

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2013, the Historical Society executive committee met four times via conference call. The committee plans to introduce a resolution at the 2014 board meeting that would give the parent society authority to annually e-file the branches' individual 990s on their behalf. Chair Judge Richard Kopf sent a letter to Eighth Circuit judges reminding them of the importance of preserving their judicial papers for historical purposes. Secretary Ann Fessenden wrote an article for the U.S. Courts Library newsletter summarizing *Judges and Their Papers* by Kathryn Watts, 88 N.Y.U. Law Review (2013), in which Watts raises the question of who should own federal judges' working papers and what should happen to the papers once a judge leaves the bench. Watts argues that judges' working papers, like presidential papers, should be treated as governmental property. At President F. Richard Lyford's suggestion, the committee considered starting history clubs in local law schools and organizing a history workshop to occur before the 2014 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Court of Appeals

The branch has been reviewing potential new projects while assisting with various programs and projects related to Eighth Circuit history. Most recently, the branch has been assisting with the memoir Judge Bright has written for publication in the near future.

Arkansas Eastern

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

Iowa Northern

The branch completed its project with Split Rock Studios to develop a history center in the new Cedar Rapids federal courthouse. The center features the district's significant cases, faces, and places and includes an interactive display on the judges, trials, and courthouses throughout its history. The center was installed, and the courthouse was dedicated.

Iowa Southern

A sequel to the district's history, "No One is Above the Law," is being written to include Judges Walters, Bremer, Jackwig, Hill, Stagemen, Gritzner, Wolle, Pratt, and Shields. The district's annual mock trial was based on a civil war case involving an Iowa war orphan. Society and branch President Lyford proposed starting history clubs in local Iowa law schools. In honor of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address and the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, Judge Walters spoke to the Polk County Bar. A former Gettysburg National Military Park Ranger, he spoke on the Emancipation Proclamation, the Battle at Gettysburg, and the Gettysburg Address. Audio of the speech is available on the Historical Society web site.

Minnesota

The branch recorded interviews of Senior District Judge Richard Kyle and Judge Arthur Boylan and supported legislation to name the Fergus Falls courthouse in honor of the late Judge Edward Devitt. There is now a permanent display on Judge Heaney in Duluth's Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building, U.S. Courthouse and Custom House. The multi-panel display was made by the U.S. Courts Library and donated to the court.

Missouri Eastern

Oral history videos of Judges William Webster and Stephen Limbaugh Sr. were completed. They will soon be installed in the Eagleton Courthouse's Judicial Learning Center, joining videos of Judges Hungate, Nangle, Filippine, and Stohr. As part of the project on the district's seventeen most significant cases, filming of the Dred Scott decision was completed in fall 2013, and filming of *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* began in December 2013. A history of the district, *And Justice for All*, is slated for publication by the Southeast Missouri State University Press in May 2014.

Missouri Western

2013 marked the opening of the district's Historical Gallery in Kansas City's Charles Evans Whittaker Courthouse. The Gallery is housed in the "Bell Room," a grand, two story open space on the second floor. It features the district's judges from statehood to present, its most significant and most notorious cases, a timeline of significant national events that occurred as the court went about its business locally, and audio-visual displays explaining topics ranging from the path to citizenship to the judicial process. The Gallery was the shared vision of a number of individuals but special mention is due to Judges Sachs, Wright, Ortrie Smith, former Chief Judge Gaitan, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Larsen, and Court Executive Ann Thompson. On June 3, 2013, the Historical Society and the Truman Library Institute co-hosted a formal reception in the Gallery at which Justice Sandra Day O'Connor spoke. The speaker series was scheduled to resume in fall 2013.

Nebraska

The branch met several times with authors Mark Scherer and John Wunder to discuss completion of the district's written history. Judge Warren Urbom's "brilliant and wonderfully written memoir" detailing his life as a lawyer and judge, was published by the University of Nebraska Press. *Called to Justice: The Life of a Federal Trial Judge*, with foreword by Chief Judge Riley, was extremely well received. The branch expended funds to distribute the book and to reimburse Judge Urbom for out-of-pocket expenses.

North Dakota

The branch coordinated a ceremony and reception dedicating a permanent display honoring the late Judge Rodney Webb in the Fargo courthouse. U.S. Courts Library staff in St. Louis and Fargo created the display. The branch continues to collect courtroom and chamber artifacts and is considering a project to commemorate retired Judge William Hill.

South Dakota

The branch has added various historical materials to its collection and is planning interviews of Judges Lawrence L. Piersol and Charles B. Kornmann.

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as of December 31, 2013

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