

# COURTHOUSE RENOVATION NEWS

1999 Edition

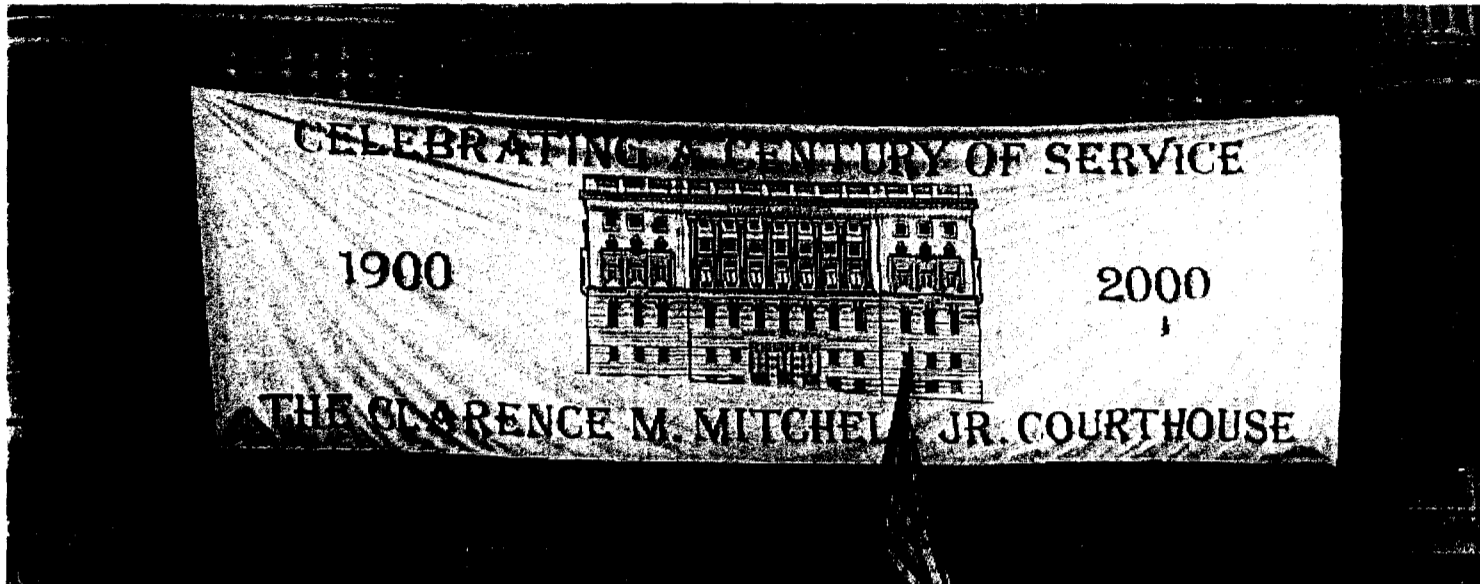
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## MITCHELL COURTHOUSE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LAUNCHED OCTOBER 7, 2000 GRAND GALA EVENT PLANNED



On October 13, 1999, the Centennial Celebration Committee unfurled a banner on the east (Calvert Street) side of the building, publicly "Celebrating A Century Of Service...1900-2000" by the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. Later that Winter, the banner was removed for repairs, with expectations of its reinstallation in the Spring. In 1999, the Committee also unveiled coffee mugs emblazoned with the Mitchell Courthouse profile and the same celebratory slogan, to be sold at \$10 each for fund raising purposes.

The bulk of the Committee's work continued behind the scenes. Howard A. Janet, Esquire continued to lead a successful fund raising effort, topping the \$100,000 mark, targeting the refurbishment of the St. Paul Street entrance lobby and a permanent memorial to 20th Century Preeminent Jurists. Judge Marcella A. Holland chairs a sub-committee working on a grand ball to be held October 7, 2000 inside the Mitchell Courthouse. Judge Gary I. Strausberg leads a sub-committee responsible for organizing a tribute to 48 "Preeminents" - outstanding attorneys - of the 20th Century, to be publicly honored on September 27, 2000. William W. Cahill, Jr., Esquire and David F. Albright, Esquire are gathering histories of Baltimore law firms, while H. Frances Reaves, Esquire and Robert P. Kershaw co-chair another sub-committee working on the rest of the content of what will be published with the preeminents' biographies and the law firms' histories as a Centennial Book, with assistance from Nancy L. Sloane and the Daily Record Company. Judge James F. Schneider and General Philip Sherman co-chair a sub-committee working on two special exhibits in the Law Museum, to be unveiled on October 7, 2000.

