

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
February 21, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

F. Richard Lyford, President
Frances Ross, Vice-President
Joan Voelker, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer
Tom Boyd, Past-President
Eric Brust, Circuit Librarian
Kristin Leininger, Judicial Assistant to Judge Richard G. Kopf, Chair

Roll call was taken. Chair Judge Kopf was unable to attend as he was presiding over a trial, so his Judicial Assistant Kristin Leininger took part.

The minutes of the Executive Committee's December 6, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,983.31 and the Appeals account at \$14,404.92. She noted the Appeals account was still unusually high, reflecting the infusion of funds from the circuit attorney admission fee fund to support the oral history project.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker said that she had submitted the annual update on the list of subordinate branches to the IRS, drafted the parent annual report, and updated the Historical Society website with Judge Diana Murphy's portrait ceremony and Judge Miles Lord's biography written by former law clerk Roberta Walburn. She reported that Judge Ralph Erickson, recently elevated to the Court of Appeals, told Judge Kopf that he would continue to represent the North Dakota branch on the Board of Directors, and thanked Judge Kopf for calling Judge Erickson to inquire about this.

Circuit oral histories

The topic then turned to the project to carry out oral history interviews of the Eighth Circuit's court of appeals judges who have taken senior status or will reach the age of 70 by 2021.

Status Updates

Judge Michael J. Melloy – Senior Status

Mr. Lyford said that there was no change in status, as Judge Melloy had left the country before arrangements could be made for an interview.

Judge James B. Loken – Age over 70

Mr. Boyd said that Judge Loken sounded open to an interview when they discussed it in the fall. He said that he had very recently called to follow up and was waiting to hear back from the Judge.

2018 Judicial Conference in Des Moines

a) Board meeting on agenda for Thurs., Aug. 16, 4:15-5:15

Mr. Lyford reported that he and Ms. Voelker had arranged with the Circuit Executive's Office to get the board meeting on the conference agenda for Thursday, August 16 from 4:15 to 5:15.

When asked, Ms. Voelker said that the Circuit Executive's "save the date" message for the conference would likely come in the form of an article published in the spring issue of the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter. She wasn't sure if an email would be sent out. She also said that she had been told that conference registration would open in early April.

b) Election of new officers for 2 year term

The discussion turned to the need to elect the parent Society officers for the 2018-2020 term. It was mentioned that the notice of elections and call for nominations should be posted on the website. While all current officers indicated they would be willing to accept nomination to serve again, it was discussed that after many years of service, the president, vice president, and treasurer will need to be replaced at some point. Treasurer Greenbaum indicated that she could commit to serve until December 2018, with the understanding that a new treasurer would be sought, but would need to pull back after that time. Mr. Lyford asked Ms. Leininger to let Judge Kopf know that he would be calling him to discuss this matter.

c) Table to display recent publications

Mr. Lyford said that he had sent a letter to the presses in the circuit asking if they would be interested in promoting any of their recent publications related to court history at the 2018 Judicial Conference, but had not gotten much response. He said that Mike Bieker of the University of Arkansas Press expressed an interest in displaying some of their publications and that Roberta Walburn, author of *Miles Lord: The Maverick Judge Who Brought Corporate America to Justice*, is checking to see if she could attend to sign books. Mr. Lyford noted that for any who could not attend the conference, the Society could make flyers available. He said that the Northern District of Iowa planned to display the recently published autobiography, *Donald E. O'Brien Federal Judge*.

The committee discussed what other books might be candidates. Mr. Boyd noted that Judge David Stras, recently confirmed to the Court of Appeals, is interested in history and has published an article on Pierce Butler. Ms. Voelker mentioned Jill Norgren's book based on oral history interviews conducted as part of the ABA's Women Trailblazers Project. She said that Judge Murphy had been interviewed, but since her interview may have only recently been opened to the public, she didn't know if it was included in the content. She said that she would

try to find out. [*Stories from Trailblazing Women Lawyers: Lives in the Law is slated for publication May 22, 2018 by NYU Press.*]

Mr. Lyford asked Ms. Voelker to share with Mr. Boyd the list of presses in the circuit and associated recent historical publications. Mr. Boyd's serial bibliography of historical articles and books on the federal courts and judges in the Eighth Circuit was also mentioned.

Other Items

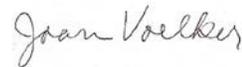
Mr. Boyd asked if Judge Kopf's remembrance of Nebraska's Judge Robert Van Pelt had been published in anyway. [*During the December 6, 2017 Executive Committee meeting, Judge Kopf commented that he had recently married Judge Van Pelt's grandson in the courtroom where his grandfather once presided. Judge Kopf wrote up a remembrance of the Judge, who had presided when he was sworn in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge.*] Ms. Voelker said that Judge Kopf had asked her to post in on the Historical Society website, but checking there, found the link needed to be fixed. She said she would take care of that and send out the link. Mr. Boyd expressed interest in seeing whether Judge Kopf would be willing to have the remembrance published in the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter and said he would send a sample issue to chambers for his consideration.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.**

There being no other business, the conference call meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary