

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

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2011 the Historical Society executive committee met four times via conference call. The committee voted to sponsor a reception of the American Society for Legal History (ASLH) in honor of Judge Morris S. Arnold, an Honorary Fellow and past president of ASLH, as well as author of several books on colonial Arkansas. The reception will be held in St. Louis' Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse on November 8, 2012. The committee's primary activity this year has been planning the reception.

## ***Court of Appeals***

The branch is exploring ways to collaborate with the district branches to develop biographical information on district judges who became Eighth Circuit judges. The court's history, *Establishing Justice in Middle America: A History of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, continues to be widely distributed. The branch presented a complimentary, autographed copy to retired Circuit Judge George Fagg. The branch also assisted in funding Judge Myron Bright's oral history recording.

## ***Arkansas Eastern***

A draft manuscript containing biographical essays of Arkansas' federal judges of the Eastern and Western Districts has been completed and accepted by the University of Arkansas Press. The manuscript is currently in the editing phase of publication.

## ***Arkansas Western***

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

## ***Iowa Northern***

The branch held several meetings, including a well-attended dinner event during which Judge David Hansen spoke on the Cedar Rapids Courthouse, scheduled for completion in 2012. The branch is assisting the court in developing a historical display for the new courthouse, featuring the districts' significant cases, judges, and practitioners.

## ***Iowa Southern***

Erin Lain drafted a sequel to the district's history, *No One is Above the Law*, profiling Judges Walters, Bremer, Jackwig, Hill, Stageman, Gritzner, Pratt, and Shields. Ms. Lain is editing the work, assisted by Judge Bremer and Nancy Garrett. Clerk Marge Krahn and Chief Deputy Jeff Allsteadt are going through old records and preserving those of historic value. They are looking for a display case for selected records. F. Richard Lyford edited the memorial ceremony for Judge William C. Stuart, which has been produced.

## ***Minnesota***

The branch worked with the court to identify Minnesota's significant historic cases for preservation of their files at the National Archives. The branch recorded Judge David

Doty's oral history, and is arranging to interview retired Judge James Rosenbaum. The branch's popular Wilbur Foshay Case exhibit continues in the Minneapolis Courthouse.

### ***Missouri Eastern***

Burton Boxerman completed a manuscript of the district's history and is seeking a publisher. Questions were prepared for Judge William H. Webster's oral history. The branch's history committee had previously identified the district's 17 most important cases, and this year video recordings were made and authors assigned to write summaries for two of these, *Spinelli v. U.S.* and *Hicks v. St. Mary's Honor Center*. The DVDs will be prepared for presentation in the Eagleton Courthouse's Judicial Learning Center. The remaining case summaries will likewise be recorded for display.

### ***Missouri Western***

The branch had a successful year, carrying out ideas suggested by Judge Howard Sachs. In February 2011, the branch collaborated with the Truman Library Institute to host an evening lecture and discussion with Ken Gormley, author of *The Death of American Virtue*, the definitive history of President Clinton's impeachment trial. Over 250 people attended. Work continues on a permanent historical display in the Whittaker Courthouse that will trace the history of the court, its judges, and its most discussed cases. That project, approved by Chief Judge Gaitan and the court en banc, is being led by Clerk of Court Ann Thompson.

### ***Nebraska***

The branch held several meetings with Professors Mark Scherer and John Wunder to discuss completion of the district's written history. Progress continues, and a sample shared by Professor Scherer displays scholarly work written in a plain but beautiful style. The branch authorized \$5,000 to support the publication and dissemination of Judge Warren Urbom's memoirs as a lawyer and judge, which will be a fascinating contribution to the legal history of the high plains. The book is scheduled for publication by the University of Nebraska Press in the fall of 2012.

### ***North Dakota***

The branch continues to collect various courtroom and chambers artifacts. The branch is creating a display in Judge Webb's honor for the Fargo Courthouse. Fargo's new Davies High School was dedicated on August 19, 2011 in honor of Judge Ronald N. Davies, who issued a landmark decision in the Little Rock desegregation case.

### ***South Dakota***

In an August 2011 ceremony planned by Chief Judge Karen Schreier, the U.S. Courthouse in Rapid City was named for Judge Andrew Wendell Bogue. In 2011, primary responsibility for the branch records and reports transferred from Judge Jeffrey Viken to Judge Roberto Lange, who now serves on the parent Society's board of directors. Oral histories are planned for Judges Lawrence Piersol and Charles Kornmann.

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