



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## SUPREME COURT

### An Inventory of the Files of Justice Lawrence Yetka

#### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Supreme Court.
- Series Title:** Files of Justice Lawrence Yetka,
- Dates:** 1942, 1969-1992.
- Abstract:** Files maintained by Supreme Court Associate Justice Lawrence Yetka as a member of the Judicial Council, chairman of the Select Committee on the Judicial System, chairman of the Judicial Planning Committee, and a member of the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.
- Quantity:** 8.0 cu. ft. (8 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Records maintained by Supreme Court Associate Justice Lawrence Yetka as a member of the Judicial Council, chairman of the Select Committee on the Judicial System, chairman of the Judicial Planning Committee (also called Judicial Planning Agency), and a member of the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.

Issues dealt with in the files include the study of matters relating to improvements of the administration of the state judicial system; preparation of court reorganization legislation; study and analysis of the court system; crime prevention and control; judges' salaries; proposals to redistrict the Minnesota courts and add an eleventh judicial district (1977-1982); and site planning and the architectural competition for construction of a new judicial building (1983-1986). The files contain minutes, agendas, administrative files, correspondence, and reports and printed records.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

These records are organized into the following sections:

Judicial Council, 1974-1980.  
Select Committee on the Judicial System.  
Judicial Planning Committee.  
Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.  
Miscellaneous Records.

## 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:**

Court administration--Minnesota.  
Courts--Minnesota--Officials and employees.  
Courts--Minnesota--Planning.  
Crime prevention--Minnesota.  
District courts--Minnesota--Reorganization.  
Judges--Minnesota.  
Judicial councils--Minnesota.  
Minnesota Judicial Center (Saint Paul, Minn.).  
Planning.  
Public defenders--Minnesota.  
Researching.

### **Persons:**

Yetka, Lawrence R., 1924-

### **Organizations:**

Minnesota. Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.  
Minnesota. Judicial Council.  
Minnesota. Judicial Planning Agency.  
Minnesota. Select Committee on the Judicial System.  
Minnesota. Supreme Court--Buildings.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation:

*[Indicate the cited item and folder title here].* Minnesota Supreme Court. Files of Justice Lawrence Yetka. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 987-127 992-3 993-85 2001-45

### Processing Information:

PALS ID No.: 0900027914 RLIN ID No.: MNHV91-A596

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

### **Judicial Council, 1974-1980. partial box.**

The Judicial Council was created in 1937 under Minn. Stat. 483.01 for the purpose of studying matters relating to the improvement of the administration of the state judicial system. Originally seven members were appointed by the Governor, and the other four were ex officio representatives of the Supreme Court, the District Courts (2), and the Probate Courts. It is still (1993) in existence. A few of the files listed below include items pre-dating Justice Yetka's service on the Council.

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 129.K.12.5B     | 1          | Minutes, 1974-1980. 1 folder.<br>Photocopies; may be incomplete.<br>Meeting Agendas, Notes, and Correspondence, 1974-1978. 1 folder.<br>Membership Rosters and Correspondence, 1975-1979. 1 folder.<br>Administrative Files, 1942, 1974-1980. 13 folders.<br>County Attorneys Council Study, 1976-1977.<br>Grant Application, 1977.<br>Historical Society Review of Court Records, 1976.<br>Investigation and Audit, Sixth Judicial District Public Defender, 1977-1978.<br>Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners Program, 1974.<br>Legislative Proposals, 1975-1976.<br>Miscellaneous, 1974-1979.<br>Public Defender Annual Report, 1977.<br>Public Defender Budget, 1978-1980.<br>Public Defender System, 1973-1976.<br>Public Defender Office: Juvenile Parole Revocations and Other Juvenile Matters, 1976-1977.<br>Public Service Corporation, 1975-1976.<br>Report on the Unification of the Courts to the Judicial Council of Minnesota, 1942. |

**Select Committee on the Judicial System, 1974-1977. 1 box and 1 partial box.**

The Select Committee on the Judicial System was a project sponsored by the Judicial Council primarily for the purpose of preparing court reorganization legislation. Members were appointed by Chief Justice Robert J. Sheran. The committee existed from 1974 to 1977, when its final report was issued. Its work culminated in the Court Reorganization Act of 1977.

