

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2012 the Executive Board held its biennial annual meeting during the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, which took place in Kansas City in August. Nine of the Society's eleven branches were represented at the Board meeting. At the Conference, it presented a display on the career of Judge Myron Bright, as well as Judge Bright's oral history and a biographical documentary on Judge G. Thomas Eisele. The Society sponsored the opening reception of the American Society for Legal History (ASLH) which met in St. Louis in November. The ASLH reception took place in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse and included a ceremony honoring Judge Morris S. Arnold, an Honorary Fellow and past president of ASLH.

Court of Appeals

The branch published a written history of the Eighth Circuit a few years ago, and is looking into new projects. Possibilities included updating materials on the Historical Society web site and gathering recollections of judges about past Eighth Circuit Judicial Conferences.

Arkansas Eastern

A draft manuscript containing biographical essays of Arkansas' federal judges of the Eastern and Western Districts is now in the publishing phase.

Arkansas Western

The branch participated with the Eastern District on the judicial biographical essays. It is currently in transition, awaiting the appointment of new Board members.

Iowa Northern

The branch has been working on development of a history center in the new federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids. The project is using Split Rock Studios, an award winning St. Paul firm with current projects across the nation including Denali National Park and Ford's Theatre. The history center has been designed to include significant cases, faces, and places and include an interactive display on the judges, trials, and courthouses of the Northern District of Iowa throughout history. Also, an effort is underway to increase membership from the western half of the state.

Iowa Southern

The branch is developing a sequel to the district's history, *No One is Above the Law*. The district court has conducted mock trials with historic connections. This year's cases involved children made orphans during the Civil War and a World War II P.O.W. camp. The mock trials were held for middle and high school students, with 500 participating per day during the week presented. The branch has also worked on displays on the importance of jury trials and on Iowa cases that went on to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Minnesota

The branch's oral history bicentennial project to interview the Minnesota district judges has been continued to include judges new to the bench since the project was completed in 1988. Interviews are conducted when the judge assumes the bench and again when the judge takes senior status. The branch's display on the Wilbur Foshay case is currently on exhibit in the Minneapolis courthouse lobby. The district's oral history videos have been transferred to DVD and are available for viewing. The district is undergoing a courthouse renovation project in Duluth, and the branch is involved with restoration efforts.

Missouri Eastern

During the last year, the branch has placed an oral history interview of Judge Edward L. Filippine in the Eagleton Courthouse Learning Center and has filmed an oral history interview with Judge William H. Webster. Mr. Burton Boxerman has prepared a written history of the district, which is now in the editing phase at Southeast Missouri State University Press, with publication expected in spring 2013. The branch previously compiled a list of the seventeen most significant cases decided in the district's history, and has now filmed interviews with attorneys who were involved in two of them.

Missouri Western

The branch has continued its highly successful speaker series, hosting three events in the fall and three in the spring which were attended by nearly 600 individuals. The branch has completed *Moments in Time*, a project to record oral histories of judges in the district. Work on a permanent historical permanent display in the Whittaker Courthouse is in progress.

Nebraska

The branch continues working with Professors Mark Scherer and John Wunder to complete a written history of the district. The branch also helped support publication of Judge Warren Urbom's book, *Called to Justice: The Life of a Federal Trial Judge*, which has now been published by the University of Nebraska Press.

North Dakota

The branch has been working with the U.S. Courts Library on a permanent display honoring Judge Rodney Webb for the Fargo courthouse. The branch continues to collect artifacts. Future projects may include producing essays on judges long past and a project to commemorate Bankruptcy Judge William Hill.

South Dakota

The branch had completed Judge Battey's oral history and plans to complete interviews of Judge Piersol and Judge Kornmann. Another project the branch plans to undertake is digitizing historical records in Pierre.

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as of December 31, 2012

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