

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2010 the Historical Society executive committee met three times via conference call, and the board of directors met at the Judicial Conference in Minneapolis. During its meeting, the board approved amended parent Bylaws and elected officers for a two year term: Dick Lyford, President; Frances Ross, Vice President; Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer; and Ann Fessenden, Secretary.

Thomas H. Boyd, Appeals branch board member and Minnesota branch president, worked with the Minnesota District Court to hold a panel discussion on baseball law at the Judicial Conference, which was complemented by a display on the history of baseball in the Eighth Circuit prepared by the U.S. Courts Library. This and a display on the Wilbur Foshay trials, made by library staff in conjunction with the Minnesota branch, were featured in an exhibit area sponsored by the Historical Society. Also featured were oral history videos of Negro League baseball players, and Judge Gerald W. Heaney, in memoriam.

The Historical Society developed a page on its web site to honor Judge Heaney, who died in June. It contains biographical information including photos and links to articles, transcripts, resolutions, and his memorial session, display, and biographical booklet.

Historical Society Chair Judge Richard Kopf sent a letter to all Eighth Circuit judges in June encouraging them to preserve their judicial papers.

## ***Court of Appeals***

With the publication last year of *Establishing Justice in Middle America: A History of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, the branch focused on distribution. Only 321 copies remain of the initial printing of 1,500. The book has been widely reviewed, well received, and cited in a number of scholarly pieces.

## ***Arkansas Eastern***

Work continued on the project to publish biographical essays of Arkansas' federal judges of the Eastern and Western Districts.

## ***Arkansas Western***

The branch worked with the Eastern District on the biographical essays project.

## ***Iowa Northern***

The branch has 21 active members and holds regular meetings. It formed committees to focus on specific areas of research and projects, and is working with the district on historical displays for the new Cedar Rapids courthouse. In conjunction with the court, the branch held a dinner event to inform members of the bar of opportunities to assist with these projects. Senior Circuit Judge David R. Hansen presented at the event.

### ***Iowa Southern***

The branch continues to assist Friends of the Iowa Judiciary with videos of former Iowa Supreme Court justices. Work also continues on updating the district's history, *No One is Above the Law*.

### ***Minnesota***

The branch completed a display on the Wilbur Foshay trials, depicting Depression era Minneapolis and including biographies of Judges Molyneaux, Nordbye, and John Sanborn. It is on exhibit in the Minneapolis courthouse lobby. The branch also collaborated on a panel discussion with Senior Judges Alsop, Magnuson, Rosenbaum, Doty, and Kyle, who shared their collective experiences on the court from 1975 to the present.

### ***Missouri Eastern***

Final edits are being completed in Judge Edward Filippine's oral history DVD, which will be on display in the Eagleton Courthouse's Learning Center. Judge Donald Stohr's interview was taped and is being transcribed. An initial interview was conducted with Judge William Webster in Washington, D.C., and his taping will be scheduled. Mr. Burton Boxerman has drafted 7 chapters of the district's history.

### ***Missouri Western***

The court hired The Design Minds of Alexandria, Virginia to create a permanent, public display in the Whittaker Courthouse in Kansas City. It will present the history of the court; its district, magistrate and bankruptcy judges; historically significant cases; and have sections on citizenship, the judicial process, and jury service. Three authors are tentatively lined up to speak to the membership. The branch has raised approximately \$9,500 in the last 12 months and efforts are underway to raise an additional \$15,000 before March 2011. It has an active balance of \$17,654.47, raised from members and firms.

### ***Nebraska***

Progress continues on the project to publish a written history of the district; the branch held several meetings with authors Mark Scherer and John Wunder. The branch authorized \$5,000 in expenses to publish and disseminate Judge Warren Urbom's memoirs regarding his decades of experience as a lawyer and a judge. Judge Urbom's manuscript has been completed and is under review by the editors of the University of Nebraska Press.

### ***North Dakota***

The branch continued its project to display the presidential oaths of office for judges in their respective courthouses: Judge Bruce Van Sickle in Minot, Judge Ronald Davies in Grand Forks, and Judge John Kelly in Fargo. It also continues to collect courtroom and chambers artifacts, most notably those of Judge Rodney Webb, who died in 2009. Judge Bright also donated several items.

### ***South Dakota***

Completing the oral histories of Senior Judges Lawrence Piersol and Charles Kornmann are priorities in the coming year. Digital recordings of Judge Jeffrey Viken and Judge Roberto Lange's investiture ceremonies were added to the district court archives.

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