

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
March 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chair
Frances Ross, Vice-President
Joan Voelker, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer
Tom Boyd, Past-President
Eric Brust, Circuit Librarian
Benjamin Wilson, Prospective Treasurer

Roll call was taken. President F. Richard Lyford and Assistant Vice President Nick Batter were unable to attend. In President Lyford's absence, Chair Judge Kopf conducted the meeting.

The minutes of the Executive Committee's December 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,999.42 and the Appeals account as \$14,404.92.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that the Historical Society's [website](#) had been updated with a current Court of Appeals succession chart; the display made in January by the U.S. Courts Library, *Remembering Judge McMillian at 100*; and an announcement of the recently published history of the U.S. District Court of Nebraska.

Transition of Treasurer for Parent Society & COA Branch

In the interim between the December 2018 and March 2019 meetings, the Executive Committee had found a prospective treasurer to assume the position being vacated by Sheila Greenbaum. St. Louis attorney Benjamin Wilson, a former federal law clerk and current editor of the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter, agreed to serve as treasurer of the parent Society and the Court of Appeals branch.

Chair Judge Kopf noted during this meeting that the Bylaws of the Society require approval by the Board of Directors for the appointment of a new officer when an officer desires to step down during her term. He said that he would draft language to be circulated by the secretary to the Board.

The Committee found that Ms. Greenbaum was willing to stay on until such time as Mr. Wilson was oriented to the duties of treasurer and that Mr. Wilson was likewise willing to assume the

position at any time appropriate. As such, it was determined that the transfer of the position would take place after approval by the Board and on a date agreed upon by the outgoing and incoming treasurers.

Accountant to Assist Treasurer

The Committee then discussed the possibility of engaging an accountant to assist the treasurer in the filing of taxes for the parent Society and the individual branches. Judge Kopf noted that the Bylaws also require the Board to approve assistants to the treasurer and offered to also draft language regarding this to be circulated to the Board for their consideration and vote.

[A memo from Chair Judge Kopf regarding the position of treasurer and an accountant to assist the treasurer was subsequently emailed by the secretary to the Board of Directors, with a cc to the Executive Committee, on March 25, 2019.]

Position of Chair

As mentioned during the last Executive Committee meeting, Judge Kopf said that the Committee would need to find someone to assume his position as chair of the Historical Society, if the Committee felt it needed such a position. In response, it was stated that it was important to have an Eighth Circuit federal judge as chair. After a few names were mentioned, it was determined that Mr. Boyd would reach out to one of the judges named to see if that judge was willing to assume the position. If the judge was willing to chair, the next steps would be for Judge Kopf to talk to the judge and for the prospective chair to be included in future Executive Committee meetings. If the position was declined, it was hoped that the judge would be able to recommend a candidate.

Branch Regulations

In Assistant Vice President Nick Batter's absence, it was noted that he had drafted letters to the branches and would send them to Judge Kopf for review.

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

In Mr. Lyford's absence, it was noted that Judge Melloy's interview had been slated for summer 2019.

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

Mr. Boyd said that he had spoken to Judge Loken the day before to see if plans had been firmed up for his interview to be conducted by Judge David Hansen and learned that a date to interview was still pending.

Next Target Interviews

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

In Mr. Lyford's absence, it was mentioned that Judge Benton's interview was planned for summer 2019.

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

Frances Ross said that Judge Morris Arnold had recommended Judge Hickey in El Dorado as the interviewer for Judge Shepherd's interview and that Judge Hickey had agreed to do it.

Other Items

Justice Miller Portrait

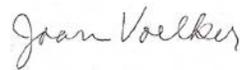
The Committee discussed reproducing the portrait of Justice Samuel Freeman Miller hanging in Omaha's federal courthouse [unveiled November 30, 2018] for the Miller House Museum, should they be interested in a copy. The reproduction would be in the form of a photo of the original portrait. Judge Kopf said that he would work with Mr. Batter on this project.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary