

1966

Harvey M. Johnsen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nlr>

Recommended Citation

, *Harvey M. Johnsen*, 45 Neb. L. Rev. 492 (1966)

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nlr/vol45/iss3/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law, College of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Law Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



HARVEY M. JOHNSEN

Senior Judge, United States Courts of Appeal

HARVEY M. JOHNSEN

This is not the occasion for an appraisal of Judge Harvey M. Johnsen. Even though he has retired as Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, his schedule is no less hectic and his duties are no less demanding than before. With clear indications of a continued career of active judicial service, an appraisal at this time would be premature.

Yet the retirement of Nebraska's first Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals is an appropriate occasion to pause and review his distinguished career. Judge Johnsen was born in Hastings, Nebraska on July 16, 1895. Two years later his family moved to Fremont where he attended public school. In 1919 he graduated from the University of Nebraska with the degree of Bachelor of Laws and in 1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Judge Johnsen became a member of Phi Beta Kappa and The Order of the Coif. He was the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Nebraska in 1951 and from Creighton University in 1960.

Judge Johnsen began the practice of law in Omaha in 1920 with the firm of Montgomery, Hall & Young; he became a partner six years later. During the years of 1932-33 he served as General Counsel of the Farm Credit Administration. In the following four years he engaged in the general practice with the firm of Johnsen, Gross & Crawford.

In addition to his practice, from 1922 to 1926 Judge Johnsen taught at Creighton University Law School. He was Secretary of the Nebraska State Bar Association from 1929 to 1937, President of the Omaha Bar Association in 1931 and President of the Nebraska State Bar Association in 1938.

On January 3, 1939, Governor Cochran appointed Judge Johnsen to the Supreme Court of Nebraska, in which office he served until November 18, 1940, when he became a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. On August 8, 1959, he became the Chief Judge and served in that capacity until his seventieth birthday, July 16, 1965. He retired August 1, 1965. As a Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals he now is afforded the much anticipated opportunity to serve with other courts throughout the federal judiciary.

The opinions of Judge Johnsen span from Volume 116 *Federal Second* to date. That record of judicial service readily meets the eye. But there is another dimension to his service which is not as quickly measurable—his concern with judicial administration. The Judicial Conference of the United States—the governing body of the federal judiciary—directs its housekeeping affairs through numerous committees of judges. Judge Johnsen was first designated to serve on such committees in 1944. Since that date he has been a member of the Committee on Supporting Personnel of the Federal Courts, the Special Committee on Geographical Organization of the Federal Courts, and the Special Committee on Admission Fees of the Courts of Appeal. He has also served as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Power and Responsibilities of Judicial Councils.

Judge Johnsen became a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States in 1959, upon assuming the duties of Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit, and has continued to participate in its activities since his retirement. He is presently Chairman of the Committee on Judicial Statistics of the Federal Court System and is a member of the Committee on Implementing the Criminal Justice Act of 1964.

To this distinguished individual, whose quiet manner, gentle nature, and exquisite sense of dignity harmonize so well with the judicial process—this issue is dedicated.

THE EDITORS