

**MINUTES**  
**Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
September 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

**Participants:**

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chair  
F. Richard Lyford, President  
Frances Ross, Vice-President  
Nick Batter, Assistant Vice President  
Joan Voelker, Secretary  
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer  
Tom Boyd, Past-President  
Eric Brust, Circuit Librarian

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's May 23, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,992.00 and the Appeals account as \$14,404.92.

Ms. Greenbaum pointed out that the balance of the Appeals account was the same and that most of that branch's money was earmarked for the circuit oral history project.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that the Historical Society's records had been updated to reflect that Nick Batter was the new assistant vice president. She said that the judicial displays on exhibit at the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, "Circuit Judges from Iowa" and "U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Eisele," had been added to the Historical Society website. Ms. Voelker also said that several books that had been donated to the Historical Society for display at the Judicial Conference had in turn been donated to the U.S. Courts Library.

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 (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) – Senior Status*

Mr. Lyford said that Judge Melloy had again agreed to be interviewed by Judge Ebinger.

*Judge James B. Loken (Minneapolis, Minnesota) – Age over 70*

Mr. Boyd said that Judge Loken also agreed to be interviewed and that Judge David Hansen will interview him.

#### *Next Target Interviews*

##### *Judge Duane Benton (Kansas City, Missouri) – Turns 70 in 2020*

It was mentioned that Judge Benton was known to be close to his law clerks, so it was suggested that the Historical Society ask Judge Benton to recommend an interviewer for his oral history.

##### *Judge Bobby Shepherd (El Dorado, Arkansas) – Turns 70 in 2021*

Frances Ross suggested asking Judge Morris Arnold his advice as to who might undertake Judge Shepherd's oral history interview. Mr. Lyford said that he would contact Judge Arnold.

#### Recap/Discussion of 2018 Judicial Conference in Des Moines

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

It was noted that the board meeting went well.

b) Treasurer for parent Society & COA branch

Mr. Boyd reported on his efforts to fill the position of treasurer. He said that he would follow up with a prospective candidate, and that if that person declined candidacy, he would find another.

c) Accountant to assist treasurer

Mr. Boyd also said that he was exploring engaging an accountant for the Historical Society. President Lyford noted that the topic of accountant should be put on the agenda for the December Executive Committee meeting.

#### Other Items

##### *Branch Regulations*

As the Western District of Missouri recently revised their branch regulations to reflect their current operation, with the assistance of Chair Judge Kopf, Mr. Lyford suggested that the Executive Committee, through Mr. Batter, could contact the other branches to see if they would like to revise their regulations. Judge Kopf suggested that Mr. Batter, with the assistance of Secretary Voelker, prepare a letter. Mr. Batter said he would be happy to help and would contact Ms. Voelker, and Judge Kopf offered to help review the regulations.

##### *Judge Longstaff's Biography*

Mr. Boyd said that *Drake Law Review* had just published a biographical article on Judge Ronald Longstaff. He commented that the article is fabulous and read the tribute paid by Anthony Goughgan, Professor of Law at Drake University Law School, to Mr. Lyford, who serves as president of both the parent Historical Society and its Southern Iowa branch:

*This judicial biography was made possible in no small part by the tireless efforts of Richard Lyford, the president of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. For more than a decade, Dick has interviewed or arranged interviews of Iowa judges and lawyers. Those interviews, and the transcripts of those interviews made by Cheryl Tillinghast and David Launspach, created a historical record without which this biography would not have been written.*

*Portrait of Justice Samuel Freeman Miller*

Mr. Lyford turned the topic from himself to a portrait of Justice Samuel Miller. He said that the Nebraska Historical Society is restoring a portrait of Justice Miller that will be transported to the District of Nebraska. He said that a high quality photo has been made of the portrait, rather than a digital scan, and that the image is being given to Iowa. Judge Kopf said that it might be possible to get funds from the Federal Practice Committee to buy copies of the digital image.

Mr. Lyford noted that Justice Miller, appointed by Lincoln in the morning and confirmed by noon, was from Keokuk, Iowa. Mr. Boyd said that there is a home of Justice Miller with his portrait and suggested getting a high resolution image of that portrait also.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.**

At the close of the meeting, Judge Kopf echoed the comments made in *Drake Law Review* about President Lyford, saying that he has done immeasurable good for the Eighth Circuit Historical Society in his tenure as an officer, and all readily agreed.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary