Mitchell Courthouse in 1998 continued on projects begun in prior years. Work continued on three additional jury rooms on the fifth floor of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, the conversion of the Attorney Conference Room into an additional courtroom and chambers in 432 and 434, and the renovation of Room 509 as a new Bench Conference Room with an adjoining lawyers conference area. A contract was awarded in December, 1998 for the refurbishing of all public restrooms in the building. In addition to updating those facilities, they will be made compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Relocation of the Civil Assignment Office from 219 Mitchell to the fourth floor of Courthouse East took place. Assignment's new location will place it close to the Clerk's Office Civil Division. Grand jurors will be temporarily housed in the former Civil Assignment area so that their quarters can be renovated.

Rooms 325, 327 and 333 of Courthouse East were renovated for use by the Family Division. The Court of Appeals of Maryland on January 1, 1998 adopted a rule creating Family Court Divisions in five jurisdictions, including Baltimore City. Part of the renovated space will be used by the Family Support Services unit as well as a master, to facilitate the integrated approach to services by the Family Court Division.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 27

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. held its annual meeting prior to a luncheon on May 27, 1998 in Room 510 of Courthouse East. President Joseph K. Pokempner gave farewell remarks before turning proceedings over to his successor, Robert T. Gonzales. Judge Dulany Foster, former

Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, presented an historic group photograph of the judges and their spouses to the Law Museum.

ALL SITTING JUDGES ELECTED

All nine of the sitting judges were successful in the November, 1998 general elections. Judges John Carroll Byrnes, Evelyn O. Cannon, Marcella A. Holland, Kenneth L. Johnson, M. Brooke Murdock, Alfred Nance, William D. Quarles, Allen L. Schwait and Thomas J.S. Waxter, Jr., continue in their seats on the Circuit Court. Judge Stuart R. Berger was appointed by the Governor effective in December, 1998 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman.

1997 BICENTENNIAL BOOK

Histories of the Bench & Bar is available for purchase for \$10 and may be ordered from Hugh Marbury, Esquire, Executive Secretary, The Baltimore Courthouse & Law Museum Foundation, Inc., c/o Piper & Marbury, 36 South Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

CHECK YOUR ATTIC!

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History is seeking gifts and loans of historical artifacts and documents from the twentieth century for its part in the celebration of the centennial of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse and the new millennium. Check your attic, basement and old filing cabinets for historical documents, awards, certificates, photographs, news clippings and other memorabilia of twentieth century Baltimore legal history. If you find something of historical interest, please contact:

Philip Sherman, Esquire
1212 Blaustein Building
One North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-727-5020

MUSEUM ADDS STAFF, EXPANDS HOURS

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History added thirteen new volunteer docents in 1998, enabling it to open three days per week. The docents, recruited, trained and scheduled with the help of the Bar Association of Baltimore city, guide visitors through the Museum on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 1:00 p.m. Thanks to a generous grant from the Baltimore Bar Foundation, the Museum is expanding its displays and planning new exhibits to celebrate the coming centennial of the Mitchell Courthouse and the new millennium. A new storage area will allow the Museum to rotate exhibits.

The new docents are:

Michael Alokones
Sharon Brager
Mitzi Daley
Patty DeGuilmi
Brian Goldman
Michael I. Gordon
Douglas Gorius
Carolyn Kontos
Kathleen McDonald
Niki Nichols
Joseph K. Pokempner
Sharon Sirota Rubin
Ada M. Strausberg

FRANK CONAWAY ELECTED CLERK OF COURT

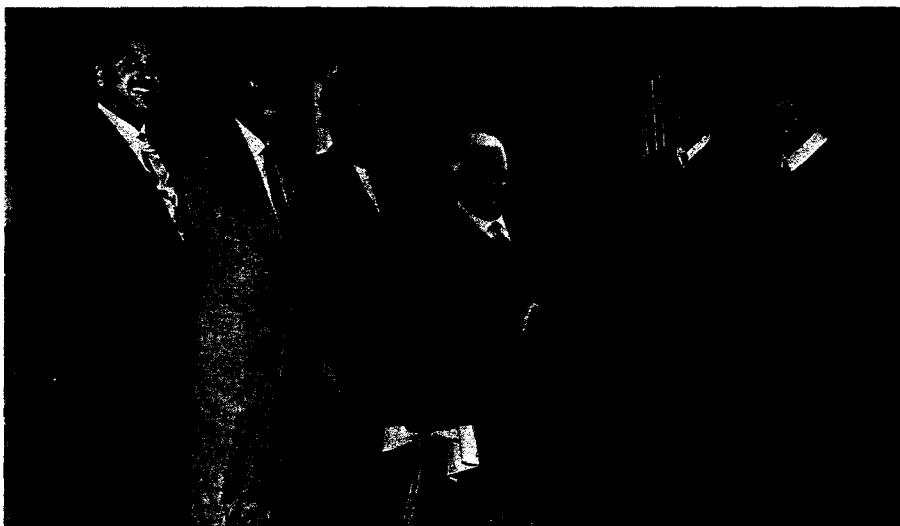
Frank M. Conaway was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in the November, 1998 general elections. The vacancy was created by the untimely death of Sandra E. Banks, the first African-American Clerk of the Court. Mr. Conaway received 11,649 votes in a hotly-contested race.



Baltimore Bar Foundation President Michael J. Baxter presents contribution to Museum of Baltimore Legal History Co-Chairperson Phillip Sherman

(Term of Court Ceremony, continued from page 1)

Michael J. Baxter, President of the Baltimore Bar Foundation, presented a contribution to the Museum of Baltimore Legal History. Randolph C. Knepper, editor of this newsletter, received the Achievement Award of the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation from President-Elect Sidney G. Leech. At the conclusion of the program, a reception was held in the Calvert Street Lobby.



Portrait of Judge Joseph C. Howard with (left to right) Joseph C. Howard Jr., Chief Judge Robert Bell, Dorothy Phillips (former secretary to Judge Howard), Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman, Chief Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan

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

Directors elected for the term 1999 - 2002

Mark P. Blum, Esq.	Hon. M. Brooke Murdock
Hon. John Carroll Byrnes	Joseph K. Pokempner, Esq.
Robert L. Ferguson, Jr., Esq.	Hon. James F. Schneider
Hon. Lisa A. Gladden	Philip Sherman, Esq.
Glenn M. Grossman, Esq.	Hon. Gary I. Strausberg
Hon. Joseph H.H. Kaplan	

They join the existing Directors:

Hon. Solomon Baylor	Hon. Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
Pamila J. Brown Esq.	Mr. Lawrence T. Mullen
Hon. Lawrence A. Bell	Ms. Betty Jean Murphy
Francis B. Burch, Jr., Esq.	Christopher W. Nicholson, Esq.
David H. Fishman, Esq.	Thomas P. Perkins, Esq.
Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman	Hon. Samuel I. Rosenberg
Hon. Marcella A. Holland	Sheila K. Sachs, Esq.
Hon. Patricia C. Jessamy	Walter Schamu, A.I.A.
Robert B. Kershaw, Esq.	Ferrier Rose Stillman, Esq.
Mr. Walter Edward Leon	Alison Velez-Lane, Esq.
Hugh J. Marbury, Esq.	Hon. Martin P. Welch

DECEASED LAWYERS REMEMBERED

Eighteen attorneys who died in 1997 were remembered at the annual memorial services of the Bar Association of Baltimore City on May 21, 1998. Colleagues, family members and friends gave brief 'memorial minutes' recalling the achievement and character of the deceased. Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman, Association President Pamila J. Brown, Memorial Committee Chair Joseph K. Pokempner, U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis and Judge Ellen M. Heller each addressed those assembled in Ceremonial Courtroom 400. Following the program, the audience and speakers adjourned to a wine and cheese reception in the second floor lobby of the Mitchell Courthouse.

Those honored were:

Wilson K. Barnes, Sr.
 Roger A. Clapp
 J. Edward Davis
 Benjamin N. Dorman
 Earl L. Edwards
 Bruce Ezrine
 Walter G. Finch
 Thomas V. Friedman
 Phillips L. Goldsborough, III
 Justinus Gould
 John R. Hargrove, Sr.
 Hon. William C. Hohenberger
 Bruce A. Kaufman
 Hon. Frank A. Kaufman
 Abraham Levin
 Benjamin G. Miller
 H. Donald Schwaab
 Walter R. Tabler