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HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT  
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Justice Royal A. Stone, a present member of the court, came to the bench in 1923. Judge Stone was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, in 1875. The family moved to Morris in 1876 where he resided until 1905, at which date he moved to St. Paul where he has since continued to make his home.

He attended the Washington College of Law in St. Louis, Missouri, and after graduation was admitted to the bar in 1897. During the Spanish-American and World Wars Judge Stone served with marked distinction, holding several high ranks. At the time of the World War he entered the Fort Snelling training camp as Captain of Infantry, and by the time he was sent overseas he had been promoted to Major of the 3rd Battalion of the 14th Infantry. By the time he was mustered out he was Lieutenant Colonel of the Inspector General's Department. From 1905 to 1907 he served as assistant attorney general of Minnesota.

On May 25, 1923, he was appointed by Governor J. A. O. Preus associate justice of the Minnesota supreme court, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Oscar Hallam. Justice Stone assumed his seat June 4, 1923, immediately following the administration of the oath of office given by Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown. The following year Justice Stone was elected to the seat, and re-elected in 1930 and again in 1936.

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Tabulation of the opinions written by Justice Stone, spanning the period from June 4, 1923, to January 1, 1937, inclusive, total 715 majority opinions and 144 dissents. They are found in volumes 156 to 198 of the Minnesota Reports.

Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown died in service September, 24, 1923, closing out twenty-three years of continuous activity on the bench, and five days later Governor Preus appointed Samuel B. Wilson to the seat of chief justice.

Judge Wilson was born at Prices Branch, Missouri, in 1873, [-2-] and shortly afterward moved with his parents to Mankato, Minnesota. Here he attended the public schools, and later was graduated from the Minnesota Teachers' College. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1896, and on June 5 of that same year was admitted to practice before the supreme court.

Returning to Mankato to commence practice, he became probate judge, and later served six years as Blue Earth county attorney. Judge Wilson was active in the World War, serving in several official capacities connected with safety commissions, food administration, and the Bureau of War Industries.

After receiving his appointment to the bench from Governor Preus, Wilson in 1924 was elected to the seat, and re-elected in 1930. He resigned September 4, 1933.

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In the ten years that Judge Wilson was a member of the court he wrote 604 opinions and 89 dissents. They are contained in volumes 156 to 189 of the Minnesota Reports.

Following Commissioner Lees' resignation, I. M. Olsen was appointed on October 1, 1927, by Governor Christianson to fill the vacant seat. Judge Olsen was born in Norway, January 4, 1861, and shortly afterward, in 1865, was brought by his parents to Nicollet county, Minnesota.

He attended the usual common schools, entered the University of Minnesota, and was graduated from that institution in 1887. On being admitted to the bar in 1893 he began practice at Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. While residing there, in 1906 he was elected judge of the district court, re-elected in 1912, was not a candidate in 1918, but was re-appointed on February 1, 1920 and then re-elected later that year and again in 1926.

Following his appointment as a commissioner of the supreme court, he was appointed on November 20, 1930 a full justice upon amendment to the state constitution increasing the number of associate justices to six. Two years later he was elected to the seat. Then late [-2-] in 1936 continued failing health prompted his resignation which was dated to become effective December 15, 1936.

During the nine years he served on the bench Justice Olsen wrote 435 opinions and 34 dissents. They are contained in volumes 173 to 198 of the Minnesota Reports.

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Clifford L. Hilton, a present member of the court, also came to the bench at this time. He was born at Kenyon, Minnesota, and soon after, in 1884, moved with his parents to Fergus Falls, where he has since continued to maintain residence.

He was graduated from the Fergus Falls high school in 1884, whereupon he entered the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating four years later in 1888. Following he was admitted to practice in all the courts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 1911 he was admitted to practice in the supreme court of the United States.

Previously, Judge Hilton had served as city attorney of Fergus Falls from 1896 to 1898, county attorney of Otter Tail county from 1899 to 1909. Then in the fall of 1909 he became assistant state attorney general, continuing in this office until 1917 when, in April of that year, he was appointed deputy attorney general. On March 8, 1918, Hilton was appointed attorney general following the death of Attorney General Smith. The following November he was elected to the office, and re-elected in 1920, 1922, 1924, and 1926.

On January 1, 1928, he was appointed associate justice of the supreme court by Governor Christianson to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Justice James H. Quinn. Justice Hilton ascended the bench January 3, 1928, Chief Justice Samuel B. Wilson administering the oath of office. Justice Hilton was elected in November, 1928, and re-elected in 1934.

