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Michigan Reports

Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Michigan · Volume 14

By Michigan. Supreme Court, Harry Burns Hutchins, George C. Gibbs, Randolph Manning, Thomas McIntyre Cooley, William Jennison, Elijah W. Meddaugh, Hoyt Post, Hovey K. Clarke, William Dudley Fuller, Henry Allen Chaney, Richard W. Cooper, John Adams Brooks, Herschel Bouton Lazell, James M. Reasoner, Van Buren Denslow, Marshall Davis Ewell, Edgar Arthur Cooley, John L. Stoddard, Russell Cowles Ostrander, Edward Gott (A.) · 1867

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Michigan Reports
Reports of Cases Heard and Decided in the Supreme Court of Michigan · Volume 8

2nd edition

ISBN: — Publisher: Callaghan
Format: — Published: 1860
Length: —

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Michigan Supreme Court's Records & Briefs: Introduction & Demonstration

Michigan Library Association
October 18, 2023

Michelle LaLonde & Kathryn Polgar
Arthur Neef Law Library
Wayne State University



Background: Problem-Solving w/Partnerships



Wayne Law @Urban university

- R1 university + large legal community
- Interest in historic legal materials >Law School on campus, community
- No stand-alone city / county public law library, as is common in other states

What's problem solved by partnering?

- **Access** to historic legal materials, not preservation
- **Access to Justice** issue for pro se litigants, independent researchers?



What Is It & Why Important to Digitize This?



- Primary legal resource
- No one “complete” print collection in state
- Not “discoverable”: no comprehensive index or inventory
- Unwieldy, poor-quality paper, some fragile
- Print collections not available remotely
- VERY valuable for historic research + litigation
- Relatively little online:
 - Westlaw, Lexis (2000-ish-), Bloomberg Law (2008-), MI SupCt website (2011-)



Our Project's Partners:

Academic Library Partners



Grant Source



Legal & Publishing Partners



*Funding is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.



*The Grant



*Virginia Thomas: \$125K IMLS grant from Library of Michigan.
**Partner w/ Google Books & LLMC Digital

Partnered w/all other law school libraries in Michigan

*Metadata Extraction



Hired 2 metadata technicians to extract data from each brief:

- *Case citation
- *Party names
- *Dates
- *Attorney names

* Digitization Process



Ship boxes of briefs to Google Books' A2 facility for destructive digitization



2020: Uh-oh!

1st Qtr 2020:

Minor production delays:

- Holiday break
- Bar code issues

1st Qtr 2020:

- Create case list for quality control
- No uniform list of cases or index
- = Running list of found items

March-June:

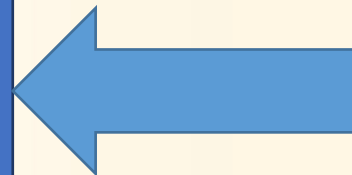
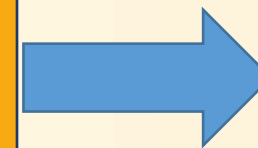
- Shutdown
- Production Stopped

June-December:

- Resume preparing materials
- Google Books closed until 2021

Summer:

- Extension sought to spend grant \$ later





2021: Re-set: <CTRL><ALT>

NOTICE

Commencing with the JANUARY, 1963, term of court, the *docket* number of a case is the number assigned to it when it reaches the clerk's office. This previously was designated as *calendar* number. The *calendar* number, from now on, is the number assigned to a case on the term calendar. This, previously, was designated as *docket* number. This change is in accord with GCR 1963, 816, as amended.
—REPORTER.



1st Half 2021:

- Prepare shipments

HUGE OPPORTUNITY:

- Partner WMU-Cooley offers us print run of title
- Reach out to publisher partners to help w/ materials & transport costs 13.5 tons of books (680 boxes loaded on 17 pallets)
- Key to ensure as complete database as possible!

