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# WASHINGTON DISTRICTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

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The United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington, which were established by Congress in 1905, also celebrated their 100-year anniversaries in 2005.

Washington became a state in 1889 and was designated a judicial district one year later. The district was authorized one judgeship and its first judge was Cornelius H. Hanford. With the growth of the West, population in the state rapidly increased as did court business. By the early 1900s, it was reported, Judge Hanford was handling as many cases as his two counterparts in California. Congress then created the Western District of Washington and the Eastern District of Washington.

The centennial was specially commemorated by both districts. The Western District of Washington published a book, "The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington -- Our First 100 Years." The Eastern District of Washington, meanwhile, produced a video history entitled "Centennial Celebration: The Eastern District of Washington." The print and electronic volumes celebrated the state's legal history, noting important judges and court cases over the past century.

The Eastern District's video history, which includes interviews with the outgoing and incoming chief district judges, Fred Van Sickle and Robert H. Whaley, Senior District Judge Justin L. Quackenbush, and others, gives insight into how changes in society and historical events have affected the courts. Clerk of Court James Larsen and Nancy Strobeck of Eastern Washington's Historical Society also describe the evolution of the judicial pay scale, which came about when it was discovered that the salary for court clerks, linked to the number of cases filed, could potentially exceed that of federal judges. Magistrate Judge Cynthia Imbrogno addresses modern concerns of ensuring that the public has access to court information.

Western Washington's publication outlines that district's history and succession of judges, starting with Judge

Edward Lander, the first federal judge, and for the Western Territory. Judge Hanford, who succeeded Judge Lander after statehood, went on to become the Western District's first federal judge, and the state was divided into two jurisdictions. The origin of magistrate judges and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, as well as the U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Pretrial Services Office, and Office of the Federal Public Defender are also discussed.

In addition to photographs and illustrations, newspaper clippings describing an inmate attack on a U.S. marshal, the work of court clerks in 1954, and Judge Jeremiah Neterer's move into his new chambers are also incorporated into the publication. The book also goes into detail about the district's three federal courthouses. It discusses how the Tacoma Union Station came to become a U.S. courthouse in 1993; the rededication of the Seattle courthouse at Fifth Avenue and Madison streets as the William Kenzo Nakamura U.S. Courthouse; and the construction of the new U.S. courthouse on Stewart Street in downtown Seattle. Different types of artwork, from the grand rotunda in the Union Station courthouse to the metal sculptures in the new downtown location, are also discussed.

Western Washington's book was distributed to judges and court employees, as well as to the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Federal Judicial Center, public libraries, local law firms and bar associations. Originally compiled in 2004 for the centennial and the opening of the new U.S. courthouse in Seattle, the book was printed a second time in late 2005. 