

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2014, the Historical Society executive committee met four times via conference call, and the board of directors held its biennial meeting at the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference in Omaha in August. During that meeting, Historical Society Chair Judge Kopf was presented by Chief Judge Riley with a certificate recognizing his many years of excellent service to the Society. President Richard Lyford received the Richard S. Arnold Award for Distinguished Service and Lifetime Achievement also during the Conference for his outstanding work in developing the legal history of Iowa, most notably his oral history projects. The board approved a resolution giving the parent Society authority to annually file the branches' individual 990s on their behalf and re-elected its officers for a two year term. The Society coordinated the display area at the conference featuring displays, DVD presentations, and handouts contributed by five branches and the U.S. Courts Library. Chief Judge Ralph Erickson replaced Judge Karen Klein on the board representing the North Dakota branch. The executive committee began preliminary planning for a history workshop at the 2016 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Court of Appeals

The branch has assisted Judge Myron Bright with the memoir he has written and intends to soon publish with the North Dakota State University's Regional Studies Press. The branch has also updated materials on its Historical Society web site page.

Arkansas Eastern

Following a review, the judicial biography essay project that has been underway was approved for submission for publication by the University of Arkansas Press.

Iowa Northern

The History Center completed last year was visited by over 500 guests the first day and continues to host school and civic groups on a regular basis. The district's web site has been updated to include current photos of the History Center and provides online access to relevant materials for persons unable to visit the Center.

Iowa Southern

The branch is working on the judicial portraits of Judges Shields, Bremer, and Walters, as well as a sequel to the district's history, *No One is Above the Law*. Judge Shields' oral history was completed, and plans are underway to interview Judge Walters and then possibly Judges Pratt, Gritzner, and Melloy. A video recording of Dan Johnston made in the courtroom where *Tinker v. Des Moines* was argued is being edited. The branch hopes to hold a mock trial in Davenport or Council Bluffs in the near future.

Minnesota

Video production was completed on District Judge Richard Kyle's senior oral history and Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan's retirement oral history. Two subcommittees were

created: one to research production of a new display in the Minneapolis courthouse lobby and another to research recognizing contributions of past branch members. The Fergus Falls courthouse was dedicated in honor of Judge Edward J. Devitt on April 22, 2014. Historical information on the Court's website was updated.

Missouri Eastern

Judge Stephen Limbaugh Sr.'s oral history video was completed. Work on recording interviews regarding the district's seventeen most significant cases continued. The Dred Scott case was completed, and *Green v. McDonnell Douglas* was researched and recording scheduled for summer 2014. The judicial oral history and significant case videos will be made available for viewing in the Learning Center of the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse. *And Justice for All: A History of the Federal District Court of Eastern Missouri*, written by Dr. Burton Boxerman, was published in fall 2014 by the Southeast Missouri State University Press.

Missouri Western

The branch teamed up with the Truman Library Institute and the Kansas City Public Library to co-sponsor a series of lectures on significant Supreme Court decisions that have impacted modern American life. Presenters from the University of Kansas spoke on *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Roe v. Wade*, and *Gibbons v. Odgen*. Scheduling is underway for the next programs.

Nebraska

The branch met several times with authors Dr. Mark Scherer and Dr. John Wunder to discuss completion of the district's written history. A good deal of work has been completed. Professor Scherer was able to engage a law student at the University of Nebraska College of Law to assist him over the summer. The target date for completion is summer 2015.

North Dakota

Chief Judge Ralph Erickson succeeded Judge Karen Klein as chair of the branch and board member for the parent Society. The branch continues to collect various courtroom and chambers artifacts.

South Dakota

The branch continues in its project to interview Judges Lawrence L. Piersol and Charles B. Kornmann.

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as of December 31, 2014

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