

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **F. Richard Lyford**

In 2017, the Historical Society executive committee met five times via conference call. The Society welcomed two new board members: Kevin H. Collins for the Northern District of Iowa branch and Lawrence A. Rouse for the Western District of Missouri. The committee continued working with the Court of Appeals branch on its oral history project and began planning for the Society's board meeting and displays at the 2018 Judicial Conference in Des Moines.

Court of Appeals

The branch collaborated with the executive committee on its oral history project to obtain interviews of the circuit judges who will have reached age 70 by 2021. Judges Riley and Wollman were interviewed in June, and these, as well as the interviews conducted in 2016 of Judges Hansen and Murphy, were finished and distributed. The next targeted interviews are those of Judges Melloy and Loken. The branch also continued to contribute to the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter.

Arkansas Eastern

Frances Ross, Historical Society Vice President and Branch President, gave a presentation to the Arkansas Judicial Council on the branch's recently published *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960*.

Iowa Northern

Donald E. O'Brien Federal Judge, was edited by Judge Williams, Judge O'Brien's former judicial assistant Jamie Gollhofer, and Cedar Rapids branch librarian Hilary Naab, and published in November 2017. Oral histories of Judges Bennett, McManus, and Hansen have been completed. The branch is reviewing future projects that include updating the Cedar Rapids Courthouse History Center, adding a mobile history display in the Sioux City Courthouse, and improving the branch's web page.

Iowa Southern

Joe Weeg completed sections on Judges Wolle and Gritzner for the sequel to the district's published history. Coordinated by President Lyford, oral histories of Judges Hansen and Wolle have been completed and distributed. The interviews of Judges Gritzner, Pratt, and Melloy are being planned. Judge Longstaff's oral history was added to the Historical Society website, and his biography is being coordinated by President Lyford and Branch Vice President Anthony Gaughan and assisted by the Judge's former clerks, Iowa Judge Colin Witt and Tom Boyd.

Minnesota

The branch collaborated with the Appeals branch to carry out Judge Murphy's oral history, a valuable supplement to her District Judge interview with the "Portraits of Justice" series. Exhibits have been on hold while the Minneapolis Courthouse lobby is being renovated.

A succession chart of magistrate judges and a list of U.S. Commissioners were compiled. The court engaged two authors to write full-length histories of the court. Paul Nelson will write about the judges and cases, and Steve Flanders will write a more pictorial book focusing on places the court has sat and other images.

Missouri Eastern

Judge Jackson's oral history interview, conducted by Judge Limbaugh, Jr., was recorded and will be displayed in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse Learning Center. The branch is working to film the next two of the district's 17 most significant cases, *Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co.* and *Schlup v. Delo*. The Street Law Teacher Institute presented a mock trial of *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, sponsored by the Learning Center Board and others. The Institute also presented programs on Alexander Hamilton at the St. Louis and Cape Girardeau courthouses. Public Education and Community Outreach Administrator Rachel Marshall reported that in 2017 197 groups, or 6,312 individuals, participated in tours and programs.

Missouri Western

The branch sponsored four successful programs. Two discussed books: *Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation*, led by authors James Endersby and William Horner, and a recent book on Civil War officer and lighthouse architect General Godfrey Weitzel, written by Kansas City architect and attorney G. William Quatman. A third program, co-sponsored by the branch and the Truman Library Institute, featured best-selling author and national Supreme Court commentator Jeffrey Rosen on the topic of President Trump's potential Supreme Court nominees and their likely impact. In a fourth program, University of Missouri - Kansas City Law Professor Douglas O. Linder spoke on notable trials in U.S. history.

Nebraska

The manuscript of the district's history from inception to 1933 is complete. *Echo of Its Time*, researched and written by Professors John R. Wunder and Mark R. Scherer, is undergoing peer review. Next steps are copy editing and submission to the University of Nebraska Press editorial board for final approval. Publication is expected late 2018. The Federal Practice Fund contributed \$10,000 for publication and writing costs. The next project will likely be a second volume covering 1933 to more modern times.

North Dakota

The branch collected court artifacts and cataloged historical documents and artifacts for transfer to the U.S. Courts Library's St. Louis headquarters.

South Dakota

Portraits were made and hung of Judges Piersol and Kornmann, the latter with ceremony. Materials related to the ceremony and Judge Battey's memorial service were added to the district's historical records. Efforts to engage interviewers for Judges Piersol and Kornmann's oral histories continue. The branch intends to update the court history published in the 1990s and has surveyed the district's courthouse walls for space to hang portraits of its judges. The branch has no funds.

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as of December 31, 2017

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