Among the earliest settlers of Minnesota were, as might be expected, lawyers (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/olms/id/761).

With statehood, and the establishment of a state Supreme Court, a large proportion (although by no means all) of the state’s lawyers and law school graduates registered to practice before it. Signatories to the Court’s rolls of attorneys range from the state’s earliest legislators and state officials (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/sll/id/12973/show/12588) to an international judge and advisor to the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/sll/id/12584/show/12344).

A county’s very earliest courthouse may have been a crude affair (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/pch/id/798), but the first permanent courthouse was one of the most imposing structures in a young county seat (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/good/id/264; http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/blue/id/1581). And it was a focal point for community events and celebrations (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/nico/id/1276).

The interior, although a place of solemn business (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/mlc/id/61) was designed to impress, as well (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/ren/id/332).

Minnesota Reflections users can catch glimpses of judges and lawyers in their offices (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/cotton/id/624; http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/nico/id/1758) where “information at your fingertips” had a much different meaning in the pre-Internet days (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/olms/id/604).

We may delight in poking fun at lawyers, but judges, too, were subjects of fiction (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15160coll1/id/1716), news notes (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16022coll2/id/11298 – search the text for “judges”), and cartoons (http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/gust/id/552).