

**MINUTES**  
**Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
October 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

**Participants:**

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chairman of the Board  
F. Richard Lyford, President  
Frances Ross, Vice-President  
Ann Fessenden, Secretary  
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer  
Thomas H. Boyd, Past-President

Judge Morris S. Arnold also participated in a portion of the call as a guest. Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian, was unable to participate.

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's July 2, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,086.97 and the balance of the appeals branch account as \$577.93. She noted that the appeals amount excludes a \$50 membership check that has been deposited but is not yet reflected on bank statements. She also noted that this year's 990 e-filing had been completed and the receipts posted on the web page by Archives Librarian Joan Voelker. She expressed thanks to Ms. Voelker for her help with the 990 process and noted that everything has gone very smoothly this year.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Fessenden reported that a welcome letter was sent to new Board member Judge Ralph Erickson who has replaced Judge Karen Klein for the North Dakota Branch. She also noted that four individuals had signed the sheet at the Judicial Conference to express interest in the Historical Society and that they have been contacted. Finally, she mentioned a number of updates that have been made to the web page, including posting of the e-filing receipts, the 2014 branch reports, Judge Morris Arnold's Criminal Justice Act video, Tom Boyd's updates to the Court of Appeals history, and updates to the Court of Appeals succession chart. Judge Kopf expressed his thanks to Ms. Fessenden, Ms. Voelker, and Ms. Greenbaum for their work on behalf of the Society and noted that he finds the website to be very helpful and easy to use.

Workshop at 2016 Judicial Conference

President Lyford reported that he had not yet taken any additional action regarding this proposed program and asked if further action was needed at this time in order to help insure that it is included in the 2016 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference agenda. Ms. Fessenden responded that she has notified the Circuit Executive of the Historical Society's interest in presenting such a program and that the Circuit Executive had passed on this request to those planning the program. She promised to check on who is chairing the Program Committee and to try to determine whether any further action is appropriate at this time. *[Note: After the call, Ms. Fessenden determined that the Program Chair is Judge Lavenski Smith.]*

### Parent Society's Role in Publication of Eastern Arkansas History

*[Note: This item had been moved to near the end of the call as Judge Morris Arnold had not yet been able to join the call as planned. However he did join just before the call adjourned. Therefore, the following summarizes the discussion which took place both before and after he joined.]*

Vice President Ross reported that she is now serving as editor for the Eastern District of Arkansas history project, answering questions posed by the publisher, reviewing the manuscript and revising as needed to meet grammatical and stylistic requirements. She does not yet have a date for completion of this work.

Secretary Fessenden noted that she has had several conversations with Judge Arnold, who has requested on behalf of the Eastern Arkansas Branch that the Parent Society execute a contract with the publisher and handle the payment, as the Branch has neither formal officers nor a bank account. In order to authorize this action, Judge Kopf moved the following:

That the President be authorized to execute a contract as agent for the Eastern District of Arkansas Branch with the University of Arkansas Press to publish a written history of the District, and that the Parent Society accept as agent for the Eastern District of Arkansas Branch, such contributions as are necessary to fund the contract, and that the Treasurer be authorized to issue payment to the Press in sums called for under the contract when notified by the Branch that payment is appropriate.

After discussion, this motion was approved.

### Other items

Tom Boyd reported that he had read Judge Urbom's book, *Called to Justice*. He noted that Judge Urbom mentions an interview he had with Professor Morris when Morris was writing his Eighth Circuit history. Prof. Morris asked him what he thought makes a first-rate trial judge. Judge Urbom had reflected since on his answer and discusses it in the book. Mr. Boyd felt this was an excellent question for any judicial biography.

Ann Fessenden reported that the Eastern District of Missouri history has now been published. Judge Kopf asked if it would be possible to add the cover and table of contents as well as purchase information to the Historical Society web page for this book as well as Judge Urbom's. Ms. Fessenden reported that her staff would pursue that.

### Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary