



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

An Inventory of Its Biennial and Miscellaneous Reports

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency: Minnesota. Judicial Council.
Series Title: Biennial and miscellaneous reports,
Dates: 1939-1975.
Quantity: 0.5 cu. ft. (1 Hollinger box).
Location: Lower shelves, stack row 121, alphabetical.

HISTORY OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The law creating the Minnesota Judicial Council [Laws 1937 c467] was passed on April 26 and took effect on July 1, 1937. The council's purpose was to study the organization, administration, methods of procedure and practice, and personnel policies of the state's judicial system and recommend ways to achieve greater efficiency. All courts in the state, including the Supreme Court, were under the council's review.

The council consisted of eleven members, seven appointed by the governor and four judges, including the chief justice (or designee), two district court judges, and one county court judge. Members were not compensated for their service, although the council did receive an appropriation for clerical services.

The council ceased existence on July 1, 1982 [Laws 1981 c356 s377].

Sources: Minnesota Laws 1937, 1981.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE REPORTS

The reports include statistics, studies, commentaries, and related information documenting the council's activities. Topics of particular interest included caseload statistics of various courts, judicial retirement, civil procedure, integration of the bar, state supreme court rulemaking power, council membership, expert medical testimony, pre-trial procedure, court reorganization, and public defender, district prosecutor, and Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP) programs.

Two related reports deal with proposed changes in Minnesota civil procedures (1939) and the Select Committee on the Judicial System (1975).

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Appellate courts--Minnesota.
Civil procedure--Minnesota.
Courts--Minnesota.
Evidence, Expert--Minnesota.
Integrated bar--Minnesota.
Judges--Retirement--Minnesota.
Judicial councils--Minnesota.
Judicial process--Minnesota.
Judicial statistics--Minnesota.
Justice, Administration of--Minnesota.
Law.
Public defenders--Minnesota.
Public prosecutors--Minnesota.

Organizations:

Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners.
Minneapolis (Minn.). Municipal Court.
Minnesota. Select Committee on the State Judicial System.
Minnesota. Supreme Court.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page here]. Minnesota. Judicial Council. Biennial and miscellaneous reports. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): None

Processing Information:

Processed by: Rich Arpi, November 2001; Cheri Thies, June 2002
PALS ID No.: 0900323034 (history) 0900323034 (series)
RLIN ID No.: MNHVW0003-A (history) MNHV2450-A (series)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one volume unless specified otherwise.

Location

Lower shelves,

Stack row 121, alpha

Biennial reports:

1939.

The first report contains statistics with respect to the civil case load of the district courts, a study of federal rules adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court, commentary on a constitutional amendment making the Clerk of the Minnesota Supreme Court an appointive rather than an elective position, and information on a judicial retirement bill. Also included are sixty-three suggestions for proposed changes in Minnesota civil procedure, a table showing the number of cases filed by year (1927-1938) in the Minnesota Supreme Court, and a brief mention of subjects of interest, but not considered, by the Council.

1941.

The second report includes information on the study of the Minnesota Supreme Court, integration of the bar in Minnesota, the Judicial Retirement Act, proposed changes in civil procedure, and various court caseload statistics. Statistics on civil cases filed and fees received by the Minneapolis Municipal Court (1928-1939) also appear.

1942.

The third report contains information similar to the first two, although the major topic is the rule-making power of state supreme courts. It includes a digest of statutes conferring rule-making power and the use made of such power for most of the other states.

1945.

Fourth report.

1948.

Fifth report.

The 1945 and 1948 reports contain similar statistics on the caseload of the various courts, a list of members of the Council and their terms, and commentary on other matters of concern to the judicial system including, but not limited to, the deliberate distortion of expert medical testimony, pre-trial procedure, and court re-organization.

Location

Lower shelves,
Stack row 121, alpha

Biennial reports (cont.):

1966-1974. 5 volumes, complete.

The major concerns of these reports are the public defender program, the district prosecutor program, and the Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP) program.

Other reports:

Proposed Changes in Minnesota Civil Procedures, [1939].

There is also a copy cataloged separately in the library collections.

Interim Report: Select Committee on the Judicial System, February 26, 1975.

The committee's final report is separately cataloged in the library collections.