

The Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

A Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware, the practice of law means many things to many different attorneys; however, one of the things I most enjoy is the pride at being good at my craft and the camaraderie of those who share in the noble heritage of the “Philadelphia Lawyer.” I have been fortunate enough to participate in the legal life of the community through my membership in the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and as President of the Society, I invite you to join the judges of this Court, and your peers, as a member of the Society.

When the Historical Society was founded in 1984, we had two main goals; to preserve the rich history of one of our nation’s oldest federal courts from obscurity, and to acquaint the bench, bar, and public with our court’s many vital contributions to our democratic system of government. The loyal support of the members has enabled us to move towards these goals.

Many ambitious projects have come to fruition through the Society’s efforts; the dedication of many portraits of judges of this Court; the Society’s Annual calendar, which is famous nationwide as both an excellent research resource and a piece of art; the recording of memoirs of judges; the provision of research grants and research facilities for distinguished scholars; seminars and forums on important legal issues which affect the practice of law and allow for give and take with the bench; and, of course, the Society’s Annual Meeting and Dinner, which is a fun social event and a chance to hear a noted speaker address the concerns of the day, and put them into a historical perspective.

All of these important goals have been realized through the dedication of the Society; I and my fellow members are dedicated to these goals as benefitting the entire legal community, and I am sure that as a practicing attorney, your dedication to these goals will provide dividends in your career and life. I therefore take this opportunity to extend my hand and invite you to join the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

*Ann Thornton Field
President*