Mid-2021:

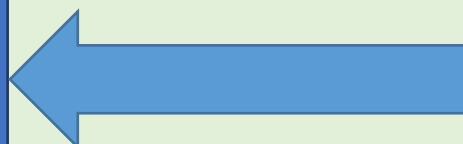
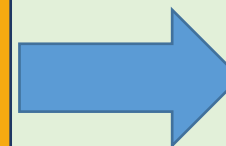
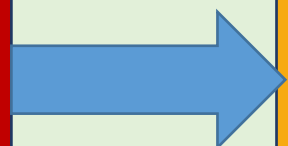
- Discover change to case numbering
=calendar to docket #
change affected metadata

Late 2021:

- Sample metadata found highly accurate
- > ~0.5% needed minor adjustments

Fall 2021:

- 1st presentations re: project to colleagues at ORALL, MichALL

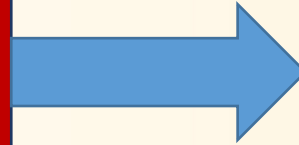




2022: Seeing the Finish Line?

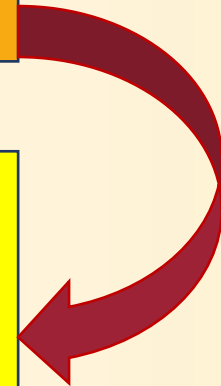
June '22:

- Metadata extraction & scanning continue
- 80% metadata extracted from WSU items
- =~45% (=30k items) scanned & uploaded to Google Books & LLMC Digital



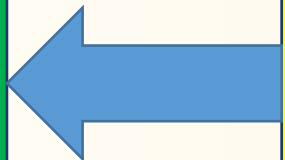
Summer 2022:

- Submit application for supplemental IMLS grant
=Fund add'l year to fill gaps



Sept '22:

- Receive news that IMLS grant app denied
- Identify possible sources of gift funds @WSULS
- Request & receive funds from WSULS to finish FY 22-23 metadata extraction



Jan '23:

*Submit final report for IMLS grant



2023-2024: Filling in the Gaps & Spreading the News

Winter '23:

- Submit final report for IMLS grant
- Virtual site visit by grant administrator, Library of MI
- Metadata extraction continues



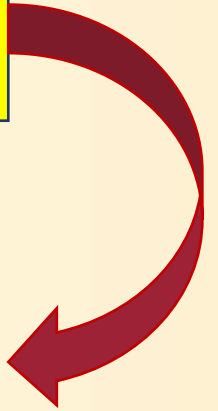
April:

- Virginia Thomas's article for *Michigan Bar Journal* on MISCR&B is published



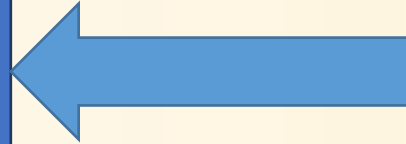
Sp/Summer:

- Conference programs: Michigan Academic Lib Assoc, Google Books, AALL



September:

- Metadata input \$ from Wayne St Library System to end
- Project report due

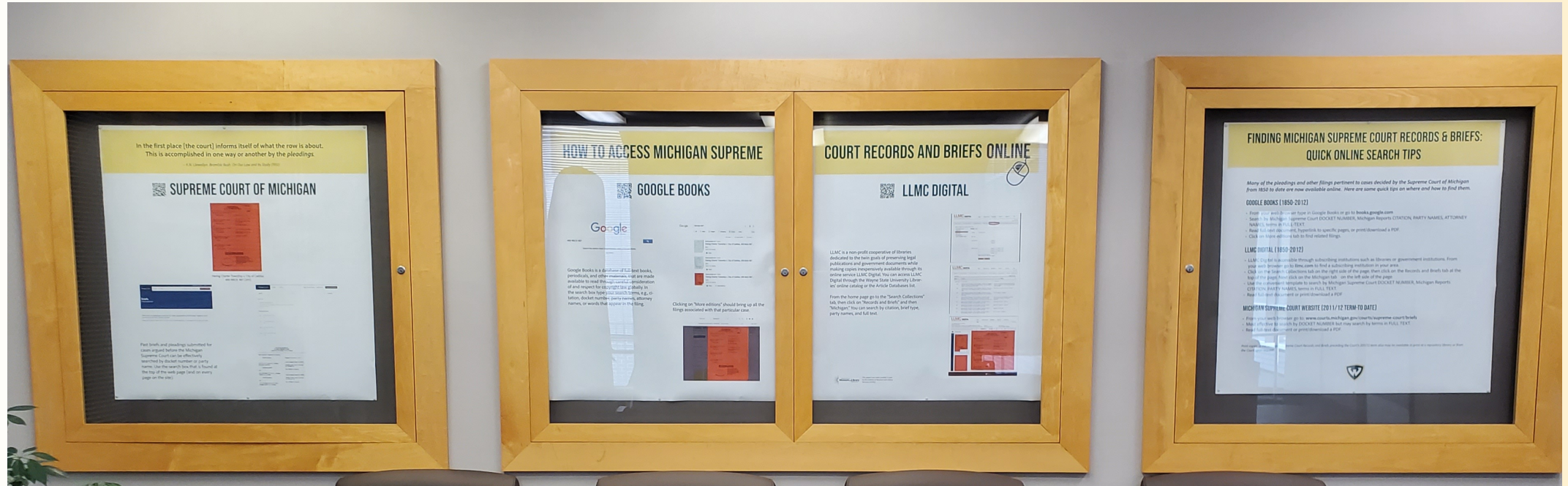


Fall '23:

- Assess project
- Seek additional funding for gap-filling to finally complete project



Getting the Word Out: On-Campus Promotion



On-Campus Promotion Efforts:

- LibGuide
- Training to cross-campus colleagues / Law School classes
- Creation of self-help search tips sheet (=today's handout)
- Lobby Display: Law Library



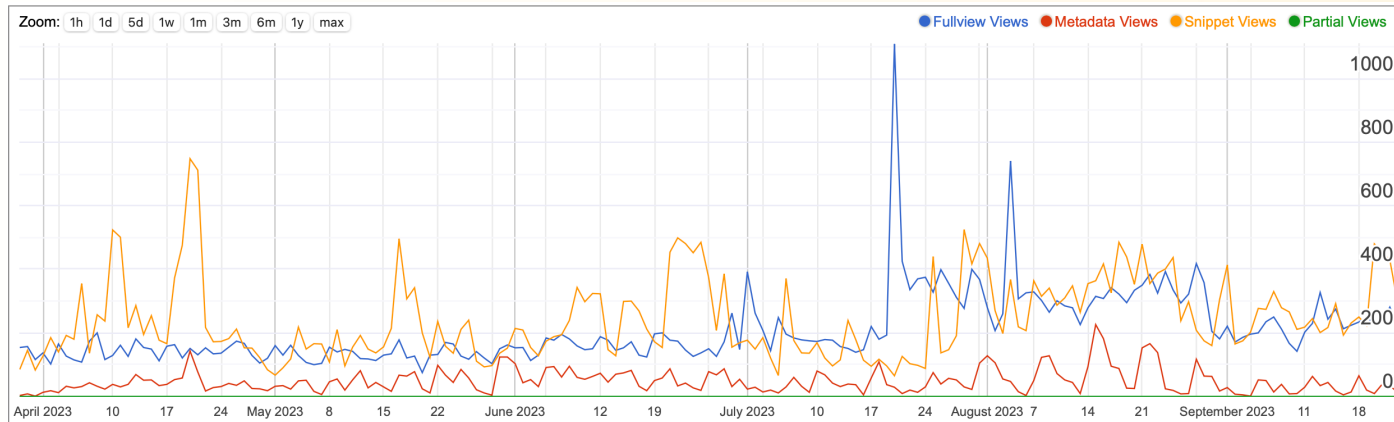
Getting the Word Out: Talks, Articles, & Posters

- **Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries:** “Michigan Supreme Court Records & Briefs – Recipe for Making a Primary Historical Resource Discoverable, Searchable & Accessible” (Virginia Thomas, Kathryn Polgar, Jamie Chmara, & Jim Sechelski), Oct. 20, 2021.
- **Michigan Association of Law Libraries:** “Digitization of Michigan Supreme Court Records and Briefs” (V. Thomas, K. Polgar, J. Chmara, & J. Sechelski), Nov. 12, 2021.
- **Michigan Bar Journal:** *Michigan Supreme Court records and briefs: New access to a historical resource* (V. Thomas), April 2023
- **Michigan Academic Library Association:** Poster, “How to Access Michigan Supreme Court Records & Briefs Online” (K. Polgar & V. Thomas), May 17-19, 2023
- **American Association of Law Libraries:** Case Study on Enhancing Accessibility to State Legal Content in Massachusetts & Michigan (Kathleen Richman, Robert Brink, & Michelle LaLonde), July 16, 2023
- **Michigan Library Association:** “Michigan Supreme Court Records & Briefs: Introduction & Demonstration” (M. LaLonde & K. Polgar), Oct. 18, 2023.



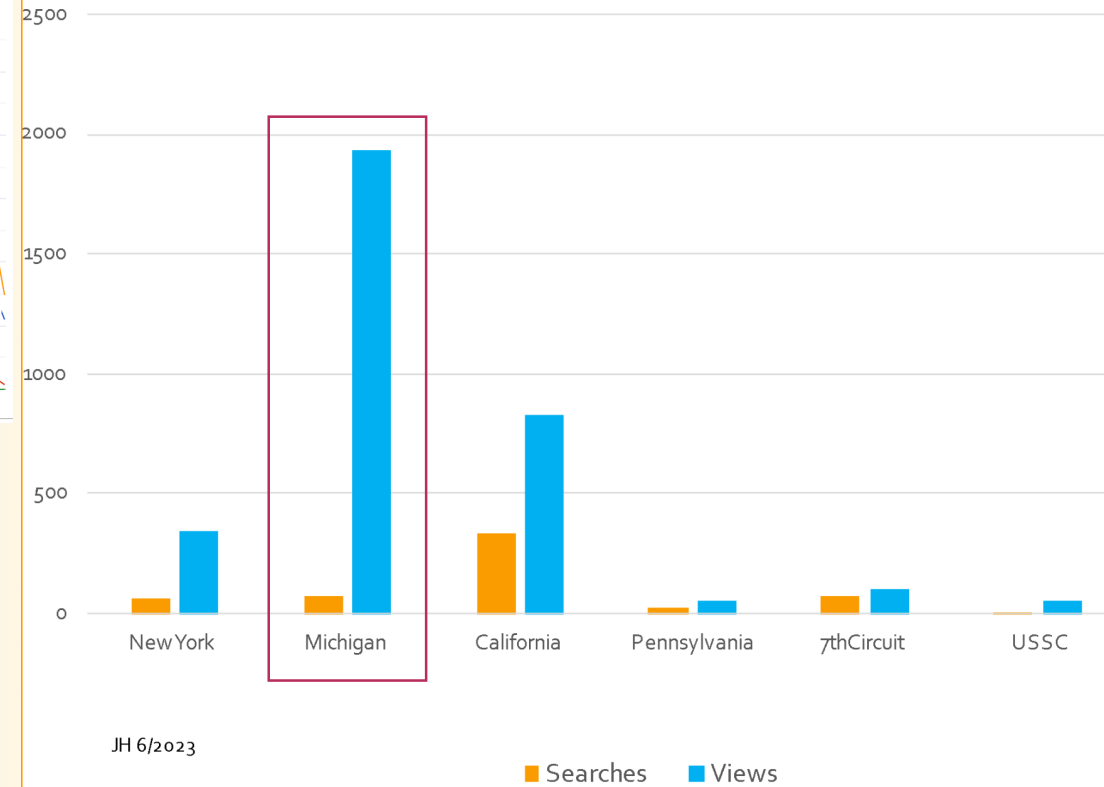
Usage Statistics & Impact: Early Stages

Google Books



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Records and Briefs Usage Jan - June 16, 2023





Stepping Back: Court's Work & Quick Overview of Litigation Process



Photo Credit: Bridge Michigan, Sept. 20, 2022

- Court also reviews admin law matters for state
- Works with changes to court rules statewide

Typical Litigation Process:

- Cases heard 1st @DistCt / CircuitCt=trial court
- Appealed to Michigan Court of Appeals
- Then, party / parties file “decision to leave” to Michigan Supreme Court to ask to hear case:
 - About 2k applications filed annually; only take ~2%
 - If not, court typically grants *denial order*
 - Sometimes will give order to resolve case, w/ instructions to trial court rehearing

