

ELIAS JOHNSON LIEN

(November 14, 1868 - February 10, 1932)



Elias Johnson Lien served as assistant law librarian from 1904 through 1910. While an assistant, he attended law school, presumably at night. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School, in 1907 and was awarded a LL.M. the following year.¹ He was appointed state librarian in 1911. The 1915 *Legislative Manual* had the following biographical sketch of him:

¹ His entry in the alumni directory provides:

Elias Johnson Lien,
L.L. B., 07; L.L. M., 08; Librarian Minn. State
Library, Capitol and 656 Iglehart Ave., St.
Paul, Minn.

Alumni of the College of Law, 1889-1915, at 284 (online).
The photograph on this page is from *Men of Minnesota* (1915).

Elias Lien was born at Delavan, Faribault county, Minnesota, his parents having been among the pioneer settlers of that county. After graduating from the State Normal School at Mankato he taught school for several years and later engaged in farming and other work at St. Vincent, Kittson county, from which place he was appointed Assistant Librarian during the administration of Governor Van Sant. Is a graduate of the State University Law School and admitted to the bar. Also took a postgraduate course at the State University, receiving the degree of LL. M. Is married.²

He contributed an article on "important laws enacted at the recent session of the state legislature" to the May 1919 issue of the *Minnesota Law Review*.³ In 1921, after a decade in office, he resigned to practice law.

He died on February 10, 1932, at age sixty-three. The following day the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* carried his obituary:⁴

EX-LAW LIBRARIAN,
ELIAS J. LIEN, DIES

Quit Capitol Job in 1921 but
Continued to Reside in
St. Paul.

Elias J. Lien, 28 Baldwin street, former state law librarian and resident of St. Paul for 29 years, died Wednesday in Ancker hospital. He was 63 years old.

Mr. Lien was born in Delavan, Minn., and came to St. Paul in 1903 as assistant librarian in the state

² 1915 Blue Book at 615-16.

³ Elias J. Lien, "Minnesota Legislation 1919," 3 *Minnesota Law Review* 438-444 (1918-1919). The first six volumes of the *Law Review* are posted in the "Journals" category of the MLHP.

⁴ *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Thursday, February 11, 1932, at 7.

law library at the Capitol. He became librarian in 1910 and served in that capacity until 1921, when he resigned to practice law. He maintained his law office in Minneapolis, but continued to reside in St. Paul.

Survivors include his widow, one son, Elmer J. of St. Paul; a daughter, Marjorie Eleanor Lien of St. Paul, and five brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services will be held from St. Mary's Episcopal church, Laurel and Howell avenues, at 11 A. M. Saturday. Burial will be in Oakland cemetery. ■



Posted MLHP: March 20, 2013;
Photograph added, December 13, 2016.