

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

October Marks 175th Anniversary of First Trial in Kalamazoo County



The Kalamazoo County Bar Association and the Kalamazoo County Trial Lawyers this month are commemorating the 175th anniversary of the county's first trial. The home of Kalamazoo founder Titus Bronson—the village was known as Bronson then—was the site of the first court proceedings on October 16, 1832. The village's chief justice, Bazel Harrington, and associate justice, Stephen Hoyt, presided.

That day's docket included one criminal case and a civil suit. According to Samuel Durant, author of the 1880 book *The History of Kalamazoo County*, the first case involved Mrs. Hannah Carpenter, who "was indicted for the crime of the

woman whom Jesus of Nazareth bade 'go and sin no more'" and fined \$25.

Anthony Cooley, a juror at the first court proceedings and an amateur artist, painted a scene from the first trial from memory in 1857. The rendering depicts, contrary to court records, three judges—Bronson, Harrison, and Hoyt—seated against a wall at a large table. Mrs. Carpenter sits on a bench at the far left next to Dr. Jonathan Abbott, who is believed to be holding a medicinal vial, should Mrs. Carpenter faint during the proceedings.

Also depicted are Court Clerk Stephen Vickery (seated at the table in front of the judges, keeping the record), attorneys John Hascall and Lyman I. Daniels (also at the clerk's table), District Attorney Cyrus Lovell and Sheriff Hosea B. Huston (standing in front of the jury), and, sitting cross-legged on the floor in the lower right corner, two members of the Potawatomi tribe. The two men seated in the foreground of the painting facing away from the bench are identified as Robert Frakes and Isaac Brown, parties to the criminal suit. County records, however, do not indicate their involvement in that case.

The painting, which was recently restored, is on display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. It is part of the museum's permanent collection.

Attorney Richard Kupferschmidt submitted this item to the Michigan Bar Journal. Kalamazoo Valley Museum curator Tom Dietz provided the historical background of the court proceedings and the painting. ■

New Bar Journal Editor

I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Publications and Website Advisory Committee, that Linda Novak, our managing editor since 2005, has been promoted to the position of editor of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. A graduate in English of the University of Michigan, where she received a Hopwood Award, she held a variety of writing and editorial positions before joining the State Bar's editorial staff in 2005. Nancy Brown, editor of the *Journal* since 1978, will continue as director of member services and communications. Our congratulations to Ms. Novak for this much deserved promotion, and our thanks to Nancy Brown, both for having found and groomed such a worthy successor, and for having shouldered for many years an increasingly heavy load of responsibilities as the State Bar's publication endeavors expanded into new areas and media.

Frederick Baker, Jr.
Chairperson, PWAC

Economics of Law Practice Survey Preliminary Results are Online

Preliminary results of the 2007 Economics of Law Practice Survey are now available online. To access the data, visit www.lawpracticeeconomics.com. Enter your P number and the password created when you completed the survey and you'll be able to view the interactive results tables and charts.

If you haven't completed the survey, it's not too late. Visit the above link and follow the prompts to register and complete the survey. You will then have full and immediate access to the results.

The Economics of Law Practice Survey is a powerful research tool that will help attorneys monitor changes in the profession. This new online format replaces a paper version that was updated every three years. Now it will be possible to update the searchable database several times each year. ■




Google Searching on the SBM Website

Searching the State Bar of Michigan website has become much easier, now that the function is driven by Google's powerful search engine.

Users can begin a search of the more than 50,000 online documents via the search box located at the top of each page on the SBM website. Searches can also be narrowed to one of five designated topic areas: the *Michigan Bar Journal*, the Practice Management Resource Center, ethics opinions, and e-Journal opinions and summaries. Users may also fine-tune their initial search by using Google's advanced search function. ■

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