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From the time he ascended the bench until January 1, 1937, the close of present tabulations, Justice Hilton has written 375 opinions and 44 dissents which begin in volume 174 of the Minnesota Reports and continue through volume 198, the current compilation. [-3-]

An amendment to the state constitution was approved by the legislature on March 9, 1929, providing that the supreme court, then consisting of a chief justice, four associate justices, and two court commissioners appointed by the court, should instead consist of a chief justice and six associate justices.

The amendment was approved by the voters early in November 1930, and I. M. Olsen and Charles Loring -- the two court commissioners -- having qualified as associate justices were duly declared justices fourteen days later.

It will be seen from this that Loring, who had been appointed commissioner on August 1, 1930, to succeed Myron D. Taylor who had resigned, served only about a month and a half as commissioner before being declared a justice. Justice Loring was born on a farm in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, and shortly afterward, in 1877, came with his parents to a farm in Clay county, Minnesota.

He attended the State Normal school at River Falls, Wisconsin, and Moorhead State Normal school, and Phillips Exeter Academy, and later the Law School of the University of Minnesota, graduating from the latter institution in 1898. The following year

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he entered the law office of C. A. Nye at Moorhead, and a year later the office of Halvor Steenerson at Crookston, with whom he later joined in a partnership. Then followed another partnership, one with G. A. Younquist, who later became assistant attorney general of the United States. This firm continued until 1918 when both members entered the army. During the World War Judge Loring was Captain and Major in the Minnesota Home Guard, and Major Judge Advocate in the United States army. Later he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Judge Advocate in the regular army, then Judge Advocate of the U. S. army forces in China, and of the Hawaiian department.

Resigning his commission he entered private practice at [-4-] Crookston, Minnesota, associating himself with John H. Hougen. He served two years as special assistant United States attorney, and for a short time was president of the State Board of Law Examiners.

His appointment by the supreme court as a commissioner of that court became effective August 1, 1930. Then following the passage of the amendment increasing the number of supreme court justices to six, he was appointed associate justice November 20, 1930. In November, 1932, he was elected to the seat, and remains a present member of the bench.

Tabulation of the opinions written by Judge Loring since August 1, 1930, to January 1, 1937, reveals a total of 295 majority opinions and 57 dissents. The first appears in volume 181

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of the Minnesota Reports, with the others continuing through the current volume, 198.

Upon the resignation of Chief Justice Samuel B. Wilson, which became effective September 4, 1933, Governor Floyd B. Olson appointed John P. Devaney to the chief justiceship.

Judge Devaney was born on a farm near Lake Mills, Iowa, June 30, 1883. When eighteen he came to Minnesota and entered the University, the institution from which he was later to gain three degrees. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1907 he at once became an active practitioner in Minneapolis.

He received his appointment to the chief justiceship on September 7, 1933, and two months later, in November, was elected. Four years later, in order that he could devote all his time to private matters, Chief Justice Devaney resigned. The resignation was tendered early in 1937 and was effective February 15, of that year.

However, since his retirement, Judge Devaney has recently come to be more and more before public notice, particularly in matters of national political scope. During the latter part of March, 1937, appearing as president of the National Lawyers Guild, he testified before a judiciary committee of the United States Senate and gave views favorable to the Roosevelt sponsored proposal to increase the number [-5-] of justices on the United States supreme Court bench to fifteen.

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Judge Devaney has written 107 published opinions and 39 dissents. These are contained in volumes 190 to 198 of the Minnesota Reports. Ten more, written from January 1, 1937 to February 15, 1937, and representing the close of his work on the bench, will be published in volume 199.

Justice Julius J. Olson came to the supreme court bench on March 5, 1934, by appointment from Governor Olson following the death of Homer B. Dibell, and remains a present member.

Julius J. Olson was born in Norway, February 22, 1875, and came with the family to Lake Park, Minnesota, in 1883. He attended the Detroit Lakes high school and was graduated from there in 1897, whereupon he entered the University of Minnesota, graduating from that institution's College of Law in 1900. He was admitted to the bar that same year and began practice at Warren, continuing active until Governor Christianson appointed him district court judge in 1930. Following the appointment he was elected to the district bench in 1932.

He resigned as district court judge early in 1934 to accept an appointment by Governor Floyd B. Olson, February 27, 1934, to the seat on the supreme court bench made vacant by the death of Homer B. Dibell. He assumed his seat March 5, the oath of office being administered by Chief Justice Devaney. The following November he was elected for a six year term, and remains, of course, a present member of the court.

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The opinions written by Justice Julius J. Olson begin in volume 191 of the Minnesota Reports, and continue through volume 198. Inclusive to January 1, 1937, they number 154 majority opinions and 14 dissents. [-6-]