

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
April 5, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chair
F. Richard Lyford, President
Frances Ross, Vice-President
Joan Voelker, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer

Roll call was taken. Tom Boyd and Eric Brust were unable to attend.

The minutes of the Executive Committee's January 11, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported that a check in the amount of \$15,750 from the circuit Attorney Admission Fee Fund had been deposited into the appeals account for the circuit oral history project. That took the account from \$627.93 to \$16,377.93. She also reported that the parent account has a balance of \$10,000.77.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker said that she submitted to the Circuit Executive's Office the parent annual report for inclusion in the Eighth Circuit Annual Report.

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 David R. Hansen - Retired

Mr. Lyford reported that Judge David Hansen's oral history, conducted on August 31, 2016, by Judge Thad Collins, was complete. The discs and signed release agreements have been distributed.

Judge Michael J. Melloy – Senior Status

Mr. Lyford said that his next project will be the oral history interview of Judge Melloy.

Judge Roger L. Wollman – Age over 80

Mr. Lyford reported that Judge Hansen will conduct the interview of Judge Wollman, scheduled for this summer in St. Paul.

Judge Diana E. Murphy – Age over 80

Mr. Boyd was unable to make the call, but it was noted that Judge Murphy had been interviewed in December.

Judge James B. Loken – Age over 70

As Mr. Boyd was unable to make the call, there was no status update at this time.

Judge Kermit E. Bye - Retired

Ms. Voelker reported for Mr. Brust that he continues to work with Judge Bye but that there is no additional news at this time.

Judge Pasco M. Bowman – Senior Status

Ms. Voelker reported for Mr. Brust that the Court had approached Judge Bowman and that he has declined at this time.

Judge William Jay Riley – 70 in 2017

Chair Judge Kopf reported that he will conduct Judge Riley's interview in June, adding that he and Judge Riley had gone to law school together. Judge Kopf said that he had requested that court staff record the interview and that a court reporter be present to provide a transcript. He said that the only cost will be the transcription and that the District of Nebraska has agreed to cover that cost.

Release Agreements

The committee then discussed release agreements. A question pending from the January 11 meeting was whether to include language that allows publishing the interviews on the Internet, given that the FJC form includes such mention. It was agreed to exclude that language since the release puts the oral history in the public domain, and thus not restricted in any way.

Other Items

Southern District of Iowa

Mr. Lyford said that he is currently working on the oral history of U.S. Congressman Neal Smith. He said that Drake Law School is doing the interview.

Mr. Lyford also said that he requested that Judge Longstaff's oral history interview be added to the Historical Society website so that a forthcoming article on Judge Longstaff could link to it.

Ms. Voelker reported that the video had just been converted to MP4 format for streaming and should be available on the website soon. [The interview may be seen here:

<http://www.lb8.uscourts.gov/pubsandservices/histsociety/longstaff-interview-2007.html>.]

Arkansas

In response to Mr. Lyford's inquiry, Ms. Ross reported that approximately 280 copies of the Arkansas history have been sold to date.

Nebraska

Judge Kopf announced that the history of the District of Nebraska up to 1933 will be published in May. He said that the University of Nebraska Press has agreed to publish the book in hard bound format. The two authors are professors of history with the University of Nebraska. One is a professor emeritus.

Judge Kopf also mentioned that the University of Nebraska Law School had recently named a courtroom in its new clinic addition for the late U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Donald R. Ross. He said that the University decorated the courtroom walls with architectural photos of Eighth Circuit federal courthouses, some of which they got from Archives Librarian Joan Voelker.

He also reported that he was arranging for the framed commission of Nebraska's late U.S. District Judge Robert V. Denney to be hung in the Lincoln Federal Building, which is named for Denney.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary