

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

40th Michigan Legal Milestone Plaque Installed in Kalamazoo

The bronze plaque commemorating the 40th Michigan Legal Milestone, "The Kalamazoo Case: Establishing High School for All," has

been installed outside the Ninth Circuit Court-house in Kalamazoo. A dedication ceremony for the milestone was held in late June.

The milestone commemorates a case that challenged a decision made by the citizens of Kalamazoo to extend free public education beyond the elementary level using tax money.

On February 9, 1874, Circuit Court Judge Charles R. Brown ruled against the challenge. After an appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, Justice Thomas M. Cooley penned a unanimous opinion on July 21, 1874, upholding Judge Brown's ruling, concluding that neither the legislature nor the state constitution restricted the scope of public education.

By 1890, there were 278 high schools in Michigan. The Kalamazoo case changed the landscape of public education in Michigan and served as a landmark for educational reform across the United States. ■



Photo by Samantha Meinke

Left to right: Kalamazoo County Bar Association Executive Director Jennifer Antisdale, Kalamazoo County Bar Association President William R. Bates, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court Chief Circuit/Probate Judge Curtis J. Bell, Kalamazoo Lawyers Alliance Member Alice Gordon, and Ninth Judicial Circuit Court Administrator Suzanne Darling stand with the newly installed Michigan Legal Milestone plaque.

SBM Animal Law Section Honors Rep. Robert Kosowski with Brandi Award

The State Bar of Michigan's Animal Law Section presented the Brandi Award to Rep. Robert Kosowski on November 1 at a luncheon ceremony at the State Bar's Michael Franck Building in Lansing.

Kosowski worked closely with the Animal Law Section to identify gaps in state laws protecting animals and sponsored legislation that protects animals and the people who care for them. The section honored Kosowski for his sincere interest in animal welfare, particularly for his work to introduce and help enact House Bill 4478, which allows companion animals to be included in personal protection orders for domestic violence victims. The law went into effect August 1.



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Left to right: John Maise, Tracy Sonneborn, Renee Edmondson, Donald Garlit, Beatrice (Bee) Friedlander, Rep. Robert Kosowski, Peter Cunningham, Rebecca Wrock, and Kieran Marion.

The Animal Law Section established the Brandi Award in 2000 to periodically recognize a person in the legal or legislative profession who has done something remarkable for animals. The award was first presented to Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kaye Tertzag, who ruled that a case seeking noneconomic damages in the death

of Brandi, a companion dog, should proceed. Past award recipients include Hon. Steven Servaas, former Judge David Soet, Hon. John Hallacy, prosecutor Katherine Miller, former Sen. Carl Levin, Hon. Conrad Sindt, Sen. Rick Jones, former Rep. Pamela Byrnes, former Rep. John Espinoza, and Sen. Steven Bieda. ■