

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2015, the Historical Society executive committee met four times via conference call. Paula Roby joined the board as the non-judicial member representing the Northern District of Iowa, replacing Beth Hansen who had served in an acting capacity. Judge Beth Deere joined the board representing the Eastern District of Arkansas, replacing Magistrate Judge H. David Young who retired March 31, 2015.

Ann Fessenden retired as Circuit Librarian and Secretary of the Historical Society. At her retirement reception on April 15, President Lyford presented Ms. Fessenden with a vase from the Historical Society and a certificate of appreciation for her many years of service signed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee appointed Eighth Circuit Archives Librarian Joan Voelker as Secretary to succeed Ms. Fessenden, pending election at the next board meeting.

As the Eastern and Western District of Arkansas branches had no funds or bank accounts, the Executive Committee agreed to serve as agent for disbursing funds (\$12,500 from the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas and \$7,500 from the Western District of Arkansas Library Fund) to the University of Arkansas Press for publication of *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas 1836-1960*.

The Executive Committee worked on plans for a history workshop and board meeting for the 2016 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Court of Appeals

The branch has been working to collaborate with the Eighth Circuit Bar Association on programs and events. The branch published "Eighth Circuit Reading Lists" in the bar association's last two newsletters, highlighting many books and articles on the circuit's federal judges and courts. The branch hopes to be a regular contributor of such lists.

Arkansas Eastern

The book manuscript, *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas 1836-1960*, was sent to the University of Arkansas Press. Publication is slated for spring 2016.

Iowa Northern

The branch is working to conduct video interviews of all living judges in the district. These will be professionally edited with snippets available on the interactive display in the Cedar Rapids History Center. The branch is also working to update the 2002 edition of the history book, adding new judges and updating existing chapters on judges.

Iowa Southern

The judicial portraits of Judges Shields, Bremer, Walters, and Adams and the recording and editing of Judge Jackson's investiture have all been completed. Judge Walters' oral

history has been recorded and is in the editing stage, and Judge Pratt and Judge Gritzner's oral histories are planned. Joe Weeg has agreed to write a sequel to the district's history, *No One is Above the Law*, for \$5,000. The branch plans to publish the sequel as an e-book and to scan the first volume as an e-book. The branch will support and assist branch vice president Anthony Gaughan in a project to write Judge Longstaff's biography. Two of the Judge's former law clerks, Honorable Colin Witt and Tom Boyd, have agreed to help coordinate the effort.

Minnesota

The branch continues to record oral histories of new and senior judges through its "Portraits of Justice" program and to educate the public through historical courthouse displays and the court's website. The court recently sponsored several programs and exhibits celebrating contributions that Women, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Native Americans have made to the legal profession and the administration of justice. This past summer, the court observed the "Passing of the Bow Tie" to the new chief judge in a tradition that dates back more than half a century.

Missouri Eastern

Another of the district's seventeen most significant cases, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988) was filmed, and the cases *Schulp v. United States*, 513 U.S. 298 (1995) and *Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer, Co.*, 392 U.S. 409 (1968) are being prepared for filming. On May 22, 2015, Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr., conducted the oral history interview of Senior District Judge E. Richard Webber. The recordings will be included in the Judicial Learning Center located in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis.

Missouri Western

The branch plans to present a retrospective on the 1951 case involving the desegregation of the previously all-white municipal swimming pool in Swope Park. The order to desegregate is one of the district's most significant in the 20th century.

Nebraska

The branch held several meetings 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 continued to engage a University of Nebraska College of Law student to assist him, and the intern's work has been very good. A decision was made to reduce the scope to the period from the early court until the 1920s or 1930s, with the thought that a subsequent book or books will complete the history.

North Dakota

The branch continues to collect various courtroom and chambers artifacts.

South Dakota

Material from Magistrate Judge Daneta Wollmann's investiture was added to the district's historical records collection. The branch is working to interview the district's two senior judges, Judge Lawrence L. Piersol and Judge Charles B. Kornmann.

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as of December 31, 2015

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