

Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit

Survey on Circuit Historical Programs: Expanded Results, February 2003

Information in italics was learned from sources other than this survey's responses.
Endnotes indicate sources.

By Circuit				
	Structure	Administration	Funding	Branches or Independent Orgs
1 st	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	elected officers	one-time dues, (AAFF pending)	independent historical societies: appeals, some district
2 nd	internal court program	circuit or district judge	AAFF	
3 rd	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	elected officers, executive committee	gifts, <i>annual dues</i> ¹	independent historical societies: some district
4 th	no current historical program			
5 th	no official program	circuit librarian	court (regular appropriations)	
6 th	internal court program	court historian	court (regular appropriations)	independent historical societies: some district
7 th	no official program	circuit executive		
8 th	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	elected officers, board of directors	one-time dues, AAFF, gifts, sales (varies by branch)	11 branches: appeals and each district
9 th	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	salaried director	annual dues, AAFF	independent historical societies: some district
10 th	internal court program	(pending incorporation)		
11 th	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	elected officers, board of trustees, <i>part-time salaried director</i> ²	annual dues, <i>gifts, grants, some AAFF</i> ³	some district historical programs (but not formal societies)
DC	<i>circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)</i> ⁴	<i>officers, board of directors</i> ⁵	<i>membership dues</i> ⁶	
Fed	circuit-wide historical society, 501(c)(3)	president is past-president of Federal Circ Bar	gifts, grants, (annual dues pending)	

By Structure				
Structure	Circuit	Administration	Funding	Branches or Independent Orgs
Circuit-Wide Historical Society, 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Membership	1 st	elected officers	one-time dues, (AAFF pending)	independent historical societies: appeals, some district
	3 rd	elected officers, executive committee	gifts, <i>annual dues</i> ⁷	independent historical societies: some district
	8 th	elected officers, board of directors	one-time dues, AAFF, gifts, sales (varies by branch)	11 branches: appeals and each district
	9 th	salaried director	annual dues, AAFF	independent historical societies: some district
	11 th	elected officers, board of trustees, <i>part-time salaried director</i> ⁸	annual dues, <i>gifts, grants, some AAFF</i> ⁹	some district historical programs (but not formal societies)
	DC ¹⁰	<i>officers, board of directors</i> ¹¹	<i>membership dues</i> ¹²	
	Fed	president is past-president of Federal Circuit Bar	gifts, grants, (annual dues pending)	
Internal Court Program, Circuit-Wide	2 nd	circuit or district judge	AAFF	
	6 th	court historian	court (regular appropriations)	independent historical societies: some district
	10 th	(pending incorporation)		
No Official Program	4 th	no current historical program		
	5 th	efforts of circuit librarian	court (regular appropriations)	
	7 th	efforts of circuit executive		

1st Circuit

Respondent: Karen Moss, Circuit Librarian

The First Circuit Historical Society was first established as a charitable trust in 1993 and soon thereafter as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. It is headed by elected officers and has independent societies for the court of appeals and various districts. Its primary means of funds are one-time membership dues, and the Society is working on obtaining attorney admission fee funds. In 1993, “Regular Membership” was \$25 per person, and “Sustaining Membership” was \$100.

2nd Circuit

Respondent: Janice D. Kish, Executive Coordinator, Circuit Executive’s Office

The 2nd Circuit Committee for History and Commemorative Events is one, circuit-wide internal court program. Its primary means of funds are attorney admission fee funds, and it is headed by a circuit or district court judge.

Structure:

“Our History Committee has district court and appellate court judicial officers included in its membership. Also, serving on the Committee are local members of the Bar. Ex officio members are the circuit and district executives, the Circuit Librarian, and the Public Affairs Office.”

Information, including administration and funding:

“Projects are generally funded through AAFF accounts. Occasionally, we’ve received assistance from the bar associations. From time to time we present programs celebrating the accomplishments of a person of interest to our circuit or to mark an anniversary of local interest.”

3rd Circuit

Respondent: Toby Slawsky, Circuit Executive

The Historical Society of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization headed by elected officers, *typically attorneys*,¹³ and an executive committee. *Traditionally, the Circuit Executive or Circuit Librarian has served as secretary and a Deputy Circuit Executive has served as treasurer.*¹⁴ Its primary means of funds are gifts, *though it also is funded by annual dues.*¹⁵ The circuit has independent historical societies in various districts.

Structure:

“Incorporated non-profit with elected officers and an executive committee.”

Information, including administration and funding:

“Programs are rather limited at present. We have sponsored oral histories, one day events and displays.”

4th Circuit

Respondent: Samuel W. Phillips, Circuit Executive

No current historical program.

5th Circuit

Respondent: Kay Guillot, Circuit Librarian

The 5th Circuit does not have an official program, but the Circuit Librarian heads work on preserving court history. Funds are court-appropriated.

Structure:

“Not an official ‘program.’ Simply something the library has undertaken. We focus mainly on the circuit but also collect items from district courts. To my knowledge, none of our districts has a historical society.”

Other information, including administration and funding:

“We are in the process of digitizing the library’s archive collection (using scanners & digital camera for large items). It will be accessible via Hyperion, a module of our integrated library system.”

6th Circuit

Respondent: Rita Wallace, Court Historian/Archivist

The Sixth Circuit Archives is an internal, circuit-wide court program headed by the Court Historian/Archivist. This position is based in the library, but the clerk’s office and the library share its funding. The clerk’s office pays the salary, and the library pays for supplies and travel. Some districts have independent historical societies with officers, members, meetings, funds, activities, and regulations/bylaws/policies. The independent societies are active and funded by membership dues.

Structure:

*“The court established a committee of judges to determine how they wanted to approach documenting the court’s history. Given the inherent problems of a volunteer organization, and the court’s interest in being able to control what was done, they decided to create a position of historian/archivist and placed the position in the Circuit Library.”*¹⁶ “Court Historian was hired to develop and implement a court history program, design and create court website, and write new biographies for recent appointees to circuit and district courts.” The website is located at <http://history.circ6.dcn/>.

Other information, including administration and funding:

“Maintain archives; locate and acquire court records of historical importance; conduct oral history interviews with senior judges and retiring court personnel; plan and design displays and exhibits relating to court history; plan, design and create court website (over 5000 files) and update files; provide reference duties that have an historical component.”

7th Circuit

Respondent: Collins T. Fitzpatrick, Circuit Executive

The Circuit Executive heads a circuit-wide effort without a formal name to gather oral histories of senior judges. Some district courts have either subordinate or independent organizations.

Other information, including administration and funding:

“We prepare oral histories of senior judges so that we capture more than a biographical sketch of the judges. We have done 19 oral histories so far and 5 are in the works.”

8th Circuit

Respondent: Ann Fessenden, Circuit Librarian

The Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization headed by elected officers and a Board of Directors. It is funded primarily by one-time membership dues, attorney admission fee funds, gifts and sales, though funding varies by branch. Its structure is a parent society with eleven subordinate branches.

Structure:

As incorporated in 1985, the Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit is composed of subordinate but separate branches for the Court of Appeals and each district court in the 8th Circuit. The branches function as local historical societies. According to the Society’s bylaws, each branch has its own officers, members, regulations, funds, meetings, and activities and reports annually to the parent Society on its finances and activities.

Other information, including administration and funding:

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of two representatives from each branch, one of whom is a federal judge of the branch. The Board meets annually. The Board elects officers who comprise the Society’s Executive Committee, which currently meets quarterly. The Circuit Librarian currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer. The parent Historical Society and its subordinate branches are 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations. The Society’s website, at http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/library/hist_society.html, was created and is maintained by the library. The library also serves as the circuit’s court archives for selected documents, photographs, books and media documenting the history of the 8th Circuit courts and judges.

9th Circuit

Respondent: Bradley B. Williams, Director, Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization headed by a salaried director and funded by annual membership dues, attorney admission fee funds, and grants. It is a circuit-wide organization, and there are independent historical societies in some districts. Those independent district societies have officers, members, meetings, funds, activities, and regulations/bylaws/policies.

The Society, established in 1985, publishes books and a semi-annual journal, Western Legal History; produces traveling exhibits; gathers oral histories of judges and lawyers; assists courts, bar associations, firms and corporations in developing their own historical programs.¹⁷ The Society has compiled one of the country's largest court oral histories, comprised of 130 interviews. The Society has approximately 2,000 members.¹⁸

10th Circuit

Respondent: Cathy Eason, Deputy Circuit Librarian

The 10th Circuit has one, circuit-wide internal court program. They are working on incorporation papers.

11th Circuit

Respondent: Wanda Lamar, Executive Director, Eleventh Circuit Historical Society

The Eleventh Circuit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization headed by elected officers and funded primarily by annual membership dues, *though also by gifts, grants, and in rare instances attorney admission fee funds.*¹⁹ Its structure is one, circuit-wide organization. *They have a part-time, salaried director.*²⁰

Structure:

“The officers of the Society consist of the Honorary Chairperson (an Eleventh Circuit judge), President, Vice Presidents (one each representing the states within the 11th Circuit: Alabama, Florida, Georgia), Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Trustees consists of nine persons representing each of our three states (resulting in a total of 27 trustees).”

Other information, including administration and funding:

“In the past, the Court of Appeals has given the Society grants from its Non-Appropriated Fund to be used for operating expenses. The Middle District of Alabama and the Middle District of Florida are both developing history programs; but no formal historical societies have been formed. The Eleventh Circuit Historical Society was formed with the idea that it would be the historical society for all the federal courts within our circuit.”

DC Circuit

The Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, founded in 1990,²¹ is a private, non-profit organization²² funded by membership dues and headed by officers and a board of directors.²³ The judges are very involved.²⁴

The Society published its circuit's history, authored by Professor Jeffrey Morris, in 2001, and has worked on creating oral histories of its judges and prominent attorneys and others who have been actively involved in circuit matters.²⁵

Federal Circuit

Respondent: Patricia McDermott, Circuit Librarian

The Federal Circuit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization. Its structure is circuit-wide, and its primary means of funds are gifts and grants. "The current president is the immediate past-president of the Federal Circuit Bar Association."

Structure:

"The Society consists of one organization with a Board of Trustees. The Officers are currently appointed by the Board of Trustees. One of the Trustees is designated by the court. The court has designated the Circuit Executive to hold this position. The Circuit Librarian is currently appointed as an Honorary Trustee. There are no branches. An oral history committee has been formed to oversee the planning and maintenance of the oral history program."

Other information, including administration and funding:

"Funds for the Society come mainly from two sources: the authors of a casebook on patent law have donated their income from the book to the Society; the Society has also received a grant from a non-profit organization to support its oral history program. Plans are in the works to open the Society to general membership, who will pay annual dues."

1. Patricia McDermott, *Fact Sheet on Court Historical Societies*, 2002.
2. McDermott
3. McDermott
4. McDermott
5. Historical Society section of the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia website:
http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/court_offices/historical_society/historical_society.asp
6. McDermott
7. McDermott
8. McDermott
9. McDermott
10. McDermott
11. DC Circuit website
12. McDermott
13. McDermott
14. McDermott
15. McDermott
16. McDermott
17. Historical Society section of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit website:
<http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/web/sdocuments.nsf/history?openview&expandview>
18. *Court Historical Societies Aim to Preserve, Educate*, FEDERAL COURT MANAGEMENT REPORT, February 2002.
19. McDermott
20. McDermott
21. DC Circuit website
22. McDermott
23. DC Circuit website
24. McDermott
25. DC Circuit website