

## MINUTES

Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit

Executive Committee Conference Call

April 7, 2004

12:15 - 12:35 p.m.

### **Officers present:**

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, President  
Frances Ross, Vice President  
Ann Fessenden, Secretary-Treasurer

### **Others present:**

Hon. Richard W. Peterson, Past-President  
Tom Boyd, Past-President  
Joan Stevens, Library Staff

Historical Society President Judge Kopf initiated the conference call at 12:15 p.m. He announced those present and asked Secretary-Treasurer Ann Fessenden to begin with the first item on the agenda.

### State and Federal Court Historical Societies Annual Meeting

Ann Fessenden announced that the 2004 State and Federal Court Historical Societies annual meeting would be held in St. Louis, September 30 - October 2.

She and Joan Stevens, members of the planning group for local arrangements and program, reported on the group's plans. On Thursday evening, September 30, the Eighth Circuit Historical Society is planning to host a reception in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse. On Friday, the State and Federal Court Historical Societies will host a program as part of the American Association of State and Local History annual meeting. The program will be a panel of people who have worked on large-scale exhibits about famous court cases. Judge Edward L. Filippine, Eastern District of Missouri, will speak at the luncheon on Friday. On Saturday, October 2, the Eighth Circuit Historical Society will host a tour and a day of programs in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse. One program will be on the future of the State and Federal Court Historical Societies—its role, its name, and the possibility of some more visible structure or presence that would allow others to participate in meetings or get involved. A second program will be an open forum for sharing problem issues in court historical programs and getting feedback from others who may have already worked on those issues. A third program will be the role court librarians can play in assisting or even initiating court history programs.

Ms. Fessenden conveyed that funding would be needed for the meeting, as the State and Federal Court Historical Societies is not a formal organization and therefore, without funds. Money would be needed for food and the costs such as security and heating/cooling that would be incurred for keeping the Eagleton Courthouse open after hours. Tom Boyd reported that he was seeking support from the Armstrong Teasdale law firm in St. Louis, since Ann Buckley, a director for the Eastern District of Missouri branch, is an attorney there. Judge Kopf asked about the state of the Historical Societies' funds, and Ms. Fessenden reported that the parent Society had approximately \$2,700 total in savings and checking and the Court of Appeals branch had approximately \$1,800 total in savings and checking. She pointed out that the treasury didn't have money coming in but also very little going out. Judge Kopf moved that the Eighth Circuit Historical Society contribute \$500 to the costs associated with keeping the Eagleton Courthouse open, and Judge Peterson seconded the motion. The executive committee approved the motion.

Per Judge Kopf's request, Ms. Fessenden or Ms. Stevens will send the executive committee registration information for the meeting when it's available.

#### Attorney Admission Fee Funding Implementation

In July, 2003, the Historical Society passed a resolution encouraging each court to annually contribute from its attorney admission fee fund, library fund, or federal practice fund such sum as may be deemed appropriate by the court to support the historical preservation efforts of the local branch. In an effort to implement this resolution, Judge Kopf will bring the issue up to the judges at the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference in July. Judge Kopf added that to date, there have been no affirmative responses.

#### Annual Reminders

Ms. Fessenden reported it was time for the Society's annual reminder to the judges of the need to preserve and donate their chambers papers. Judge Kopf offered to email all the judges in the Circuit on this issue.

Ms. Fessenden reported that she and Ms. Stevens would notify the branches that their annual reports would be due to the parent Society by June 30.

#### Meetings

Judge Kopf announced that the next board of directors meeting would likely be held in conjunction with the Judicial Conference in October, 2005, in Boulder, Colorado.

Judge Kopf then scheduled the next two executive committee meetings for Monday, August 2 and Monday, November 8, both at 12:15. The August 2<sup>nd</sup> call will allow the Judge to report on the July Circuit Judicial Conference and Ms. Fessenden to report on the plans for the State and Federal Court Historical Societies meeting coming up in September. The November 8<sup>th</sup> call will fall 11 months before the Judicial Conference in October, 2005, so the executive committee can

then reevaluate whether a board meeting is needed before the Conference. Judge Kopf said that he would coordinate the executive committee calls.

#### FJTN Program: *Oral History in the Federal Courts*

Ms. Fessenden reported that the FJC will be airing a 30-minute FJTN program, *Oral History in the Federal Courts*, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Judge Kopf said he would have his systems people tape the program and send copies to the executive committee. Ms. Fessenden noted that the library will also tape the program. She said if the program was good, she would recommend the program to the judges.

#### Court history update

Judge Kopf inquired as to the status of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit history. Mr. Boyd replied that he has been in contact with the University of Missouri Press.

#### Conclusion

As there were no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. Judge Kopf requested that Ms. Stevens email the minutes to the executive committee.