

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION NEWS

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The Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING HONORS SHERMAN, LANGRALL AND O'DUNNE

Foundation Director Philip Sherman and Judges James Harker Langrall and Eugene O'Dunne were honored at the Foundation's annual meeting on October 6, 1994.

Ceremonial Courtroom 400 was the scene of the proceedings, which also served as a stated meeting of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the annual Term of Court Observance. Chief Judge Robert I.H. Hammerman, Foundation President Sheila K. Sachs and Association President Alison L. Asti each addressed the audience.

Joseph K. Pokempner, President-Elect of the Foundation, presented a tribute to the family of Judge James Harker Langrall on the fiftieth anniversary of his award of the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism as a World War II Pilot. Judge Langrall went on to become President of The Bar Association of Baltimore City and Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Judge Langrall left an impressive list of achievements prior to his retirement in 1984 and his death in 1989.



Sheila K. Sachs presents Philip Sherman with Foundation's Achievement Award.

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A portrait of Judge Eugene O'Dunne was unveiled by his son and Judge James F. Schnieder. Judge O'Dunne was one of the most courageous and reform-minded jurists in the history of Baltimore Circuit Courts. He decreed the desegregation of the University of Maryland School of Law in 1935.

Sheila K. Sachs presented Philip Sherman, Association Historical Committee Chair, with the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation Achievement Award for 1994. Active in a number of historical societies, Mr. Sherman is also a General of the Maryland National Guard. He was honored for his devotion to

preserving the heritage of the Baltimore Bench and Bar, which he has advanced as a co-curator and founder of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History.

The Award and presentations were combined with the fourth consecutive annual Term of Court Ceremony. That observance recalls the historical "term of court", during which the former Supreme Bench of Baltimore City sat to hear cases. Today, of course, our Circuit conducts a year round docket. As the Mitchell Courthouse approaches its centenary, however, we are often reminded of the rich traditions of our legal community.

PORTRAITS INSTALLED

Since 1990 the Foundation's Portrait Committee has embellished the Mitchell Courthouse by restoring, redistributing and installing portraits of judges and attorneys. During 1994, six additional portraits were hung in room 226, and six were installed in room 636, all by Baltimore Museum of Art installation expert Anthony Boening. These paintings join twelve in renovated Ceremonial Courtroom 400 in 1991 and eight rehung in room 231 in 1993.

The portraits in Courtroom 226, most by Baltimore artist Thomas C. Corner, picture the most prominent local lawyers and judges of the second half of the nineteenth century. Bernard Carter and Charles Marshall, whose portraits are on either side of the bench, were provost of the University of Maryland and the drafter of the surrender at Appomattox, respectively. They were joined this year by portraits of I. Nevett Steele, George Hawkins Williams, John Prentiss Poe, Edgar H. Gans, Judge Edward Duffy and Judge William A. Stewart. A brilliant trial lawyer, Steele served as a prosecutor, diplomat and presidential elector. Williams was a prominent Civil War era figure who was elected to the House of Delegates, State Senate and as Senate President. Poe held a number of important offices, including Attorney General, codified Maryland and Baltimore statutes and published a famous treatise on pleading and practice. A Deputy State's Attorney, private practitioner and legal educator, Gans is said to have declined a seat on the Supreme Court. A judicial reformer, Judge Duffy defeated the political machine to become the first

Republican elected Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Courtroom 636 is now adorned by the portraits of prominent judges and lawyers of the first half of the twentieth century. Judge Albert S.J. Owens was elected to the bench in 1926 and died in office at age 74. Chief Judge W. Conwell Smith also sat on the Supreme Bench until his death in 1954. Joseph C. France "the father of corporate law" and his son, Judge Robert France, leader of the fight against ticket fixing, now share spaces on walls of Room 636. Chief Judge Michael J. Manley served his country in two world wars as a soldier and volunteer before his elevation to the bench. A real estate developer as well as a lawyer and jurist, Judge John H. Dobler is commemorated by a street in Northeast Baltimore bearing his name.

The Portrait Committee and its chair, United States Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider, will continue to restore and redistribute portraits in the Mitchell Courthouse. Their project advances both the aesthetic enjoyment of works of art and the commemoration of the civic and legal history of Baltimore.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY ANNOUNCED

The Foundation now has a membership category for general members. The General Court is named after a Maryland court which functioned from 1776 to 1805. The previous two membership categories are The Supreme Bench Society and Bailiff's Inn.

COURTHOUSE CONTINUES RENOVATIONS

Continued renovations of the courthouses in 1994 included improvements made in lighting, flooring and the installation of a completely new roof system. The Baltimore City Department of Public Works approved the installation of a new roof system for the Mitchell Courthouse at a cost of \$1,300,000.00. Work began on the roof in October, and is expected to be completed by May, 1995. Additionally, repairs were made to the floor of the Law Museum last fall at a nominal expense. Fluorescent lighting was replaced on all six floors of Courthouse East last fall with more efficient lighting designed to provide better illumination. The new lighting also has a significantly longer life than its predecessor.

BULLETIN BOARDS

On September 26, 1994, five bulletin boards were placed near the Saint Paul Street entrance of the Mitchell Courthouse detailing the daily dockets. The revival of the bulletin boards was in response to a perceived need among practitioners for an "information clearing house" for changes in daily docket assignments and administrative practices. The five boards are situated above a bench at the base of the southwest second floor stairwell. Their placement revives a decades old practice of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City in maintaining docket notices.

BAR ASSOCIATION'S FIRST PRESIDENT COMMEMORATED

Severn Teackle Wallis, first president of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, was remembered at a program in Courtroom 400 of the Mitchell Courthouse on April 11. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider, Historical Committee Chair Philip Sherman, Professor William Reynolds and Association President Paul Bekman each spoke on the life and times of Mr. Wallis, including legal life and education in nineteenth century Baltimore. A reception followed the program.

Wallis was honored on the centennial of his death, which ended forty-seven years of lawyering and service as a state legislator, Provost of the University of Maryland and leadership of many civic efforts. Since his term in 1879-1880, the Association has had 114 presidents, whose names are remembered today in local and national historical records as they are in the names of Baltimore's law firms and even its streets.

HISTORY OF COURT BEING WRITTEN

Judge John Carroll Byrnes is coordinating the writing of a brief history of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Anyone interested in participating is invited to contact Judge Byrnes.



David O'Dunne and Judge James F. Schneider unveil portrait of Judge Eugene O'Dunne.
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Alison L. Asti, Philip Sherman, Helen Fanseen Langrall, Carole Langrall Weis and Judge Walter E. Black, Jr. at presentation of tribute to Judge James Harker Langrall.
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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 new Board of Governors is composed of:

Herbert J. Belgrad, Esq.	Ms. Sandy Hillman
Ms. Nancy Brennan	Mr. John Paterakis, Jr.
Eugene M. Feinblatt, Esq.	George L. Russell, Jr., Esq.
Mr. Raymond Haysbert	Mr. Walter Sondheim

The Officers are:

President:	Sheila K. Sachs, Esq.
President-Elect:	Joseph K. Pokempner, Esq.
First Vice-President:	David L. Moore, Esq.
Second Vice-President:	Walter Schamu, A.I.A.
Treasurer	Marc P. Blum, Esq.
Secretary	Hon. John Carroll Byrnes

Directors elected for the term 1994-1997:

Peter F. Axelrad, Esq.	Lisa A. Gladden, Esq.
Marc P. Blum, Esq.	Hon. Joseph H.H. Kaplan
Hon. John Carroll Byrnes	Joseph K. Pokempner, Esq.
Howard L. Cardin, Esq.	Hon. James F. Schneider
Andrew Jay Graham, Esq.	Philip Sherman, Esq.
	Kenneth L. Thompson, Esq.

Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Directors:

Alison L. Asti, Esq.	President, Bar Association of Baltimore City
Lisa A. Gladden, Esq.	Chair, Bailiff's Inn
Hon. Robert B. Watts	Chair, Supreme Bench Society
Patrick A. Roberson, Esq.	President, Monumental City Bar Association

They join the existing Directors:

James K. Archibald, Esq.	Read Kemp McCaffrey, Esq.
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Francis F. Burch, Jr., Esq.	J. Michael McWilliams, Esq.
Hon. Mary Pat Clarke	Charles O. Monk, Esq.
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Louise M. Gonzales, Esq.	William C. Stifler, III, Esq.
Deborah Goodman	Hon. Thomas Ward
Marcella A. Holland, Esq.	Hon. Martin P. Welch

DECEASED LAWYERS REMEMBERED

Thirteen attorneys who died in 1993 were remembered at the annual memorial service of the Bar Association of Baltimore City on May 19, 1994. Families, friends and colleagues of the deceased gave brief "memorial minutes", recalling their achievements and character through personal remembrances. Chief Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman, Association President Paul D. Bekman, Memorial Committee Chair Joseph K. Pokempner, U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis and Judge Thomas Ward addressed those assembled in Ceremonial Courtroom 400. Following the program, the audience and speakers attended a wine and cheese reception in the second floor lobby of the Mitchell Courthouse.

Those honored were:

RICHARD M. CARLIN
RAYMOND A. EGNER
JOSEPH R. HIRSCHMAN
MORRIS LEE KAPLAN
SIDNEY KAPLAN
CHARLES MINDEL
JOHN R. NORRIS
Z. TOWNSEND PARKS
HON. NORMAN P. RAMSEY
IRVING B. SCHAFFER
FRANK SOLOMON
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