



FEDERAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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The Federal Circuit Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1999 by Jerry Howe, Mary Jennings, David Kane and Scott Kieff. It is dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the history of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and its predecessor courts.



Above: Chief Judge Howard T. Markey was the first Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit, and later served as Dean of the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Society Receives New Fairleigh Dickinson Foundation Grant for Photography Project

The Fairleigh Dickinson Jr. Foundation, a charitable organization based in Roseland, New Jersey, recently awarded the Society a generous grant of \$48,000 to support our continued efforts to preserve the history of the Federal Circuit. This grant will be used to prepare an electronic database/catalogue, and to publish electronically, over 1,000 historical photographs of the judges and personnel of the court, persons associated with the court, important historical events at the court, and buildings and physical objects associated with the court that we and the court have collected over the past several years. The principal source of these historical

photographs (over 700) is a collection recently donated to the Society by the family of the late Judge Giles S. Rich, who besides being an avid photographer, was a giant figure in patent law, and author of the current patent statute in 1952.

The Fairleigh Dickinson Foundation has been very generous in its support of the Society, having awarded two previous grants to get the Society started and to fund the Society's Oral History Project.

Oral History Project

The Society thanks outgoing director and leader of its Oral Histories Project, Wendy Vicente, who did a fantastic job organizing the Oral History Project and making it an ongoing reality. Wendy's work on the oral histories is being ably continued by Ric Henschel of Foley & Lardner in Washington, DC.

Written History Project

The Society recently signed a contract with Dr. Steven Flanders, author of several judicial histories, and former Circuit Executive for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, to write a book length history of the Federal Circuit. Dr. Flanders will cover the period from the inception of the Federal Circuit through the tenure of its first Chief Judge, Howard T. Markey 1982-1990. It will also provide historical context by comparing the experience of the Federal Circuit to that of other national courts, most notably the now-defunct United States Commerce Court. This project is being supported in part by various law firms interested in the work of the Society. David Kane will serve as contract coordinator with Dr. Flanders on behalf of the Society.

Annual Dinner

The Society celebrated its second annual dinner at the historic Dolley Madison House, now part of the Federal Circuit's facilities, on the evening of October 22, 2004. The evening commemorated the Dolley Madison House's history as the first headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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From December 1958 to November 1961 the Dolley Madison House served as the first headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. During that time, the building was transformed into a beehive of activity during NASA's formative "Mercury Era." It was where America's first seven astronauts were introduced to the world on April 9, 1959, in an electric scene captured in the Hollywood film, "The Right Stuff."

At the dinner, the Society presented the Court with an enlarged reproduction of the original blueprint of the Mercury capsule (dated June 24, 1958). The bell-shaped structure -- which served as the basic design for the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo spacecraft -- was the invention of Dr. Maxime Faget. Among others, he was aided by his close collaborator Caldwell ("CC") Johnson, the draftsman of the blueprint. The Engineering Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, Max Faget was awarded U.S. Patent Number 3,093,346 for this invention. In May 2003, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Upon his induction, it was said that "Faget single-handedly jump-started the American space program in the late 1950s."

Dr. Faget's friends and colleagues Joseph P. Allen, David H. Langstaff, and Jerald S. Howe, Jr gave the blueprint to the Federal Circuit Historical Society, which in turn donated it to the Federal Circuit. The blueprint is displayed now in the Dolley Madison House.

The Society's third Annual Dinner will be Friday, September 16, 2005, at the Dolley Madison House.



Dr. Joseph P. Allen, former astronaut and retired Chairman of Veridian Corporation, presents a reproduction of the blueprint of the Mercury capsule to the Court at the Society's annual dinner at Dolley Madison House on October 22, 2004.

Annual Meeting

The Society's annual meeting will be a luncheon buffet on Thursday, June 23, 2005, at Kiawah Island in South Carolina, during the Federal Circuit Bar Association Bench and Bar conference. The meeting will include a historical presentation by George E. Hutchinson on the "The Events and Individuals that Form the History of Madison Place, Lafayette Square."

Committees

The Society has the following committees. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact Philip Swain, Foley Hoag LLP, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210, Tel: (617)832-1150; Fax (617) 832-7000; e-mail pswain@foleyhoag.com.

- (1) Oral Histories
- (2) Written History
- (3) History of the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals
- (4) History of the Court of Federal Claims
- (5) History of the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims
- (6) History of the Merit Systems Protection Board

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- (7) History of the Court of International Trade
- (8) Conferences and Educational Programs
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- (12) Annual Dinner

Membership

We now have more than 70 members. If you know anyone who is interested, please encourage them to join. Dues are \$25.00 per year. An application form is available on our website.

New address

The Society has now moved to a new address, within the Federal Circuit Bar Association offices, at 1620 I Street N.W., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006.

Website

Please visit our website at:

www.federalcircuithistoricalsociety.org

The Society's website includes basic information about the Society, an application to become a member, and links to Society publications.

Articles and editor wanted

We hope this newsletter will someday include substantive articles of historical significance. If you are interested in helping out as editor of this newsletter, or have articles or notices for the newsletter, please e-mail the Society. ♦