

COURTHOUSE

1990 Edition

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RENOVATION

NEWS

The Baltimore Courthouse
and Law Museum Foundation, Inc.

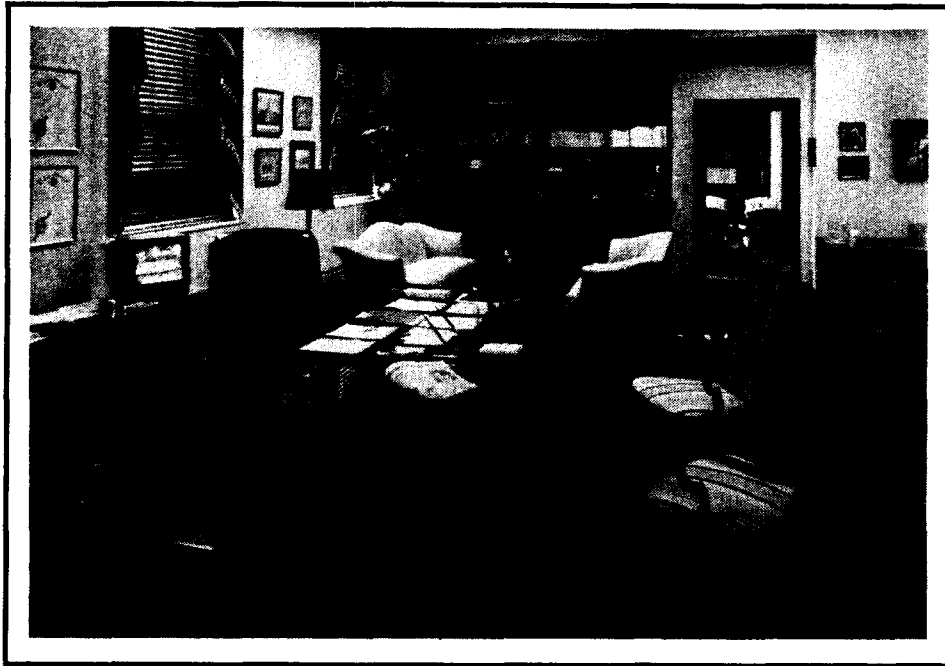


Editor:
Randolph C. Knepper

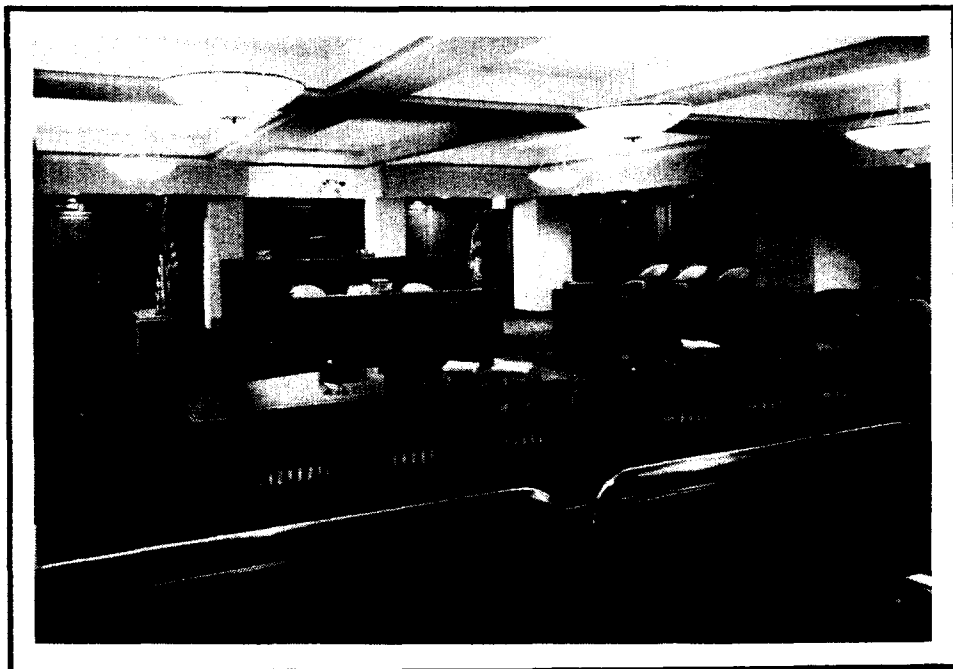
President:
Read K. McCaffrey

Photo: Tom Guidera.

New Facilities In



*New Judges Suite - Courtroom East.
Photo: Tom Guidera.*



*New Courtroom - Courtroom East.
Photo: Tom Guidera.*

Courthouse East Open

Six new courtrooms and associated facilities on the second floor of Courthouse East were dedicated at a gala ceremony befitting their beauty. The 1990 Law Ball sponsored by the Bar Association of Baltimore City on March 24, provided a stellar occasion to show off the first real addition to the Circuit Court in decades. Guests in evening wear exclaimed over each section of the second floor they visited and noted the contrast to existing facilities.

The new second floor has been called "a courthouse within a courthouse" because of the multiple functions it houses. Each of the six courtrooms is associated with a judge's suite. Instead of the cramped, two room judicial chambers in the Mitchell Courthouse, these suites include a conference room and separate offices for the judge, secretary and law clerk. Hearing rooms share a central area with a new lockup for jail and prison inmates appearing in court. In marked contrast to the other lockups in the circuit courthouses, these three bullpens and eight individual cells have no iron bars and the layout eliminates the need to lead prisoners through public areas in shackles.

Not all the innovations are limited to design. Each of the new courtrooms is equipped with a video monitoring system.

Instead of a written transcript made by a court reporter, six voice-activated cameras in each courtroom produce an audio and video tape record of court proceedings. The recording equipment is part of a three year test program approved by the Maryland Court of Appeals.

Perhaps the most stunning part of the new second floor is the spacious lobby area. The marble tile floor shines like new but was in fact put down in 1929. The first stripping and polishing in 60 years is responsible for its new appearance. The second floor had housed a sorting area for the United States Post Office and the Baltimore City Health Department during that period.

History was less of an element than celebration at the dedication ceremonies. Chief Judge Robert Murphy of the Court of Appeals, Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, Sidney Leech, President of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, Lee Coplan, Architect, George Balog, Chief of the City Department of Public Works and Mary Widomski, Deputy Administrator of the Circuit Court, all wielded scissors for the ribbon cutting. After a brief stated meeting of the City Bar, contributors to the Courtroom 400 Restoration Project were recognized. For the rest of the evening, guests danced to the music of Airplay, consumed the food and drinks provided by Great Occasions caterers and toured the magnificent new facilities.



Ribbon cutting ceremony (l-r) Lee Coplan, Chief Judge Murphy, Mary Widomski, Sidney Leech, Lee Harden, George Balog, Judge Kaplan.

Maryland Circuit Court House Photos Exhibited In Courthouse East

The newly renovated second floor lobby of Courthouse East has shiny marble floors and large pillars that could represent the stability of our legal system. While the second floor cost 8.5 million dollars to renovate, one of the most cherished items there is the twenty-four photographs of the circuit courthouses for each county and Baltimore City donated by Smith, Somerville & Case.

The pictures of the circuit courthouses of Maryland were photographed by Linda Johnson, a former employee of the law firm of Smith, Somerville & Case, who is now a free-lance photographer. They took six months to complete through unpredictable weather, busy dockets and guards' concern about security risks. The project was completed in the summer of 1987.

The photographs were then matted and framed to be hung in each individual courthouse. That concept was abandoned when Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy advised "giving the pictures to each administrative judge in each county may be considered unethical." Instead, they were placed in storage.

The photographs finally achieved their deserved exposure after Circuit Court Judge John Carroll Byrnes heard of their disuse. Judge Byrnes suggested the photographs be hung in the newly renovated Courthouse East, a gift that could be accepted by the Foundation.

The set of photographs is one of only three in existence and holds great historic value. They can all be viewed in the second floor lobby.



Second Floor lobby - Courthouse East with Maryland Photos Exhibit.

Photo: Tom Guidera.

Supreme Bench Society Formed

From its creation in the Maryland Constitution of 1867 until the voters ratified its demise in 1980, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City was officially known as the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. That court had several courts within it, the number of which changed from time to time. In 1980, the Supreme Bench included Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas, Baltimore City Court, Criminal Court of Baltimore, Circuit Court of Baltimore and Circuit Court No. 2 of Baltimore City.

On September 27, 1989, the Supreme Bench was taken from the domain of legal history and enlisted in the fight to restore the Baltimore City courthouses. Former members

of the Supreme Bench, both sitting and retired judges, formed the Supreme Bench Society, a membership organization of the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation. The Society will support the work of the Foundation and provide a means to maintain friendships and the involvement of retired judges and their spouses. The society expects to continue the tradition of inviting retired judges and their spouses to contribute to the beautification of the courthouses by the donation of artworks and historic memorabilia. Judge Robert Watts was elected the first chairman, for a two year term.



The First Meeting of the Supreme Bench Society. (l-r): Judges Foster, Levin, Thomas, Watts, Cardin, Howard, Sklar, Bell, and Mrs. Nancy O'Donnell, widow of former Judge O'Donnell.

Judge Arabian Continues Artwork Tradition

Every recently-retired judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City has contributed an artwork to the Courthouses through a gift to the Foundation. The work of art is then placed in the jury room in which he or she presided. Judge Mary Arabian will add a framed poster of the Peabody Library - a fitting choice in view of her well-known interest in classical music.

Foundation Fetes Opening Of The Term of Court

Besides the birds flying south and the leaves turning color, Baltimore now has a revived fall ritual celebrating the opening of the Term of Court for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. On Monday, September 17, 1990, the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation sponsored a reception to mark both the September court term and the ninetieth anniversary of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. The occasion served dual purposes of reestablishing an old tradition and raising funds for the continued restoration of the courthouses. Held in the criminal courts lobby, the reception featured elegant hors'doeuvres, cheese, fruit and beverages, including champagne. The affair honored the newly-created Supreme Bench Society reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. Foundation President McCaffrey presented awards to Judges Joseph H.H. Kaplan and John Carroll Byrnes for their work on behalf of courthouse restoration and commended Mrs. William J. O'Donnell, Judge and Mrs. Albert Sklar, Mrs. Charles V. Harris and Mrs. Mary Widomski for their organizing of the first annual event.

Bar Library Celebrates Sesquicentennial

The Library Company of the Baltimore Bar has good reason to celebrate 150 years of service to the legal profession. When founded in 1840, its three shelves of law books were the only legal reference source in the City aside from private libraries of individual attorneys. Currently, its collection exceeds 130,000 volumes, including all federal and state statutes and reported decisions. The Bar Library also subscribes to 300 law review titles and owns a copy of every record and brief filed in the Court of Appeals of Maryland since 1884.

The Library's accomplishments were celebrated at a commemorative reception on Friday, April 27, 1990. At the reception, a large portrait of John Marshall, first Chief Justice of the United States, was unveiled to general acclaim. The new portrait is a fitting anniversary commemoration, since the purchase of an earlier portrait of Chief Justice Marshall was approved at the very first meeting of the Library company founders. That portrait had hung in successive courthouses until it was damaged by workmen in 1954 and disappeared. The new portrait is the work of Baltimore artist Henry Cooper, who has painted many promi-

nent Baltimoreans. His commission was suggested by Judge James F. Schneider, Bench Historian.

Recent And Planned Courthouse Improvements

The main event of 1990 in the restoration of Baltimore's courthouses is decidedly the completion of the second floor of Courthouse East. However, other improvements have been accomplished and more are planned in the near future. In the Mitchell Courthouse, the lighting of corridors and public areas was substantially changed by the installation of new fixtures in period style last year. Room 509, the former Supreme Bench meeting room, was refurbished this year. As the biggest conference room in the building, it is used by the Bar Association, judicial committees and other City and State agencies for occasional meetings. Work on the restoration of Courtroom 400 is expected to begin early in 1991. Whiting Turner Contracting Company will be the general contractor.

Across Calvert Street, the skylights above the sixth floor of the Courthouse East were uncovered this year, solving lighting problems in the stairwells and hallways. They had been covered since the days of World War II blackouts. By the time this Newsletter is printed, work will have begun on the Foundation's project installing large flagpoles and flags on the facade of Courthouse East. They will complement those above the entrance of the Mitchell Courthouse across the Battle Monument. The renovation of the fifth floor space vacated by the Office of the State's Attorney will begin later in 1991. Extension of the judge's conference room and new library facilities for the Bench are envisioned.

The economic climate of the 1990's can be expected to affect progress toward realization of the Masterplan prepared by Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc., for the restoration of the Mitchell Courthouse. Reflecting this reality, Governor Schaefer has appointed Charles Benton, Mark Wasserman and Arthur Hilsenrad to represent the State in reviewing its progress. Mayor Schموke will make appointments on behalf of the City. Hopefully, the stature of both groups of appointees illustrates the importance which Baltimore and Maryland attach to this ongoing project. Foundation President Read K. McCaffrey has appointed past president Andrew Jay Graham to chair the Courthouse Restoration Commission. Mr. Graham will work closely with Administrative Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, who has supervised many of the recent improvements.

Museum Acquires More Exhibits

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History continues to expand its collection, on display in the former Orphan's Court in the Mitchell Courthouse. Sometimes, acquisitions come to the Museum by unusual routes. The son of retired Judge Dulany Foster found a 1911 Maryland State Bar Association pin at a Connecticut flea market and presented it to his father as a birthday gift. Judge Foster had the pin framed and donated it to the Museum.

