

# IOWA VOTERS JUDICIAL DIRECTORY



## Voter Information:

- Answers to Questions about Judicial Retention Elections
- Biographies of Judges on the 2014 Iowa Ballot

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## WHAT ARE JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTIONS?

Retention elections are intended to focus on the professional competency of Iowa's judges rather than the popularity of individual rulings. In a retention election, voters decide whether a judge should be retained or removed from office. If a judge receives a majority of "yes" votes, the judge serves another full term. If a judge receives a majority of "no" votes, the judge is removed from office at the end of the year.

## WHY DOES IOWA HAVE RETENTION ELECTIONS?

In 1962, Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment that replaced elections of judges with merit selection and retention elections. A process using merit selection and retention elections:

- Curbs the influence of political parties and special interest groups in the selection of Iowa's judges.
- Emphasizes the selection of judges based upon their professional qualifications.
- Gives voters the final say about who serves as a judge.
- Is the most effective way to ensure fair and impartial courts.



## WHERE CAN I FIND AN ATTORNEY PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ABOUT JUDGES ON THE BALLOT?

The Iowa State Bar Association surveys its members about judges standing for retention. The results of this performance evaluation are available prior to the general election at: [www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org).

## WHAT ABOUT A JUDGE'S PERSONAL VIEWS ON CERTAIN ISSUES?

- It is inappropriate for a judge to consider his or her personal views, political pressure, or public opinion when deciding cases. Judges must be neutral and follow the rule of the law.
- If a judge announces a position on an issue, the judge's impartiality may be called into question. The judge may need to decline presiding over any case that involves that issue.
- Judicial ethics prohibit judges from commenting about cases pending in court to ensure that litigants receive a fair trial.

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD JUDGE?

- **Integrity**—honest, upright, and committed to the rule of law
- **Professional Competence**—keen intellect, extensive legal knowledge, and strong writing ability
- **Judicial Temperament**—neutral, decisive, respectful, and composed
- **Experience**—strong record of professional excellence in the law
- **Service**—committed to public service and the administration of justice

## HOW ARE COURTS HELD ACCOUNTABLE?

Our system of government is carefully designed to foster fair and impartial courts while maintaining judicial accountability through a series of checks on judicial power.

- If a party in a case believes a judge made an error, the party may appeal to a higher court.
- If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of a law, they may petition the legislature to amend the law and change the law's effect in the future.
- If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of the constitution, they have the ultimate power to amend the constitution to change its effect in the future.
- If a person thinks a judge has behaved unethically, the person may ask the Judicial Qualifications Commission to investigate.

In these ways, courts are accountable to the laws, to the constitution, and to the people.

## WHAT ABOUT AN UNPOPULAR COURT DECISION?

There are many reasons why a voter may want to consider more than just the outcome of one case when assessing a judge's performance:

- Over the course of a career, a judge will dispose of thousands of cases. One case alone is not necessarily an accurate barometer of a judicial career. The Iowa Voter's Judicial Directory gives a more complete measure of a judge's professional history.
- Judges must follow the law, which sometimes leads to unpopular results. If citizens disagree with a law, they may petition the legislature to change it.
- High-profile cases that catch the media's attention often bear little resemblance to the bulk of a judge's work. Most court cases do not involve hot-button issues.

## WHAT ABOUT DECISIONS A HIGHER COURT REVERSES?

Sometimes a higher court reverses the decision of a lower court. Reversal does not in itself indicate the quality of a judge's work. For instance, the higher court could be ruling on an issue for the first time or clarifying one of its earlier opinions that served as precedent for the lower court.

## COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

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Thomas N. Bower  
Court of Appeals Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Born in Bloomington, Ill., Judge Bower received his bachelor of science from Illinois State University in 1984, in Normal, Illinois and his law degree from Drake University School of Law in 1987.

**Career:** After receiving his law degree, Judge Bower served as a county attorney in

Black Hawk County from 1987 to 1988, prosecuting indictable misdemeanors and major felonies, juvenile matters including delinquency, child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights cases. He worked in the City of Ames Attorney's Office from 1988 to 1989 and was responsible for prosecution of city ordinances and various aspects of civil litigation. Judge Bower returned to the Black Hawk County

Attorney's Office in 1989 where he prosecuted major felony cases and served as the first assistant county attorney from 1990 to 1993. He was appointed as District Associate Judge for the First Judicial District in August 1993, and District Court Judge for the First Judicial District in July 1995. He was appointed as Chief Judge of the First Judicial District in August 2010.

**Professional Activities:** As a district judge, Judge Bower implemented a drug court, a mental health court, and a domestic violence court in Black Hawk County. He also presented continuing legal education programs for Iowa attorneys on Preserving Error for Judicial Review, Specialty Courts, Prevention of Child, Sexual and Domestic Abuse, and Iowa's Constitution. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Black Hawk County Bar Association and Iowa Judge's Association.

**Family:** Judge Bower is married with two sons.

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Christopher McDonald  
Court of Appeals Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Born overseas into a military family, Judge McDonald was raised in Des Moines. He earned his undergraduate degree from Grand View University in 1997 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2001, where he graduated with highest distinction and received the John F. Murray Award and

Order of the Coif recognition.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge McDonald served as a law clerk to the Honorable David R. Hansen, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Judge McDonald then worked

in private practice in central Iowa prior to being appointed to serve as a District Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District in 2012 where he served until his appointment to the Iowa Court of Appeals.

