

TASK FORCE ON THE HISTORY OF OHIO COURTS

March 3, 2016
Supreme Court of Ohio

Members: Richard Aynes (Chair); James Cissell; Ellen Connally; Barbara Powers; Theodore Prasse; Nancy Recchie; Thomas Schuck; Fred Vierow; William Weisenberg (Absent)

Others present: Erin Waltz (Supreme Court Staff Liaison); Alan Ohman (Supreme Court); Mindi Wells (Supreme Court)

- 1) Chair Aynes called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
- 2) Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.
- 3) Discussion of Purpose & Task Force Mission: Ms. Waltz discussed the charge of the task force and the anticipated time frame of one year to complete a report. The task force can make a number of recommendations including, but not limited to, the creation of a historical commission; best practices for preserving history, records and other materials; and organizational goals.
- 4) Prior Committees Work Product: The task force discussed the work of a prior group to create a court historical society. The final report, meeting minutes and other work product from this group will be sent to task force members. Messrs. Prasse, Cissell, and Vierow discussed the prior committee and its processes.
- 5) Examples of Publications: Chair Aynes lead a discussion of several publications by historical societies and other entities as possible examples of what the task force might consider recommending. This included the *Southern Legal History Journal* which contains a section with transcribed oral histories. Mr. Schuck also offered examples of historic publications that could be useful to the task force.
- 6) Record Preservation: Mr. Cissell began a discussion of the lack of records standards for courts. They are uncertain of their duty and many records have been destroyed, this awareness problem might be aided by more education. He suggested that the task force consider recommendations on what to do with court records and how to preserve them. Mr. Vierow discussed previous court record surveys by the WPA, 1970's inventory listing general records locations and a more recent inventory. Chair Aynes offered that records require indexing and that costs money. He also discussed other records such as the personal papers of judges as something that the task force should consider.
- 7) Education: Ms. Connally discussed education as a goal for the preservation of history of buildings; records and archives. Ms. Powers offered that current entities such as the Ohio History Connection have best practices for preserving documents and other materials. These best practices are very important educational vehicles. Mr. Prasse suggested that education could create champions for preservation and help with funding.
- 8) Acquisition & Funding: Mr. Schuck discussed the concerns about funding and how to bring in enough revenue to cover the cost of preserving materials. Ms. Connally discussed collections coming with endowments and how to decide what should be preserved and what to refuse. Ms. Powers suggested that an acquisition policy could deal with that problem.
- 9) Creation of Committees: Chair Aynes suggested the task force get more data and all members ideas before proceeding to create committees or specific proposals.

10) Work Assignments for Task Force Member:

- Ms. Powers will share the preservation standards and best practices from organizations such as OHC with task force members.
- Mr. Ohman will create a rubric for recording information on other court historical societies.
- Mes. Connally and Recchie will divide states and input relevant information in the rubric for task force members to analyze.
- Mr. Ohman will make prior committee materials available for all task force members.
- Mr. Ohman will work with the Supreme Court to create a listserv for all task force members to use.
- Members of the task force will prepare a short summary of what they envision as the duties and purpose of a historical committee and/or best practices to recommend.
- Ms. Waltz will contact members to schedule a date for the next meeting by conference call.

11) The next meeting of the Task Force will be by teleconference. Ms. Waltz will circulate potential dates to members.

12) Having no additional matters before it, the Chair adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted,

Erin Waltz
March 4, 2015