Some Useful Legal Terms to Know

- Records
- Briefs
- Docket
- Appellant
- Appellee
- *Amicus Curiae*
- Motions
- Orders
- Opinions



Part 2: Demonstration

Google Books
LLMC Digital





Ways You Can Search

- Case name
- Party name(s)
- Subject / Search term(s)
- Advanced search
- Wild Card
- Boolean

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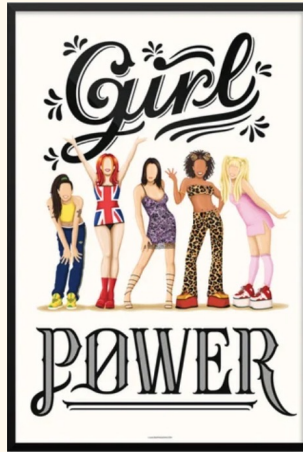
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Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Michigan ...
Michigan. Supreme Court · 1910
FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 163
... Kenny ; also , to cancel the notes given for said loan and to cancel an assignment of certain certificates of corporate stock ... Beach filed an answer



What to Search? Vote on your favorites!

➤ Option 1:

Donajkowski v. Alpena Power Company
460 Mich 243 (1999)
Terms: Equal Pay Act; women or female



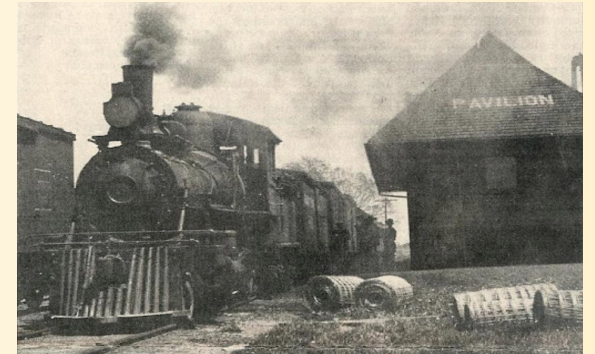
➤ Option 2:

Opdyke Investment Company v. Norris Grain Company
413 MICH 354 (1982)
Terms: Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Pistons, stadium



➤ Option 3:

Chicago, Kalamazoo, & Saginaw Railroad Company v. Lane
150 MICH 162 (1907)
Terms: belt line, oxbow



➤ Option 4:

Search of “Ken” and “beach”





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Google Books

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Advanced search

Back to classic Google Books

Haring Charter Towns...

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490 MICH 987

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE SUPREME COURT
Appeal from the Michigan Court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT
NOV 2011

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HARING,
Plaintiff/Appellant,
v
THE CITY OF CADILLAC, a Michigan
Municipal Corporation,
Defendant/Appellee.
and
THE TOWNSHIP OF SELMA, a Michigan
General Law Township,
Plaintiff/Appellant,
and
THE TOWNSHIP OF CLAM LAKE, a
Michigan General Law Township,
Plaintiff,
v
THE CITY OF CADILLAC, a Michigan
Municipal Corporation,
Defendant/Appellee.

Supreme Court Case No. 142117
Court of Appeals Docket No. 292122
Wexford County Circuit Court Case
No. 08-20967-CK
Hon. William M. Fagerman
Court of Appeals Docket No. 292164
Wexford County Circuit Court Case
No. 08-21381-CK
Hon. William M. Fagerman

**BRIEF ON APPEAL – APPELLEE
ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

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Brief of Appellees in Response to Application for Leave to Appeal Prior to a Decision by the Court of Appeals

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Appellees' Appendix

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Affidavit in Support of Appellants Response to Emergency Motion to Dissolve Injunctive Order or in the Alternative, to Modify the Injunctive Order Filed by Appellees

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Appellants' Reply Brief

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Appendix to Brief in Support of Plaintiffs-Appellants' Application for Leave to Appeal Prior to a Decision by the Court of Appeals

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Brief in Support of Plaintiffs-Appellants' Application for Leave to Appeal Prior to a Decision by the Court of Appeals

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Thank You! Any Questions?

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Adjunct Professor, Wayne Law

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