Glenn M. Grossman, Esquire and Jane G. Michaelson, Esquire co-chair a sub-committee at work on a new videotape for courthouse visitors, to be incorporated in the jury orientation program. Sidney G. Leech, Esquire and Joseph K. Pokempner, Esquire co-chair the October 7, 2000 Ceremonial Committees. Walter Edward Leon of CHAP is Vice-Chair of the Centennial Committee.

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The Centennial Committee, a collaboration of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Monumental City Bar Association, the Judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, and the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc., comprises over one hundred volunteers from the judiciary, the Bar, the courthouse family, and the public at large. It is chaired by the Honorable John Carroll Byrnes.

### CIRCUIT COURT CHRONICLE RESURFACES, COURTHOUSE CHRONICLES DEFERS

In December 1999, the Clerk of the Court, Frank M. Conaway, and an all volunteer cadre of Court employee reporters published Volume 2 No. 1 of Circuit Court Chronicle. The newsprint publication had not been seen for the preceding five years, during which time Courthouse Renovation News, the unrelated annual newsletter of the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc., changed its name and was published as Courthouse Chronicles. To avoid confusion, Courthouse Chronicles resumes its earlier name with this issue.

### CHANGES IN CIRCUIT JUDICIARY

The year 1999 saw a change in Administrative Judge duties, the retirement of two seasoned judges and the arrival of four new ones. Effective September 20, 1999, Judge Ellen M. Heller succeeded Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan as Circuit Administrative Judge. The Bench lost the full-time services of Judges Mabel E. Houze Hubbard and Edward J. Angeletti on August 31 and November 5, 1999, respectively, both through retirement.

Arriving by appointment, chronologically, were: Judge Stuart R. Berger, January 11, 1999, from private practice, succeeding Hon. Robert I. H. Hammerman in Part 10; Judge Wanda Keyes Heard, February 3, 1999, from the U. S. Department of Justice, succeeding Hon. Richard T. Rombro in Part 9; Judge Audrey J. S. Carrion, November 10, 1999, from District Court, succeeding Judge Hubbard in Part 23; and Judge Kaye Arleen Allison, December 7, 1999, from the U. S. Attorney's Office, succeeding Judge Angeletti in Part 21.

### MUSEUM PREPARES FOR MITCHELL CENTENNIAL

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History will observe the centennial of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse with a special display of artifacts and historical materials of the twentieth century. The Museum is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 1:00 p.m., thanks to thirteen volunteer docents and assistance from the Bar Association of Baltimore City. If you have something of historic interest pertaining to Baltimore's legal system and would be willing to donate or loan that item to the Museum for its centennial exhibit, please contact either Philip Sherman at 410-727-5020 or Judge James Schneider at 410-962-2820.

The Museum's recent acquisitions include:

- Baltimore pictorial calendars by Hutzler Bros., given by the Honorable and Mrs. Paul Mannes.
- Supreme Bench rules and documents, donated by Trust Clerk Gary Hyman.
- County Courthouses and Records of Maryland and Marriage Laws and Decisions in the U.S., from the Clerk's Office.
- 1965 Handbook for Jurors, loaned by the Honorable J. Norris Byrnes.

- Northern Central Railway Company stock certificates, given by Dana Andrews Alston.
- Framed Baltimore City Council legal notices, donated by the Honorable Irma S. Raker.

### RENOVATIONS FOCUS ON MITCHELL, FAMILY DIVISION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse is undergoing substantial refurbishment concurrent with its centennial. All of the corridors and entrances are getting new lighting, flooring and paint. Jury rooms are being redone to make them more attractive and hospitable. The St. Paul Street Lobby is being restored to its former glory in time for the centennial celebration on October 7, 2000. Howard Janet, Esquire is coordinating private funding for the lobby project. Lighting in courtrooms and chambers will be replaced and supplemented as needed.

