

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2016, the Historical Society executive committee met quarterly via conference call, and the board of directors held its biennial meeting at the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference in Rogers, Arkansas. The Society welcomed two new board members: Judge Jane Kelly for the Court of Appeals branch, and Judge C.J. Williams for the Northern District of Iowa. During its meeting, the board reelected President F. Richard Lyford, Vice President Frances Ross, and Treasurer Sheila Greenbaum, and elected Joan Voelker as secretary.

Following the brief board meeting, the Society held a history workshop, open to all conference attendees. President Lyford (IASD) moderated a panel of 10 speakers on 5 topics: Historical Society Chair Judge Kopf (DNE) and President Lyford on fund raising and judiciary ethics related to the Historical Society; Judge Webber (MOED), Judge Limbaugh, Jr. (MOED), and Paul Donnelly (MOWD) on courthouse exhibits; Judge Bremer (IASD) and Rachel Marshall (Appeals, MOED) on educational events and programs; Judge Morris Arnold (Appeals, ARED), Thomas Boyd (Appeals, MN), and Mike Bieker (University of Arkansas Press) on court history and biography; and President Lyford on oral history. The workshop materials and audio were placed on the Society's website, along with a section created to host materials supporting oral history projects.

The executive committee is working to obtain oral histories of the circuit judges who will have reached age 70 by 2021. Interviews were conducted of Judges Hansen and Murphy, and are planned for Judges Wollman, Bye, Bowman, Melloy, Loken, and Riley.

Court of Appeals

The branch carried out the oral history interview of Judge Diana Murphy, which is in the editing stage, and is working on interviews of Judges Wollman and Bye. The branch regularly contributed articles on court history to the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter: Eighth Circuit Reading List Part II, Eighth Circuit Historical Society Board Meeting and Workshop, Fiftieth Anniversary of Judge Lay's Appointment to the Eighth Circuit, and 125th Anniversary of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Arkansas Eastern and Western

United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960, the history of the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas was published in May 2016, by the University of Arkansas Press. This project of the Arkansas branches came to fruition after decades of work, thanks to the efforts of Frances Ross of the Eastern District branch.

Iowa Northern

Judge McManus and Judge Bennett's interviews have been recorded and professionally edited, and Judge Hansen's recorded interview, conducted by Judge Collins, is in the editing phase. Work on updating the 2002 history continues. Updated sections on judges and court units have been received, and members are working on the next steps of the publishing process. Judge Williams and branch librarian Hilary Naab edited Judge O'Brien's oral history book and are waiting for the family to grant publishing permission.

Iowa Southern

Judge Walters' oral history and Judge Fagg's memorial session, which included video excerpts from his oral history, have been edited and completed. Judge Pratt and Judge Gritzner's oral histories are planned. Society and branch President Lyford also coordinated the oral history of Judge Hansen. Joe Weeg will write a sequel to the district's history, and branch Vice President Anthony Gaughan is working on Judge Longstaff's biography, assisted by Iowa State District Judge Colin Witt and Thomas Boyd.

Minnesota

As a continuation of the branch's "Portraits for Justice" project, Judge Nelson's interview was completed. Judge Alsop's speech to the Minnesota Federal Bar Association was video recorded, and an exhibit on Judge Heaney was hung in the Duluth Courthouse. The branch is exploring options for updating the court's written history and is working on a magistrate judge succession chart and a list of the district's U.S. Commissioners.

Missouri Eastern

Judge Webber's oral history interview, conducted by Judge Limbaugh, Jr., was recorded and is in the editing phase. The branch is working to film the next two of the district's seventeen most significant cases, *Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co.* 392 U.S. 409 (1968) and *Lloyd E. Schlup v. Paul K. Delo*, 513 U.S. 298 (1995).

Missouri Western

The branch sponsored or co-sponsored four successful programs. One was a panel discussion on the order to desegregate Kansas City's public swimming pools, issued in 1952 by Judge Albert Ridge, whose law clerk at the time was Judge Sachs. Three programs featured authors on their books: Dr. Craig Alan Smith on "Failing Justice," about Justice Whittaker; James Muehlberger on "The 116," about the journey of the 116 Kansas and Missouri soldiers and lawyers who travelled to Washington, DC, to protect newly-elected President Lincoln until sufficient federal troops could arrive to take over the job; and James W. Endersby and William T. Horner on "Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation."

Nebraska

The branch met several times with Professors Mark Scherer and John Wunder to discuss completion of the district's history, covering the early court until the 1920s or 1930s. A good deal has been written, and completion is anticipated in the relative near future.

North Dakota

The branch sponsored a lecture by Judge Bright on his autobiography, *Goodbye Mike, Hello Judge: My Journey for Justice*, and continues to collect court artifacts.

South Dakota

The branch is looking into displaying judges who have served the district and continues to contact prospective interviewers for Judges Piersol and Kornmann's oral histories.

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as of December 31, 2016

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