

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEARNING CENTER VOLUNTEERS HONORED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

LANSING, MI, June 21, 2007 – Volunteer docents for the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center were honored yesterday at an event attended by Justices and key Court staff.

Learning Center Coordinator Rachael Drenovsky said that volunteers are essential to the Learning Center's success. "Without volunteers acting as tour guides, we could not hope to host all the school groups and others who request tours of the Learning Center," she said. "In the past year alone, volunteers have given a total of 726 hours, serving nearly 12,000 visitors. The volunteers make it possible for us to educate many more people about the Michigan justice system than we could without their help."

The event included an awards ceremony and luncheon at the Michigan Hall of Justice. Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver, who serves as supervising Justice of the Learning Center, welcomed the volunteers and praised them for their contributions to the Learning Center's mission.

"We are grateful for all you have done for the Learning Center and for our visitors, most of whom are school children," Weaver told the volunteers. "Thanks to you, these young people will carry what they learned about the court system with them throughout their lives." Weaver added that "Statistics show that young people who learn about government and citizenship through hands-on experiences remain active citizens as adults."

The honorees included:

- John Albright, Lansing
- Jacob Drenovsky, Durand
- Veronica Drenovsky, Durand
- Genevieve Healy, Holt
- Cassandra Heos, East Lansing
- Doris Hineman, DeWitt
- Mary Pat Jaracz, Okemos
- Betty Krohngold, East Lansing
- Carol J. McPhillips, Howell
- Irene M. Mead, Grand Ledge

Not all volunteers were able to attend the awards ceremony, due to other commitments.

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor and Justices Michael F. Cavanagh, Marilyn Kelly, Maura D. Corrigan, and Robert P. Young, Jr. also attended, as did Drenovsky. Also at the event were Dawn McCarty, director of the Michigan Judicial Institute, and MJI Program Assistant Angie McGoff.

The Learning Center, which is located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing, educates the public about the role of the Michigan court system in their everyday lives. The 3,800-square foot museum-style gallery is filled with information, computer games, and hands-on activities. Tours last one hour and are scheduled during Learning Center hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, including how to schedule a tour, visit the Learning Center web site at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/>.

The Learning Center has an ongoing need for volunteers, Drenovsky noted. “This is a great volunteer experience for anyone with an interest in the law,” she said. “Volunteers need not have any legal background – all that’s required is a willingness to learn and share knowledge with others.”

For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit the Learning Center web site at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/volunteer.htm> or call 517-373-5027. Interviews and background checks will be required for all applicants.

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