As a result of the settlement plan approved by Judge Andre Davis of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland in *Reid v. Glendening*, both courthouses will be made more accessible to the disabled. In addition to new entrances to both courthouses, all Mitchell bathrooms will be renovated to enhance accessibility.

The Domestic/Family Division will move to new quarters on the first floor of Courthouse East by March, 2000. This new space, created from former City government offices, will consist of four new courtrooms and room for support services. Those services include staff from the Clerk's Office, the Office of Child Support and the State's Attorney's Office. The work of the Family Division will be facilitated by its proximity to the Medical Office, relocated to Courthouse East two years ago. The new courtrooms will free up four additional courtrooms for use by senior judges in hearing criminal cases.

## JUDGES, MAYOR HONORED AT TERM OF COURT CEREMONY

Each fall, the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation and the Bar Association of Baltimore City jointly sponsor a Term of Court Ceremony. On October 13, 1999, an historic series of milestones and honors unfolded in Ceremonial Courtroom 400. Chief Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan opened the observance and later was honored for his service as Administrative Judge. Incoming Administrative Judge Ellen M. Heller noted the thirty-five significant improvements to the circuit courthouses during the fifteen year tenure of Judge Kaplan.

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke received a standing ovation along with the Foundation's annual Term of Court Award. President Robert T. Gonzales recognized the Mayor's support for preservation of the City's historic courthouses over the course of his three terms.

Two of the giants of Baltimore's Twentieth Century legal history were honored with portraits. The family of Judge Simon E. Sobeloff presented his portrait to be hung in the courthouse. Evan A. Chriss traced Judge Sobeloff's illustrious career from his service as Baltimore City Solicitor to Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Court of Appeals of Maryland remarked on Judge Harry A. Cole, whose portrait was unveiled. Judge Cole served as Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Senator, Judge of the Municipal Court and of the Supreme Bench. He was the first African-American to be appointed to the Court of Appeals, in 1977.

The Ceremony also included a resolution recognizing the years of service of Mitchell (Mike) J. Barabin of the Circuit Court's Administrative Office. The program adjourned to the Calvert Street lobby for a wine and cheese reception.

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 25

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. held its annual meeting on May 25, 1999 in Room 510 of Courthouse East. Chief and Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan reported on completed, pending and projected renovations to both courthouses. Judge John Carroll Byrnes described the projects, publications and gala planned to commemorate the centennial of the Mitchell Courthouse in 2000. Luncheon followed the conclusion of the program.



Widow Doris Cole, granddaughter Kori-Morgan Hill and Chief Judge Robert M. Bell admire a portrait of Judge Harry A. Cole.



Foundation President Gonzales Presents Term of Court award to Mayor Schmoke

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 art work.

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

#### The Officers are:

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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.

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#### MEMORIAL SERVICES HONOR TWENTY-SIX

Twenty-six Baltimore attorneys who died in 1998 were honored at the annual memorial services of the Bar Association of Baltimore City on May 19, 1999. Friends, family members and colleagues of the deceased gave brief "memorial minutes", recalling their achievements and anecdotes. Chief and Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, Association President Robert L. Ferguson, Jr., Memorial chair Joseph K. Pokempner, U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis and Judge Stuart R. Berger each spoke to the Ceremonial Courtroom 400 audience. Following the program, those assembled adjourned to a wine and cheese reception in the Criminal Courts Lobby.

#### Those honored were:

I. Duke Avnet  
David Baer  
Maurice M. Bassan  
Eskin T. Boden  
Everett L. Buckmaster  
Richard F. Cohn  
Eugene M. Feinblatt  
Donald H. Frye  
Sidney Goldscheider  
Robert Hedeman  
Hon. William M. Hudnet  
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Robert P. Mittleman  
Thomas J. Mooney, III  
John J. O'Connor  
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Ruth Anne Rodney  
Philip H. Sachs  
Charles L. Solomon  
Charles J. Stinchcomb  
Hyman P. Tatelbaum  
Hon. Robert B. Watts  
George W. White, Jr.  
Rose Zetzer  
William H. Zimmerman