

RESOLUTION
SENIOR STATUS
of
THE HONORABLE LYLE E. STROM
United States District Judge
District of Nebraska



Presented by:

The Honorable William G. Cambridge
Chief Judge
United States District Court
District of Nebraska

We, the bench and bar of the Eighth Circuit, gathering at the 1997 Judicial Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, hereby commemorate the occasion of our friend and colleague, the Honorable Lyle E. Strom, becoming a senior district court judge on November 2, 1995. This event allows us to express our appreciation and respect for his outstanding contributions to the federal judiciary, to the legal profession, and to the public.

Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Judge Strom graduated from Creighton University after serving as an officer with the Merchant Marine for three and one-half years during World War II. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950 and his Juris Doctor in 1953, winning the Law Faculty Award in 1953 from Creighton University School of Law for earning the highest triennial average in his class. In addition to maintaining professional and civic obligations, Judge Strom also had a full home life. He and his lovely wife, Regina, raised seven beautiful children.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Strom joined the law firm which came to be known as Fitzgerald, Brown, Leahy, Strom, Schorr & Barmettler, in Omaha, refining the craft of trial advocacy until being appointed to the federal bench on November 1, 1985, by President Ronald Reagan. That his talents were recognized by his peers is evidenced by his election as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1970, and his election as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 1974. Since his appointment to the bench, Judge Strom's well-honed litigation skills and his excellent overall legal ability have earned him a reputation as a very fair, very knowledgeable, very qualified judge. Regardless of the outcome of their cases, lawyers and litigants who appear in his court develop the utmost respect for Judge Strom's abilities, his compassion, his demeanor, and his willingness to follow the courage of his convictions.

Judge Strom served as chief judge for the District of Nebraska from November 1, 1987 to November 1, 1994. In that capacity, he spearheaded the campaign to secure a new federal courthouse for Omaha, and he oversaw the preliminary progress of that project. Another of Judge Strom's important contributions as chief judge was his

successful lobbying for an additional federal judgeship in the district to keep pace with rising caseloads.

Judge Strom has long been active in all levels and aspects of organizations related to the practice of law. His service includes terms as president of the Nebraska State Bar Association (the first to hold that post as a federal judge) and of the Omaha Bar Association. He is also a Fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation and of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation, and has served as a director of the Legal Aid Society of Omaha and as president of the United States District Judges' Association for the Eighth Circuit. In addition, Judge Strom willingly shares his time and talents with law students at Creighton, having taught courses on municipal corporations from 1958 to 1970, and trial practice from 1974 to 1995. He currently is serving as clinical professor of the Robert Spire Internship Program at Creighton's School of Law. For his contributions to the legal profession, Judge Strom has received a variety of prestigious awards, including the 1996 Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation, the 1992 Public Service Award from the Omaha Bar Association, and the 1987 Boss of the Year Award from the Omaha Legal Secretaries Association.

Judge Strom is not one to shirk committee work, as shown by the myriad of committees on which he has served. As a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court's Committee on Practice and Procedure from 1965 to 1991, Judge Strom assisted in preparing and publishing the Nebraska Jury Instructions and the Nebraska Rules of Evidence. He currently serves as chairperson of the Eighth Circuit's Gender Fairness Task Force. The variety of committees benefiting from his expertise, from the District of Nebraska's Federal Practice Committee to the Executive Council of the Nebraska State Bar Association to the Omaha Bar Association's Memorials Committee, shows Judge Strom's dedication to our profession and his abundant desire to contribute.

Likewise, civic and charitable organizations have also reaped the advantages of his participation. At his church, Judge Strom has served on the board of trustees, on the finance committee, as chairman of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist program, and as a lector. He also was a member of the Archbishop's Committee for Educational Development. The civic organization perhaps most closely identified with Judge Strom is the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a scoutmaster, and currently serves on the executive committee and board of trustees of the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America. One of the scouting programs close to Judge Strom's heart is the Juvenile Diversion Program run in conjunction with the State of Nebraska's juvenile probation office to intercept young offenders before they travel too far down the wrong path in life. For his work with the Boy Scouts, Judge Strom has received the 1982 Frontier District Award of Merit, the 1988 Silver Beaver Award, the 1994 William Spurgeon Boy Scout Explorer Award, and the 1996 Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award.

We, his colleagues, are touched by his warm nature, heartened by his sense of humor, and inspired by his wise counsel and sense of justice. Judge Strom epitomizes a "good judge," and we wish him a long career as a senior judge and look forward to his continued association with the court. We also salute his many accomplishments and wish him many more years of health and happiness with his family and friends.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this resolution.