



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kalamazoo County to Honor First African American Judge Hon. Charles A. Pratt at Building Dedication Ceremony

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Kalamazoo County Government proudly invites the community to a special dedication ceremony for the **Judge Charles A. Pratt Justice Center** on **Saturday, Sept. 7** to celebrate the legacy of the Honorable Charles A. Pratt.

As Kalamazoo’s first African American judge, Pratt’s unwavering contributions to justice, community service, and mentorship continue to inspire and guide those who follow in his footsteps, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the legal community and the broader Kalamazoo area.

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Elizabeth T. Clement will deliver a keynote address honoring Judge Pratt’s life and legacy. She will be joined by distinguished speakers, including Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, Chief Judge Gary Giguere of the 9th Circuit Court, Chief Judge Kathleen P. Hemingway of the 8th District Court, Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Getting, and Dr. L. Marshall Washington, President of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

As a special tribute, retired Judge Carolyn H. Williams will present a commemorative memento to the Pratt family on behalf of Kalamazoo County, symbolizing the lasting legacy Judge Pratt has left behind.

Following the ceremony, guests are invited to explore the Justice Center during a one-hour self-guided tour. Court staff and representatives from the Prosecuting Attorney’s office will be on hand to answer questions and provide insights into the building’s facilities and services.

Free parking will be available in surveillance-monitored public lots at 411 Cooley St. and 460 N. Church St. The entire community is invited to join in this momentous occasion to honor a pioneer of justice and equality. For more information, please visit the [event page](#) on the website.

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