A plaster relief of "Justice" was donated by the State Bar. It had been used as a model for its bronze counterpart, which is displayed in the Court of Appeals Building in Annapolis. Irwin Weiss, Esquire presented the Museum with four old books on subjects of Baltimore legal history. Judge James F. Schneider put together an exhibit of historic photographs of outstanding Maryland attorneys and displays on five prominent Baltimore Lawyers of the past. An exhibit of historic postcards of the Mitchell Courthouse and Battle Monument was donated by Peter D. Ward and Bruce A. Kaufman, Esquires.

Judge Schneider and Museum co-founder General Philip Sherman are scheduling a forthcoming ceremony to officially accept gifts of an antique typewriter and an original 1900 Supreme Bench chair given by Frederick S. Koontz, Esquire. Donations of legal memorabilia and relics are appreciated and may be tax deductible.

Courtroom 400 Pledges Inch Toward Goal

Pledges and collections for the restoration of courtroom 400 in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse reached \$369,531 as of October 29, 1990, towards a goal of \$400,000. The Bar Association of Baltimore City, with the cooperation of the Monumental City Bar Association, chose the ceremonial courtroom as its special contribution towards the Mitchell Courthouse restoration effort. Courtroom 400 is the location where judges of the Circuit Court are sworn in, as well as other civic and judicial functions which require extensive seating. Restoration of the room will require a complete overhaul of the existing systems along with cleaning and repair of all surfaces.

The City Bar accepted this challenge through its Courthouse Renovation Committee, chaired by Joseph K. Pokempner. Peter F. Axelrad is Fund Raising Chairman. Names of donors to the restoration will be included on a plaque outside Court-

room 400. Contributions are tax deductible and are especially appreciated now, when the goal is so near. A brochure describing the project is available from the Bar Association of Baltimore City, Room 627, Courthouse East, 111 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, (301) 539-5936.

Memorial Service In Courtroom 400

The annual memorial services for members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City were held in Courtroom 400 of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on Wednesday, May 9, 1990. Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman delivered opening and concluding remarks. A family member, friend or colleague made brief comments in memory of each deceased. Additional remarks were given by Judge Marvin Garbis of United States District Court and Judge Arrie W. Davis of our Circuit Court. Following the ceremony, a wine and cheese reception was held in the criminal courts lobby.

Members of the Baltimore Bar who died in 1989 are:

Samuel Abrams
Irvin A. Adler
Horace B. Atwood
Donald F. Aubrey
R. Lewis Bainter
Sidney J. Barban
Hon. Henry D. Blair, Jr.
John T. Brooks
Henry G. Burke
Paul J. Cockrell
Hon. C. Warren Colgan
Edmund P. Dandridge, Jr.
Louis H. Diven, Sr.
George F. Flentje, Jr.
Hon. Daniel Friedman
John H. Gilliece
F. Gray Goudy
E. Earle Henderson
J. Howard Holzer
Julius Isaacson
Hon. James A. Langrall
John R. Lytle
Hon. W. Albert Menchine
Charles O. Mount
Joseph I. Paper
Paul S. Parsons
Bernard G. Peter
Leon A. Rubenstein
Herman Shapiro
Stephen C. Struntz
Hon. William T. Tippet, Jr.
Stanley H. Wilen
Harold I. Wittman

Foundation Elects New Officers And Directors

The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. announces its officers, elected in 1990:

President	Read K. McCaffrey, Esq.
President - elect	James K. Archibald, Esq.
First Vice - President	Michael N. Gambrill, Esq.
Second Vice -President	Walter Schamu, A.I.A.
Treasurer	Marc P. Blum, Esq.
Secretary	Hon. John Carroll Byrnes

Two ex-officio members were added to the Board of Directors:

Hon. Robert B. Watts, Chair, Supreme Bench Society and
David W. Skeen, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City.

Directors were also elected for the term 1990-1993:

Hon. Solomon Baylor
Ms. Nancy Brennan
Hon. E. Stephen Derby
Mr. Lawrence T. Mullen
Hon. Thomas Ward
Martin P. Welch, Esq.
Sheila K. Sachs, Esq.
Mr. Walter Schamu, A.I.A.
Mr. Walter Sondheim
William C. Stifler, III, Esq.
Ronald M. Shapiro, Esq.

Those elected will join existing Directors:

Peter F. Axelrad, Esq.	Henry R. Lord, Esq.
Hon. Mary Pat Clarke	J. Michael McWilliams, Esq.
Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., Esq.	Joseph K. Pokempner, Esq.
Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman	Hon. James F. Schneider
Hon. Frank X. Gallagher	Philip Sherman, Esq.
Ms. Deborah Goodman	Hon. Stuart O. Simms
Andrew Jay Graham, Esq.	Hon. George D. Solter
Robert S. Hillman, Esq.	Kenneth L. Thompson, Esq.
Hon. Joseph H.H. Kaplan	