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| 129.K.12.5B     | 1          | S-100.0 Membership, 1974-1975.<br>S-100.2. Minutes, 1974-1976.<br>Photocopies; may not be complete. See S-100.22 for meeting transcripts.<br>S-100.3. Meeting Files, 1974-1975. 5 folders.<br>S-100.4. Correspondence with Staff and Committee Members, 1974-1977. 2 folders.<br>S-100.5. General Correspondence, 1974-1977.   |
| 129.K.12.6F     | 2          | S-100.6. Grant Applications, 1974-1975.<br>S-100.7. Court Meetings on Select Committee Deliberations, 1974.<br>S-100.8. Arthur Young & Company Project, 1974-1977.<br>S-100.9. Edward McConnell Suggestions (National Center for State Courts), 1974.<br>S-100.10. Opinion on Appellate Court (Steve Muth), 1974.<br>S-100.11. District Judges Proposal, 1974-1976.<br>S-100.12. Various Voss Bill Proposals and Variations by Administrative Committee of Bar Association and J. Cashman, 1974-1975.<br>S-100.14. Committee Proposals, 1974-1976.<br>S-100.15. Committee Reports to Legislature, et al., 1975-1976.<br>S-100.16. Questionnaire Forms, [ca. 1975].<br>S-100.17. Clippings, 1975-1977.<br>S-100.18. Tentative Schedule, 1975-1976.<br>S-100.19. Questionnaires for Judges, Court Administrators, and Select People, 1975-1976.<br>S-100.21. Yetka's Notes Taken at Meetings, 1974-1977.<br>S-100.22. Transcripts of Meetings, 1974-1975.<br>(see S-100.2 for meetings)<br>S-100.23. Final Report Comments and Letter of Transmittal, 1976-1977.<br>S-100.24. Resolutions from County and Other Units of Government Regarding Select Committee Bill, 1976-1977.<br>S-100.26. Bill Negotiations with District Judges, 1976-1977.<br>S-100.28. District Meetings on Court Reorganization, 1977.<br>M73-49. Conference on State-Federal Judicial Councils, 1974-1976.<br>[no #]. Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1974-1977. |

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| 129.K.12.6F     | 2          | Reports:<br>Financing of State Court System, 1974.<br>Survey of Unified Court Organizations, 1974.<br>Interim Report, 1975.<br>Final Report, 1977. |

**Judicial Planning Committee, 1973-1991. 2 boxes and 1 partial box.**

Organized in December, 1976; also known as the Judicial Planning Agency. Members were selected from pre-existing planning committees, including the Select Committee and the Judicial Council. The committee's purpose was to study and analyze the court system and make recommendations for improvement. Most topics were assigned to subcommittees for in-depth study and presentation to the full committee.

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| 129.K.12.7B     | 3          | Full Committee Minutes, 1976-1984. 1 folder.<br>Photocopies; may be incomplete.<br>Full Committee Agendas, 1976-1984. 1 folder.<br>Meeting Notes, 1976-1979. 1 folder.<br>Subcommittee Files, 1977-1984. 17 folders.<br>Minutes, agendas, correspondence, reports, and related papers.<br>Alternative Dispute Resolution, 1982-1984. 2 folders.<br>Court Facilities, 1978-1980.<br>Court Reporter, 1977-1981.<br>Court Services, 1984.<br>Grants, 1977.<br>Intermediate Appellate Court, 1979-1981.<br>Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), 1978-1980.<br>Long Range Planning, 1979-1980.<br>Multi-Year Court Plan, 1977-1978.<br>Planning, 1977.<br>Public Defender, 1978-1980.<br>Redistricting, 1977-1980.<br>Referee/Judicial Officers/Family Court, 1980.<br>Trial Court Budget and Personnel, 1977-1981. 3 folders.<br>Trial Judges Bench Book, 1979-1984.<br>Administrative Files:<br>Budget, 1981-1983.<br>Peggy Byrne Project, 1981-1982.<br>Correspondence, 1977-1982.<br>Correspondence, Membership, 1976-1984. 3 folders. |

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 129.K.12.8F     | 4          | Correspondence with Staff, 1977-1979.<br>Court Administration Act of 1977: Comments Regarding Amendments to, 1978.<br>Crime Control Act of 1968: Comments Regarding Proposed 1978 Amendments, 1978.<br>Facility Study Status Report, 1978.<br>General, 1977-1984.<br>Grant Applications, Staff Reviews, and Correspondence, 1977-1978. 5 folders.<br>Intermediate Appellate Court, 1979-1981. 2 folders.<br>Intermediate Appellate Court Speech File, 1981-1982.<br>Legislation, Proposed, 1981-1985.<br>Membership Rosters, Judicial Planning Committee and Subcommittees, 1979-1984.<br>Minnesota Bar Association: Intermediate Appellate Court Committee, 1980-1982.<br>Miscellaneous, 1976-1983. 2 folders.<br>National Center for State Courts Study: Comments Regarding, 1973-1981.<br>Personnel and Financial Information System Planning Study, Proposed, 1977.<br>Policy Statement and Guidelines, 1977-1978.  |
| 129.K.13.1B     | 5          | Public Defender Study, 1978.<br>Redistricting Problems, 1980.<br>Sheran [Chief Justice] Presentation to Congress on Federal-State Relations, 1977.<br>Staff Reports, 1982.<br>Public Defense, 1978-1979, 1986-1991.<br>Public Defense Board, 1990-1991. 2 folders.<br>Reports and Printed Records:<br>Minnesota Court Organization Study: Areas of Divergence from American Bar Association Standards, [ca. 1978].<br>The Case for a Minnesota Court of Appeals [final report of the Intermediate Appellate Court Subcommittee], 1980.<br>Minnesota Trial Court Financial Report, 1980.<br>Report on the Use of Para-Judicial Personnel in the Minnesota Courts, 1980.<br>Court Consolidation Study Commission Final Report, 1984.<br>Minnesota Judges Criminal Benchbook:<br>First edition, 1982. 2 folders.<br>1983 supplement. 1 folder.<br>1984 supplement. 1 folder.<br>1987 supplement. 1 folder.<br>[actually issued by the State Court Administrator] |

**Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control, 1976-1978. 12 folders.**

Miscellaneous materials relating to the organization and activities of the commission, sent to Justice Yetka as informational copies. Only a couple of memos reflect his participation in the commission's work.

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 129.K.13.1B     | 5          | Comprehensive Plan, 1978.<br>Correspondence, 1976-1977.<br>Guidelines for Crime Control Act of 1976, 1976-1977.<br>Guidelines for 1978 Sub-State Annual Action Plan, 1977.<br>Legislation to Reorganize, 1977.<br>Membership and Committees, 1976.<br>Miscellaneous, 1977.<br>Plea negotiation Study, 1977.<br>Staffing, Duties, and Related Questions, 1977. |

**Miscellaneous Records. 3 boxes.**

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 129.K.13.2F     | 6          | Judicial Salaries, 1975-1977. 3 folders.<br>Correspondence, newspaper clippings, meeting notes, testimony, and related papers.<br>General Correspondence with the Public, 1975-1990. 3 folders.<br>County Court Correspondence, 1973-1979. 1 folder.<br>District Court Correspondence, 1974-1980. 1 folder.<br>Subject Files, 1975-1991. 16 folders in 2 boxes.<br>Records on national, state, and local organizations, committees, and projects in which Justice Yetka was active.<br>Administrative Committee, 1982-1991.<br>American Bar Association National Conference on the Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction with the Administration of Justice, April 1976.<br>Citizens' Advisory Committee for Education on Law and Justice, St. Paul Metropolitan Area Program, 1976-1978.<br>Citizens' Conference on the Courts Special Committee, 1979-1982.<br>County Court Judicial Officers' Ad Hoc Committee, 1977.<br>Court Consolidation Study Commission, 1983-1987.<br>Includes its final report.<br>Court Reorganization Act, 1977-1987. 2 folders.<br>Includes correspondence and minutes of meetings of the Conference of Chief Judges.<br>Judicial Information Systems Advisory Committee, 1975-1981<br>Judicial Planning Committee: Judicial Officers' Report, 1977-1978. |



| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 129.K.13.3B     | 7          | <p>Judicial Planning Committee: Referee's Report, 1977.<br/>Judicial Vacancies, 1985-1987. 2 folders.<br/>In 8th Judicial District (1985-1986) and 2d Judicial District (1986-1987).</p> <p>National Council for Judicial Planning, 1978-1981.<br/>National Judicial Planning Association Meeting, June 1978.<br/>North Dakota Judicial Conference Materials, 1977.</p> <p>Redistricting Files, 1977-1982. 12 folders.<br/>Pertaining to the Committee on Redistricting Minnesota County Courts. Justice Yetka served as chair of the committee. Records include meeting minutes and notes, correspondence, and plans and other records for ten judicial districts.</p> <p>Judicial Building Records, 1982-1992. 15 folders in 2 boxes.<br/>Awards and articles, 1990-1992.<br/>Background. 2 folders.<br/>Budget, 1983-1987.<br/>Cornerstone ceremony, with Yetka's remarks, October 26, 1988.</p> |
| <b>Location</b> | <b>Box</b> |   |
| 129.K.13.4F     | 8          | <p>General Correspondence, 1983-1987. 1 expansion folder.<br/>History Center Site Selection, 1984.<br/>Legislative History, 1983-1986.<br/>Magazine article by Yetka, <i>The Hennepin Lawyer</i>, May-June 1985.<br/>Minutes of Meetings with Architects and Contractors, 1987-1990.<br/>Miscellaneous, 1982-1983.<br/>Newspaper Clippings, 1984-1990.<br/>Phase II, March 1980 – July 1992.<br/>Program Study, 1983.<br/>Supreme Court Space in Capitol after Move to Judicial Center, 1988-1991.</p> <p>Judicial Building Design Competition Files, 1983-1986. 11 folders and 1 volume.<br/>Design submissions, proposals, and program studies from architectural firms and building consultants. Justice Yetka served as a competition judge.<br/><br/>(A few reports on the judicial building are also cataloged individually as part of the MHS Library collections.)</p>                      |