



Centennial Celebration Illinois Supreme Court 1908-2008



On February 4, 1908, the Supreme Court of Illinois moved out of the State Capitol and into the now-historic building it inhabits today. Chief Justice John P. Hand accepted the keys to the Supreme Court Building at the dedication ceremonies in Springfield. The new building was realized through legislation that developed a Commission. The Commission, responsible for carrying out the provisions of the act, consisted of three justices, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, state treasurer, and attorney general.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid on December 20, 1906 and was completed in 1908 at a cost of \$450,500. During the dedication, Chief Justice John P. Hand remarked that the new Supreme Court Building "...is unsurpassed in beauty and convenience of arrangement by that of any other State Supreme Court building in the United States, and the people of the State may well congratulate themselves..." The building also houses the State Law Library and housed the Appellate Court for the Fourth District until 2002.



Centennial Celebration Dinner



Constructed of Bedford limestone, the magnificent building was enhanced by murals painted by Albert H. Krehbiel of Iowa, who attended the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1907, Krehbiel entered works in a competition for the award of the murals and decorative paintings for the Supreme and Appellate courtrooms. William Carbys Zimmerman, the prominent Chicago area architect of the Supreme Court Building, considered the work done by Krehbiel an "example of the best mural painting ever executed in the West." Murals in

Centennial



Centennial Celebration of the Court Building 2008

the main reading area of the Supreme Court Library were created by Edgar Spier Cameron.

Sculptor Charles James Mulligan, who studied at the Chicago Art Institute, created the limestone statues at the north façade of the building. The statues, “Law and Knowledge” and “Justice and Power,” were installed between 1908 and 1910. Carved in the Circassian walnut above the entrance to the Supreme Court Courtroom is the motto “Audi Alteram Partem,” which means “Hear the Other Side.”

The first case argued in the new Supreme Court Building on April 23, 1908, was



Horn v. Metzger, Supreme Court Case No. 5487. Justices presiding over *Horn v. Metzger* were: Chief Justice John P. Hand, Justice James H. Cartwright, Justice Orrin N. Carter, Justice Frank K. Dunn, Justice William M. Farmer, Justice Guy S. Scott, and Justice Alonzo K. Vickers. In 2008, there were 2,955 cases filed with the Supreme Court.

On May 20, 2008, a centennial celebration of the Illinois Supreme Court Building was held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield.

Sponsored by the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Committee, the event was attended by current and former Justices of the Supreme Court of Illinois, Administrative Director and staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois State Bar President, and others who were addressed by keynote speaker Justice Antonin G. Scalia, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.



*Associate Justice Antonin Scalia,
United States Supreme Court*

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM

“Hear the other side”



Justice Robert R. Thomas, Illinois Supreme Court

