



# Court Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Eastern District of Tennessee



NOVEMBER 2016

## Further Recognition for Sanford

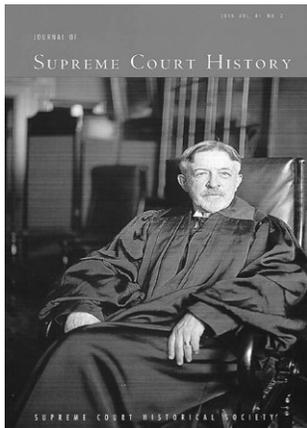
The cover of the current issue of the *Journal of Supreme Court History* (Vol. 41, No. 2) features a photograph of former **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Edward T. Sanford** of Knoxville, and inside are two articles about him.

The articles are a 34-page piece by Knoxville law clerk **Stephanie Slater** and a shorter article by **Dr. John Scheb**, a University of Tennessee Political Science Professor.

Slater's article is a chapter from her book about Sanford that is in the process of being published by UT Press, with a scheduled publication date of sometime in 2017. In the introduction to her article, Slater wrote: "...Justice Sanford has not been the subject of extensive scholarly attention. An in-depth examination of his jurisprudence is thus long overdue to afford him the same consideration as his brethren."

Slater has served as senior law clerk for Tennessee Court of Appeals **Judge John W. McClarty** for the past six years. She has previously served as a law clerk for other Tennessee appellate judges and for **Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Phillips** while he was on active status and earlier when he was a magistrate judge. While drafting her manuscript, Slater ran across some photos of Justice Sanford with **Chief Justice William Howard Taft**. One of them is shown in this newsletter.

Scheb's shorter article in the *Journal* is basically his speech about Sanford that he gave at an October 2015 symposium co-sponsored by the Court Historical Society and the East Tennessee Historical Society.



Current issue of *Journal of Supreme Court History*



*FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION LIAISON--Attorney Richard Collins of the Knoxville chapter of the Federal Bar Association, right, and Don K. Ferguson at the glass-enclosed model of the Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse, which serves as the centerpiece of one of the rooms in the History Center in the courthouse.*

## FBA and Court Historical Society

The Knoxville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has selected **Attorney Richard Collins** to serve as liaison to the Court Historical Society to assist the society with programs the society sponsors from time to time.

On October 13, **Don K. Ferguson**, Executive Director of the Society, met with Collins to explain the mission of the society and to give him a tour of the court's History Center. The Society has on occasion in the past joined with the FBA chapters in Chattanooga and in the Northeastern Division to co-sponsor programs.



*This is one of the photographs of Sanford that Slater found in her research. It was made in June 1924 when Sanford, left, spoke at the Harvard University commencement service. With him here is **Chief Justice William Howard Taft**, who attended the event. Prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court, Sanford served as the district judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee from 1908 to 1923.*

## Memories Linger On

“That’s the highest compliment I have ever received,” **Senior Judge Leon Jordan** said recently.

He was referring to words written about him by **Daniel F. Kolb**, a retired member of a top, international law firm in New York who was involved in a long 1992 trial early in the judge’s tenure on the federal bench.

Kolb, in a letter to his Knoxville associate in the trial, **Robert R. Campbell** of the Hodges, Doughty & Carson firm, said, “When you can, please say hello to the judge for us all. He made the courtroom a special place and we here all know that all judges are not like that. Sorry for so many motions!”

Kolb and Campbell represented the accounting firm of Ernst & Whinney, which was sued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. as a result of the **Jake** and **C.H. Butcher** bank failures in the early 1980s. The trial lasted 99 days, and on a national basis, was reported to be the longest trial in the country that year.

The Court Historical Society recently interviewed Judge Jordan and Campbell about their recollections of that notable trial, and Campbell sent a copy of the transcript of the interview to Kolb, prompting the letter.

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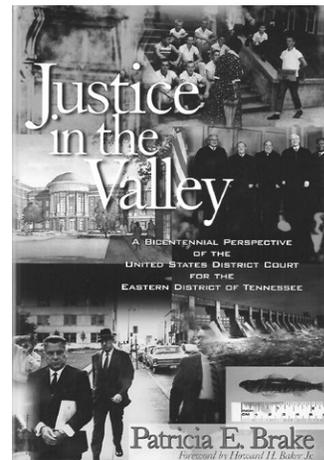
[The transcript of the interview is among the more than 50 oral histories in the Court Historical Society’s archives.--EDITOR]



**Robert R. Campbell**, left, with **Senior U.S. District Judge Leon Jordan**.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, INC.

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## Going, Going

This might be a good time for members to consider buying for themselves or as a gift a copy of *Justice in the Valley*, which covers the 200-year history of the Eastern District of Tennessee court, from 1797 to 1997. Of the 1,000 copies printed in 1998, only 50 remain. The cost is \$25 plus \$4 postage. Requests for copies should be mailed to the Court Historical Society at the society’s address shown in this newsletter.

The publishing of the 244-page book by the society coincided with the dedication of the Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse. The author was **Dr. Patricia Brake Rutenberg**, a senior lecturer in the History Department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

*Justice in the Valley* is an excellent reference source for dates and details of several noteworthy cases tried in the Eastern District of Tennessee, for names and dates of judges and their service, and for many other interesting facts about our court. It is fully indexed, making it easy for the reader to find information. The book is ideal for a law office library.

In the foreword, the late **U.S. Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.** said the book “is rich with historical fact and many legal and social insights.”

## Portrait Booklet

The Allen County (Indiana) Public Library, described as having the largest public genealogy collection in the country, has acquired from the Court Historical Society a copy of the booklet published in 2013 by the society and the court showing portraits or photographs of 19 of the 23 Article III judges who had served or were serving the Eastern District of Tennessee at that time. A short biographical sketch of each of the judges is also given. The Indiana library requested a copy of the book after learning about it from the East Tennessee Historical Society.