

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

DISTRICT COURT OF MINNESOTA BRANCH

Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2016

The District of Minnesota Branch has continued its longstanding “Portraits of Justice” project to preserve the Court’s history through videotaped oral histories of its judges. Production was completed on the taped interview with Judge Susan Richard Nelson. The committee also arranged to video tape Judge Donald D. Alsop’s speech to the Minnesota Federal Bar Association in November, 2015.

An exhibit consisting of several panels on the life of Judge Gerald W. Heaney was hung in the courthouse in Duluth. The display is highly visible as visitors walk out off of the elevator on the fourth floor. Lobby exhibits have been put on hold while the Minneapolis courthouse lobby is being renovated.

The committee is interested in updating its written history of the court. The committee is exploring options such as updating its existing pamphlet and undertaking a full length book.

The committee also worked to improve the historical accuracy of the Court’s public website. A succession chart for the magistrate judges is nearly complete. Research has begun on a list of United States Commissioners from Minnesota.

Finally, the committee expresses its great appreciation to the District's bench who have supported the programs described above, as well as a number of other important public programs that the Court has sponsored under the leadership of the Honorable Michael J. Davis while he was serving as chief judge, including the following events and displays: Dred and Harriet Scott - Legacy of Courage and Freedom; Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich; Freedom Riders: Tour of the National Traveling Exhibit and Reception; In Her Honor: Celebrating Minnesota Women in the Law Exhibit; The Asian Pacific Legal Experience in America: Opportunity, Economics, Racism and Hope; Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP; the Native American Treaty Rights Project: Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government of the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations; and the Hispanic Legal Experience in Minnesota.