

# HEARSAY

## GENESEE COUNTY CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS E-NEWSLETTER

a quarterly publication

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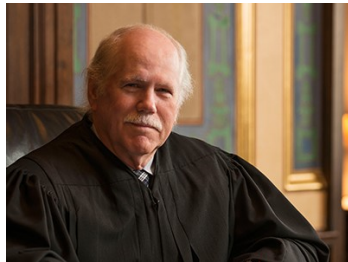
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## ONE JURY TRIAL, TWO COUNTIES



Judge Richard B. Yuille

In 2012, Judge Richard B. Yuille (retired) was assigned to a case that received a fair amount of publicity. There was concern about the ability to select a jury in Genesee County. The charges involved the death of a young child which gave rise to serious criminal charges and ultimately legislation that increased penalties.

Judge Yuille spoke to me about the case and indicated that he felt that it was his obligation to remain on the case. Jury selection was the more serious question.

I reminded him about an article that I read from the National Center for State Courts about a novel approach of conducting a jury trial from dual locations. A jury would be selected from a different county and be transported back to Genesee County for selected parts of the trial to avoid inconvenience for witnesses.

And so it was that the St. Clair Circuit Court extended its resources to partner with the Genesee County Circuit Court.

Jurors were selected from St. Clair County. Non-testimonial portions of the trial were conducted there. When Genesee County witnesses were to be called, the jury was transported each morning from Pt. Huron and back to their home county by 5:00 p.m. each day.

The defendant was separately transported to the St. Clair County Jail so as to be present for all proceedings. This often meant that he remained there for 1-2 days at a time, jury selection, opening and closing arguments, as examples.

Judge Daniel Kelly of the St. Clair County Circuit Court shared his courtroom and chambers with Judge Yuille. The court administrator, Jerry Celmer, made all of the other arrangements. Both judges worked well together and became friends.

Jerry Celmer, and I wrote an article about the case for submission to the *Michigan Bar Journal*. It was accepted for publication in the January 2015 edition. [The full article appears on page 7 of this edition.](#)

There is humor everywhere, even associated with serious court cases. I contacted a private transportation company about a van suitable for the near daily transport. The com-

pany had the perfect size van for 14 jurors, law clerk, couple of deputies and snacks. It arrived on time for its first day. To Port Huron it went and then I received "the call."



Judge Daniel J. Kelly

Judge Yuille asked if I had seen the van that I ordered. The answer was no, just a description of its capacity and availability. So far, so good.

He said the van had red upholstery and a lot of lights! He laughed. This was the one and only trip for that particular van.

A couple of years later, Judge Yuille and I were in Lansing at a Chief Judge and Court Administrator conference. Judge Kelly came over to our table, introduced himself and said he wanted to meet the person responsible for "the van."

I hope that you enjoy the article. - BAM

# THE CHIEF SPEAKS

We are free because we have a government based on the rule of law. This requires a way to resolve disputes by making decisions that are accepted by both sides and the whole world. And the only way to have this is through the work that happens every day in the Genesee County Courthouse. When you think about it, this is a form of magic.



Judges don't decide cases as individuals. They are public officials—either appointed or elected—who are duty-bound to make good decision. And everything we do—and I mean everything—is designed to foster respect for this process. Even the courthouse itself. Most courthouses, ours included, have a

classical look—either Greek or Roman. We want litigants to be impressed; to get a sense of stability, strength and tradition. It's all a part of the magic.

Think of how a judge is transformed into THE COURT. You take a shmo like me—big bald melon-headed guy that I am—dress me in a black robe, sit me behind the bench under the flags and—SHAZAM!—I become THE COURT. Comic book fans know that Billy Batson is transformed into Captain Marvel by the magic of the Immortal Elders.

Judges are transformed into THE COURT by the magic of the law. Read any of my court transcripts and you won't see "David Newblatt" speaking; it's always "THE COURT." The judge's gavel is a symbol of great power—like Thor's hammer. And after the decision is made, a

piece of paper becomes a lawful order after it is signed by the judicial pen.

A court's power is derived from the United States and the State of Michigan through their constitutions and laws. This is called jurisdiction. For a decision to have authority, it must be based upon the law. Following our magic metaphor, all the abracadabras must be followed to the tee. For instance, MCR 8.115(A) requires two flags on either side of the bench whenever court is in session—one is the American flag and the other is the Michigan flag. If the flags aren't there, this court rule is violated. Constitutions, statutes, appellate decisions, rules of evidence, court rules; a judge's decision must be square with all of it. If not, then the magic doesn't work.

Of course, most of the major decisions in our courthouse are

made by the jury. In a criminal trial, the magic requires twelve jurors to unanimously agree on a verdict. You know how hard it is to convince twelve people of anything? And the jury receives evidence from the greatest truth-discovering device ever invented—the witness stand and attorney lectern combination. Witnesses testify under oath to questions asked by opposing lawyers who both bring out their side's best points and try to destroy their opponent's case. I never cease to be amazed at the dynamic contest taking place in my courtroom in front of that jury—sometimes it even feels like an athletic competition. It produces moments of truth upon which an entire case can turn.

My brother is an ER doctor—when he makes a mistake, there's no appeal. Thankfully, when I make a mistake, the appellate courts are there. This is why our Michigan Supreme Court resides in the Hall of Justice. Here's a fun fact I bet you didn't know:

*(Continued on page 12)*

## ADMINISTRATOR CORNER

The MSC Learning Center is located on the first floor of the Halls of Justice. It is a welcoming location designed to educate all ages about the court system.

Tours, various interactive exhibits and information are available. There are options for school groups to arrange tours and many in person or on-line educational materials.

There are four Justices highlighted on the Learning Center website for their historical significance.



**Justice Mary S. Coleman** (1973-1982) was the first female elected to the Michigan Supreme Court and then served as Chief Justice from 1979-1982. Both of her parents were attorneys. She served as a Calhoun County Probate

Judge (1961-1973). Her husband, Creighton Coleman, was also an attorney and served as a Probate Judge in Calhoun County.



**Justice Charles D. Long** (1888-1902) was a Civil War Veteran who lost his arm in

battle and continued his civilian life with a bullet lodged in his leg. Upon discharge, he returned to Michigan to study the law. He was elected as the Genesee County Clerk and the Genesee County Prosecutor. In 1887, he was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court where he remained until his death. He was elected as the first president of the Detroit College of Law in 1891.

Long was born in Grand Blanc, Michigan. A companion to his official Michigan Supreme

*(Continued on page 12)*

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Erin Reverie

### Circuit Court

*Jacob Roberts* is the new judicial law clerk for Criminal/Civil Division Judge, Elizabeth A. Kelly. Jacob received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from University of Toledo College of Law. (not pictured)

### Friend of the Court

*Erin Reverie* is a FOC specialist I. She was previously employed as a paralegal for Genesee County.

### Juvenile Probation

*Raymond Johnson II* is a juvenile probation officer. Ray previously worked for the State of Michigan.

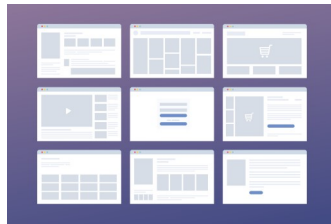
*Kaitlin Roberts* is a juvenile probation officer. Kaitlin was previously a case manager.

*Da'Shawn Ross* is a juvenile probation officer. Da'Shawn previously worked with high school youth.



Left to Right: Da'Shawn Ross, Raymond Johnson, Kaitlin Roberts

- A NEW website design will go live for Circuit and Probate on May 1st. It will include major changes in layout, design and data security.



will have blue pinwheels displayed to raise awareness of *Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month*.



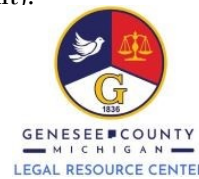
- Genesee County Board of Commissioners declared March 2025, as Women's History Month in Genesee County.
- Genesee County Board of Commissioners declared April 2025, as *Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month in Genesee County*.

- LRC Sneak Peeks  
The conference room will feature a fishbowl glass wall to create an open space (bottom right).

The other office spaces feature a similar open and welcoming design (top right).



The Courthouse and other locations around the county



# THE SEPARATION OF POWERS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS



67th District Court Judge Mark C. McCabe writes "Ask the Judge" for the *Tri-County Times*.

The Separation of Powers and Constitutional Crisis appeared in the March 4, 2025 edition.

branches of government— legislative, executive, and judicial.

The legislative branch (Congress) makes the laws.

The executive branch enforces the laws, with the president as its head.

The judicial branch interprets the laws and ensures they are applied fairly and consistently.

This system is called the "separation of powers" and prevents one branch from exercising too much power over the others. This is called "checks and balances."

There are many examples including presidential vetoes of legislation, the legislature controlling funding of proposed executive actions, and the judiciary determining the constitutionality of laws.

President Donald Trump took office on January 20th. Since then he has signed numerous executive orders and taken other steps to change the way the government does business, including establishing the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE), headed by Elon Musk which is tasked with reducing federal spending.

A number of people don't agree with what's being done, and as a result, as of March 1, there have been 92 federal lawsuits filed asking the courts to stop such things as mass layoffs and firings of federal employees, cutting off federal funding of certain programs, and forced deportations.

Questions have been raised as to whether the executive branch is exercising its powers appropriately and are we now in a "constitutional crisis".

What is currently happening is unprecedented, and some legal experts are concerned about the apparent expansion of executive power.

There is no clear definition of a constitutional crisis, but there's little doubt that there is friction between the three branches. One definition is when there's a potentially decisive turning point as to constitutional order creating a moment at which the order threatens to break down.

It has been suggested that if the president doesn't obey court orders, we could go over the line. Are we now in a constitutional crisis?

A recent panel of Harvard Law School professors said no.

Hopefully they're right and it will never come to pass.

The United States Constitution was written in 1787 and had only 4,400 words.

Including its 27 amendments, there are now 7,591 words. It is the shortest constitution in the world.

All of its provisions are important, with how the government is run being near the top of the list.

Our Founding Fathers created three separate but equal



## COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Court Security continues to move forward with several projects to improve the safety and security of all those that come into the courthouse.

Our top priority will always be to ensure the safety of our judges, staff, and the public. To that end, we have installed new baggage scanners at each of the entrances to the Courthouse.

These new scanners were much needed and long overdue as the

old machines were approximately fifteen years old. The new scanners will aid in detecting any contraband that could possibly be brought into the building.

Genesee County has also been installing a new video surveillance system. This system is highly advanced and has already been installed in the Genesee County Jail and is now being installed at Genesee County Animal Control, the

Tower and here at Circuit Court. It will be installed at the McCree Building within the months ahead.

The mission of court security continues to be enhanced safety and security in all court facilities. -jw



# BRIEF HISTORY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES IN GENESEE COUNTY



A hundred years ago in 1925 the League of Women Voters raised objection to young children being held in the County Jail. Because of this, the former County Board of Supervisors opened and operated a Children's Section at the County Farm on Hemphill Road. Space was made available to house youngsters who needed detention and shelter services.

In 1926, a French Chateau style building was built on Pasadena Avenue. The facility served dependent and neglected children. It also contained a "cell block" for delinquent children. This arrangement for care of children remained the same until approximately 1954 when the "cell block" was removed and replaced with regular rooms.

With the increase in delinquency, an addition of a cross-shaped building with two classrooms and a gym was built in 1956. This addition, later known as North and South wing, housed 16 females and 24 males. The 1926 unit was then primarily used as a nursery for younger children and dormitories for older children in the adoption and foster care system.

Delinquency continued to surge in the community and overcrowding conditions prevailed at the facility.

In 1966, another cross-shape section was built and known as "Boys' Secure Detention." It contained a doctor's office, examination rooms, dentist's office, three classrooms, library,



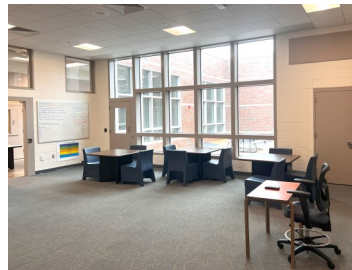
gym and two wings. This addition was later known as East and West wing. Each wing housed 16 boys for a total of 32.

During the years of 1967 to 2023, the facility adjusted the physical structure of the building, as well as programming, for both detention services and residential treatment. It had a capacity to house nearly one hundred children.

In 1976, charges against the children ranged from armed robbery and homicide to truancy. Out of the 908 youth lodged at the facility, 251 residents were charged with crimes and 657 were held in

the non-crime categories of incorrigibility, truancy, and runaways. Runaways accounted for 579 children within the non-crimes categories. In 1976 the average daily detention population was 45 children, and the average stay was between 15 to 30 days. Over the years, the facility has seen an upward trend of an average of 65 youth lodged in detention services with an average range between 7 to 40 days.

Today, the Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center (GCJJC) is settled in a new high-tech facility that provides secure housing for delinquent youth and non-secure programming for youth that are assigned to the Day Treatment program.



In 2024, out of the 204 admissions into the detention center all the youth are charged with crimes ranging from carjacking, homicide, to domestic assault and fleeing and eluding.

There are no children detained within the non-crime categories such as incorrigibility, truancy, and runaways. The average dai-

ly detention population is approximately 33 and the average length of stay is between 14 days and has reached a staggering 2 years. Today, the average number of children that are charged as an adult are approximately about 57%.



One hundred years ago this year, a need for change was highlighted among the community. Changes in services and program-

ming teetered through the years as juvenile delinquency fluctuated, and child welfare reform surfaced. The youth, their families, and community were impacted by these amenities that shaped the history of juvenile justice in Genesee County.

Today, history continues to be made for the last time by "the old building", as the 1926 French Chateau and the cross-shaped detention wings are in the demolition process. As countless numbers of children, staff, and visitors have funneled through the old facility over the last 100 years, many of the current and former staff look forward to a new beginning in the new building.

H. Harris 1977: The Children's Facility of Genesee County, "A report of the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Probate Court of Genesee County, Michigan." Flint, Michigan, p.8-9 –cs



## C. FREDERICK ROBINSON AWARD

Judge G. David Guinn of the 67th District Court was honored as the recipient of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual C. Frederick Robinson Legends Award at a luncheon held at the Haskell Community Center on February 22, 2025.



Judge David G. Guinn

The award is in memory of and to commemorate the contribution of Flint Attorney C. Frederick Robinson (1931-2011). Robinson was recognized as an advocate for civil rights, fair housing laws, affirmative action and criminal defense.



C. Frederick Robinson

The Legends Award was established by Attorney Trachelle Young to recognize those who are walking in the path of Attor-

ney Robinson, representing a commitment to justice and equality for every person. —bam

## JUDGE ARCHIE L. HAYMAN

It is with a heavy heart that the *Hearsay* Committee acknowledges the passing of retired Judge Archie L. Hayman.

served until his retirement in 2017. He served as the Chief Judge of both courts.

Judge Hayman began serving on the former 68<sup>th</sup> District Court bench in 1995. He was later appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 1996, where he

Following his retirement from the bench, he returned to private practice and served on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

He will be missed. —so



## BRIDGING THE JUSTICE GAP: THE GENESEE COUNTY LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER

Access to legal assistance remains a significant challenge for low-income individuals in Michigan.

A 2022 Legal Services Corporation study found that nearly 1.67 million Michigan residents qualify for free civil legal aid due to their income being below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$37,500 for a family of four).

Yet, with only one Michigan legal aid attorney available for every 4,640 eligible individuals, many people struggle to receive the legal help they need.

Nationally, 74% of low-income households faced at least one

legal issue last year, but 92% of those cases received inadequate or no legal support.

In response to this pressing need, the 7th Judicial Circuit Court established the Genesee County Legal Resource Center (LRC) in 2022. The center is currently located on the first floor of the courthouse while renovations are underway to create a permanent home within the space that was previously the law library.

In September 2024, the LRC expanded its services with the launch of the Legal Kiosks project, further enhancing access to legal resources for self-represented litigants.

The LRC plays a crucial role in ensuring that individuals navigating the legal system have access to free self-help tools and navigator-guided support while refraining from providing direct legal advice. The center offers:

- Legal kiosks with legal information and DIY form kits
- SCAO court forms
- Virtual hearing access
- Legal research tools and community resource referrals
- Paralegal navigator assistance for court preparation and filing guidance

Survey data indicates that 100-150 people visit the LRC each week, with 40% seeking family

law resources, 37% needing guardianship assistance, and 11% addressing probate matters. Additionally, 72% of users have household incomes under \$35,000, and 28% are repeat visitors, demonstrating the LRC's impact in addressing legal accessibility challenges.

Through its efforts, the LRC remains committed to bridging the justice gap and making legal resources more accessible to those who need them most. —rh

# Concurrent Jurors

A Reflection on Successful Cooperation Between Courts

By Jerry Celmer Jr. and Barbara A. Meneer



“Courts should conduct jury trials in the venue required by applicable law or in the interests of justice.”<sup>1</sup>

What does this mean? It sounds like a catechism question, and it gets to the heart of the right to jury trial that we cherish. In the 2005 report of the American Jury Project, the American Bar Association identified the above as one of 19 principles defining the fundamental aspirations for the management of our jury system.

In criminal cases, the ABA principle states that “a change of venue or continuance should be granted whenever there is a substantial likelihood that... a fair trial by an impartial jury cannot be had.”<sup>2</sup> The principle goes further to suggest that “[c]ourts should consider the option of trying the case in the original venue but *selecting the jury from a new venue.*”<sup>3</sup>

In addition to all other considerations relevant to the selection of the new venue, consideration should be given to whether the

original venue would be a better location to conduct the trial because of facilities, security, and the convenience of the victims, court staff, and parties. This should be balanced against the possible inconvenience to the jurors.

### How is this accomplished?

In 2012, a murder trial in the Genesee County Circuit Court provided an opportunity to put this principle to a practical test in Michigan. *People v Brandon Hayes* generated more than a year of intense media scrutiny, routine “tweets” from the prosecutor, a Facebook page, and more than 50 YouTube links. The case involved accusations of child abuse and the death of a four-year-old.

The intense pretrial publicity in this case was further evidenced by the introduction and passing of legislation that became known as “Dominick’s Law,” which increases penalties for child abuse and the failure to report child abuse.<sup>4</sup>

The child’s mother was separately charged in the incident and pleaded guilty to child abuse and second-degree murder. Her testimony was critical to the prosecution. Other incarcerated witnesses were expected based on the nature of the anticipated testimony. Specialized medical testimony was also involved, as the victim died at the hospital after being removed from life support. After the Genesee County Circuit Court scheduled the case for trial and spent five days in jury selection without success, the need for a different approach was apparent.

Initially, a discussion between chief judges and court administrators focused on the idea of a venue change, with the Genesee County judge conducting the entire trial in St. Clair County. The St. Clair County Circuit Court was willing to set aside courtroom space and summon citizens for jury duty. Despite the pretrial publicity in Genesee County, the St. Clair County media markets were different; its residents weren’t as familiar with the case.

In addition to all other considerations relevant to the selection of the new venue, consideration should be given to whether the original venue would be a better location to conduct the trial because of facilities, security, and the convenience of the victims, court staff, and parties. This should be balanced against the possible inconvenience to the jurors.

### FAST FACT

A change of venue forges a new partnership between courts, ensuring constitutional rights while conserving resources.

As planning proceeded, considerations of cost and convenience for other trial participants came to the forefront. The solution that evolved was to only conduct jury selection, closing arguments, and jury deliberations in St. Clair County. The jury would be transported to Genesee County for the testimonial portion of the trial. Genesee County Circuit Court Chief Judge Richard B. Yuille presided over the unique endeavor and cited several advantages in proposing this alternative:

- Retaining the testimonial portion of the trial in Genesee County minimized the inconvenience to the St. Clair County Circuit Court.
- Security for the defendant and incarcerated witnesses was ideal in Genesee County, where the courthouse and jail are connected.
- The victim’s family members, witnesses, attorneys, and other interested parties didn’t have to travel.
- Costs would be contained since transportation expenses were required only for jurors.

Despite some initial skepticism, the plan proceeded. Trial dates were set and logistics and details considered. Jury transportation was arranged by the Genesee County Circuit Court, which transported jurors and a Genesee County deputy sheriff to and from St. Clair County via a rental van.

Judge Yuille visited the St. Clair County Circuit Court before the trial to get the lay of the land. St. Clair County Circuit Court Chief Judge Daniel J. Kelly provided his courtroom for the trial and the county supplied judicial chambers, security, a court reporter, and jury staff. The judges worked together, forging a professional bond that continues today.

The St. Clair County prosecuting attorney assisted with office space and audio-visual support. Sheriffs from both counties were involved in advance planning for prisoner transport. Administrators from both courts handled media arrangements and on-site logistics. Cameras were authorized in the courtroom under a pooling arrangement, restricted only to closing arguments. From jury selection to the final verdict, the trial was conducted over eight days in January 2012.

Despite the unsettling nature of the events that were revealed during the trial, it was a positive experience for both courts and a successful approach to case management for everyone involved in the effort.

## What did we learn from this experience?

Change of venue is a relatively rare event in most jurisdictions and usually the result of intense pretrial publicity. We can expect an increasing number of cases where change of venue will be considered given the increasing use of social media and media technology in general. When change of venue occurs, it tends to be an all-or-nothing proposition with the entire court process moved to another jurisdiction. In Michigan, where it has been otherwise, it has been a consequence of unplanned trial events.<sup>5</sup>

In the Genesee County case, planning for the details involved in a change of venue and consideration of creative options led to a better result in terms of efficiency and an effective, customized process. In this case, planning enabled cost containment.

Security issues and expectations of participants—including jurors, witnesses, parties, the media, and the public—in the context of the high-profile case environment were better managed. Cooperation was easily achieved both within and between jurisdictions thanks to preplanning. A pretrial conference by the presiding judge cemented the relationship between jurisdictions and enhanced the coordination of issues such as media access and scheduling during the trial. Attention to transportation and parking minimized inconveniences to jurors and strengthened the commitment to their role. The strengths and constraints of each jurisdiction were best utilized to resolve this case.

Change of venue is a relatively rare event in most jurisdictions and usually the result of intense pretrial publicity. We can expect an increasing number of cases where change of venue will be considered given the increasing use of social media and media technology in general.

Flexibility, innovative thinking, and broad-based cooperation are possible and necessary in the age of reduced court resources. Most importantly, the Genesee County example illustrates we can accomplish this even while faithfully adhering to cherished principles such as those outlined in the ABA vision for our American jury system. ■

*Jerry Celmer Jr., administrator for the 31st Circuit Court, prepared for a career in court management by earning degrees from Michigan State University and Northern Illinois University. He also completed the Institute for Court Management Fellowship (1984) and Post-Graduate Development Program (1986). He has spent his 32-year career modernizing the circuit and district courts in Miami, Florida and St. Clair County through technology, facilities, staffing, and consolidation of court services.*

*Barbara A. Menear, administrator for the 7th Circuit Court (Genesee County), has been involved with court management since 1998. She holds a bachelor's degree from Albion College and is a graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She was in private practice before assuming her current position. She is an active member of the Genesee County Bar Association, has served on numerous statewide committees related to best practices for courts, and is currently a vice chair of the State Bar Standing Committee on Character & Fitness.*

## ENDNOTES

1. ABA American Jury Project, *Principles for Juries and Jury Trials* (2005), p 10 <<http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/juryprojectstandards/principles.authcheckdam.pdf>> (accessed December 12, 2014).
2. *Id.*
3. *Id.*
4. See 2012 PA 194.
5. A 2010 criminal case in the St. Joseph County Circuit Court was moved to the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court for trial and moved back to complete jury deliberations because of space constraints, after testimony was taken and the jury had deliberated four days.



# geneseeLIVING

April events from  
[www.exploreflintandgeneseecounty.org](http://www.exploreflintandgeneseecounty.org)



### [2TheXtreme](#)

Recurring weekly on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday until May 11, 2025

[Sloan Museum of Discovery](#)



### [A Symphony of Glass: Paperweights from the Ellis Collection](#)

Recurring weekly on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday until March 1, 2026

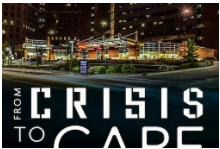
[Flint Institute of Arts Museum + Art School \(FIA\)](#)



### [FrankE & DawnE Karaoke](#)

Recurring weekly on Wednesday

[S & K Hometown Pub](#)



### [From Crisis to Care | The Evolution of Hurley Medical Center](#)

Recurring weekly on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday until June 22, 2025

[Sloan Museum of Discovery](#)



### [In Their Own Backyard: Michigan Artists and Architecture](#)

Recurring daily until May 4, 2025

### [Flint Institute of Arts + Art School \(FIA\)](#)



### [Making Her Mark](#)

Recurring daily until September 28, 2025

### [Flint Institute of Arts Museum + Art School \(FIA\)](#)



### [Romare Bearden: Artist as Activist and Visionary](#)

Recurring daily until April 20, 2025

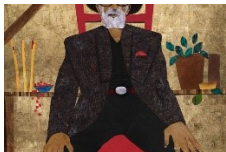
### [Flint Institute of Arts Museum + Art School \(FIA\)](#)



### [Skies Over Michigan - Live Astronomy Presentation](#)

Recurring weekly on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday until April 19, 2025

[Longway Planetarium](#)



### [We Loved the Swag: From Black Bottom Until Now](#)

Recurring daily until April 19, 2025

[Flint Institute of Arts \(FIA\)](#)



### [WIP Wednesdays Workshop](#)

Recurring weekly on Wednesday Breads & Threads Handmade



### [Historical Book Club at Sloan Museum of Discovery](#)

Recurring monthly on the 2nd Thursday until June 12, 2025

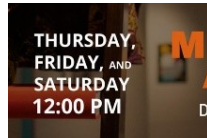
[Sloan Museum of Discovery](#)



### [Laser Zeppelin - Whole Lotta Led Laser Light Show](#)

Recurring weekly on Thursday, Friday, Saturday until April 26, 2025

[Longway Planetarium](#)



### [Midday at MW: Daily Guided Tours](#)

Recurring weekly on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

[Mott-Warsh Collection Gallery](#)



### [Taylor Swift Laser Light Show](#)

Recurring weekly on Thursday, Friday, Saturday until April 26, 2025

[Longway Planetarium](#)



### [Tom Papa FIM Capitol Theatre](#)



### [Boogie Woogie Brunch](#)

Fenton Community & Cultural Center



### [Bunny Bash Easter Celebration](#)

Wentworth Real Estate Group



### [Davison Township Museum](#)

Recurring weekly on Friday



### [Eggciting Easter Event](#)

Re/Max Platinum-Fenton



### [Flint ARTWALK](#)

Recurring monthly on the 2nd Friday

[Greater Flint Arts Council](#)



### [Gilded Game Night](#)

Recurring monthly on the 2nd Friday

[Whaley Historic House Museum](#)



### [Latin Nights](#)

Recurring weekly on Friday

[XOLO Tacos & Tequila - Flint](#)



### [Light the Night Creasey Bicentennial Park](#)

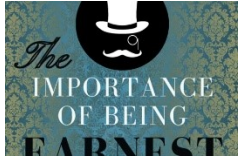
(Continued on page 11)

# geneseeLIVING (CONT'D)



**Second Friday | History of the Universe Series**

Recurring monthly on the 2nd Friday until May 9, 2025  
[Longway Planetarium](#)



**The Importance of Being Earnest**

Recurring weekly on Sunday, Friday, Saturday until April 13, 2025  
[Fenton Village Playhouse](#)



**Adult 21+ Golden Ticket Egg Hunt**  
[Creasey Bicentennial Park](#)



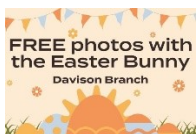
**Carrot Farm Cookie Class**  
[Coffee Beanery - Miller Road](#)



**City of Burton Easter egg hunt**  
 Burton City Hall



**Davison Farmers Market Craft Show**  
[Davison Farmers Market](#)



**Easter Bunny Photos**  
 Financial Plus Credit Union



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Mount Hope Church



**Easter Special Egg Hunt & Lunch**  
 VFW Post 3720



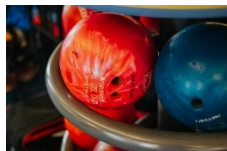
**Flint Local 432 40th Anniversary**  
[Red Ink Flint/Flint Local 432](#)



**Glassblowing Demonstrations**  
 Recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday  
[Flint Institute of Arts \(FIA\)](#)



**Sensory-Friendly Planetarium Shows**  
 Recurring monthly on the 2nd Saturday  
[Longway Planetarium](#)



**2025 MSUSBC Youth State Bowling Tournament**  
[Richfield Bowl](#)



**Hound Hunt**  
[Creasey Bicentennial Park - Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation](#)



**3rd Annual Flip Flop 5k and Community Color Run**  
 Black Creek Nature Trail, Davison



**Murder by Cheesecake Release Party**  
 R&B Used Books



**The IRS Cocktail Class**  
[Serendipity Spa of Linden](#)



**Blind Wine Tasting**  
 Recurring monthly on the 3rd Wednesday until September 17, 2025  
[Barley & Vine](#)



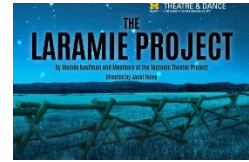
**Carrot Farm Cookie Class**  
[Biggy Coffee & Catering - Grand Blanc](#)



**Triple Threat Bingo**  
 Recurring monthly on the 3rd Wednesday until December 17, 2025  
 Linden Community Center



**Fenton Pride Collective Monthly Meet-up**  
 Recurring monthly on the 3rd Thursday  
[Fenton Winery & Brewery](#)



**The Laramie Project**  
[University of Michigan-Flint Theatre and Dance](#)



**Dragons & Mythical Beasts FIM Whiting**



**Open Mic Night - Totem Books**  
 Recurring monthly on the 3rd Friday until December 19, 2025  
[Totem Books](#)



**Bunny Trail Egg Hunt**  
[Robert Williams Nature and Historical Learning Center](#)



**Live Music Barley & Wine - Kerry Z. Solo Acoustic Guitar**  
[Barley & Vine](#)

# THE CHIEF SPEAKS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

The headquarters of the Super Friends is also called the Hall of Justice.

All of us who work in the courthouse make it possible to live in a society that is both rules-based and free. The judges put on their robes and sit on the bench between the flags and are SHAZAMmed into THE COURT by the power of our Constitution. They then abra-

dabra their way through the case until they reach a decision that is reified by the judicial pen into an order.

I tell every jury empaneled in my courtroom that it is this magic that makes America the greatest country in the world. We should all be proud of the work we do here that makes this come true every day. -cjdjn



# ADMINISTRATOR CORNER (CONT'D)

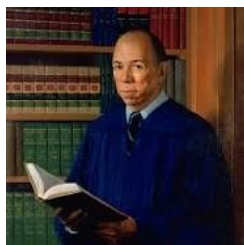
(Continued from page 2)

Court Justice portrait, is located in our judicial conference room on the 2nd floor.



**Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley** (1982-1983;1985-1997) was the first Latina elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. Riley was a Wayne County Circuit Judge and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge. Her husband, Wallace D. Riley, was a former

president of the American Bar Association. There were partisan struggles on the Court during her service, which resulted in her absence and return. It was said that she handled the “entire situation with dignity and grace.” She was overwhelmingly returned to the Court by the voters and went on to serve as Chief Justice from 1987-1991.



**Justice Otis M. Smith** (1961-1967) was the first African

American to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. After his admission to the State Bar, he began to practice law in Flint.

He was very active in civic affairs, Big Brothers, NAACP and honored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce – City of Flint as Outstanding Young Man in 1956. Smith served as an assistant prosecutor and was appointed by Governor G. Mennen Williams as the Chair of the Michigan Public Service Commission and later Auditor General of the State of Michigan in 1959.

Governor John Swainson appointed Smith to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1961. After leaving the Court, he was ap-

pointed general counsel for General Motors in 1967.

March was *Women’s History Month*. Two of the aforementioned Justices were female attorneys reaching the highest level of judicial service.

Justice Long and Justice Smith had a connection to Genesee County.

For further information visit the [Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Website](#). -bam



★ *Read All About It* ★

Hearsay is now available on the Circuit Court website [www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter](http://www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter)

We want to hear from you! Send us an email letting us know what you would like to see in the newsletter and feedback on the current edition. You can also submit ideas and information about activity in your department. [hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com](mailto:hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com)