**Community Activities:** Judge McDonald has supported and served numerous non-profit and community organizations in Iowa. He has served on the board of directors of Bravo Greater Des Moines, the Iowa Asian Alliance, and the Iowa Foundation for Microenterprise and Community Vitality. Judge McDonald is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award.

**Professional Activities:** Judge McDonald is a member of the American, Iowa, and Polk County Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Iowa Judges' Association, serving on the board of directors. Prior to being appointed to District Court, Judge McDonald was active in several professional organizations.

## DISTRICT 1A

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Mark T. Hostager  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Hostager earned his undergraduate degree in business management and political science from Luther College in 1984. In 1988, he received his law and MBA degrees from the University of Iowa.

**Career:** After receiving his law degree, Judge Hostager

taught law-related classes at the University of Northern Iowa. He then worked as a prosecutor in the Dubuque County Attorney's Office for 23 years until his appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Hostager is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family:** Judge Hostager and his wife Brenda have four children.

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Stephanie C. Rattenborg  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Judge Rattenborg earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1990. She received her law degree from Drake University in 1994, graduating with honors.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge

Rattenborg worked in the private practice of law in Manchester, Iowa. In 1996, she was appointed Delaware County magistrate and served until her appointment as district associate judge in 2013.

**Community Activities:** Judge Rattenborg served on the board of the Friends of the Manchester Public

Library, serves as Service Unit Product Supervisor for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois, and volunteers at the West Delaware Community School District. Judge Rattenborg also participates in Career Day and job shadowing through several area high schools.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Rattenborg is a member of the Delaware County and Iowa State Bar Associations. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and currently serves on the bench book committee. Judge Rattenborg was a member of the Iowa Volunteer Lawyers Project.

**Family:** Judge Rattenborg is married with three children.

# DISTRICT 1A

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Thomas J. Straka  
Associate Juvenile Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Thomas Straka, Peosta, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991, and his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1995. He served as law clerk for the Sarpy County Juvenile Court and was appointed to serve Dubuque County as a

**Career:** Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Straka was in private practice, primarily in the area of family and criminal law.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Straka was the secretary of the Dubuque County Bar Association and President of the Young Lawyers Division.

magistrate in 2005.

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## DISTRICT 1B

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Joel Anthony Dalrymple  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Dalrymple was born in Waterloo, Iowa. He attended Waterloo West High School and graduated from Columbus Catholic High School in 1989. He received his bachelor degree in Economics, Magna Cum Laude, from Loras College in Dubuque in 1993 and his law degree from Drake University

Law School in 1996.

**Career:** After graduation, he served in the Black Hawk County Attorneys office, becoming first assistant in 2006 a position he held until his appointment to the bench. He also served as Special Assistant United States Attorney in 2003.

**Community Activities:** Judge Dalrymple taught at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy from 1998 to 2012, Hamilton College from 2005 to 2008, Hawkeye Community College in 2004. He coaches in the Cedar Valley Youth Soccer Association, and volunteered at My Waterloo Days.

**Professional Activities:** Prior to his appointment, Judge Dalrymple was a member the Iowa County Attorneys Association and the Midwest Gang Investigators Association. He is currently a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Dalrymple is married and has three children. He enjoys the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and coaching his children.

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Bradley J. Harris  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Harris was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1976 with a degree in economic and received his law degree from the University of Iowa, College of Law in 1980.

**Career:** Judge Harris practiced as the Assistant Monroe County Attorney and in the office of Karpan and Harris in Albia, Iowa. He was employed as a Public Defender in Black Hawk County from 1987 until 1995. Judge Harris served as Grundy County Attorney and was a partner in the law firm of Heronimus, Schmidt & Harris at the time of his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Harris served on several community Boards and Committees. He was on the Board of Directors of Cedar Valley Hospice. Judge Harris coached youth softball, volleyball, soccer and baseball. He was a member of the Grundy Center Kiwanis Club.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Harris has been a member of the Monroe County Bar Association, the Grundy County Bar Association and Iowa Criminal Defense Attorney Association. He served as vice-president of the Iowa Public Defenders Association. He is currently a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Harris has participated in numerous bar committees and spoken at various seminars and meetings.

**Family:** Judge Harris is married with two adult children.

## DISTRICT 2A

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Christopher C. Foy  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Foy is a native of Britt and comes from a family of seven children. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1984 with a degree in chemistry. Judge Foy received his law degree from the University of Iowa, College of Law, in 1987.

**Career:** Judge Foy practiced law with the firm of Best & Flanagan in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 1987 to 1991, and with the firm of Leslie, Collins & Foy in Waverly from 1991 to 2007.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his appointment, Judge Foy served as a board member for a number of organizations and entities, including the University of Northern Iowa Alumni Association, Waverly Jaycees, Waverly Board of Adjustment, Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, and Bremer County Community Foundation.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Foy is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Bremer County and District 2A Bar Associations.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Foy lives in Waverly, is married, and has four children, ranging in age from 10 to 21. Interests include bicycling, reading, and singing.

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Gregg R. Rosenblatt  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Rosenblatt was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1980. He received an AA degree from Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa, in 1982, and a BA degree from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, in 1984. He received his law degree from the University of

Iowa College of Law in 1987.

**Career:** Judge Rosenblatt was in practice with a private law firm from 1987 to 1989. He was an Assistant Cerro Gordo County Attorney in Mason City, Iowa, from 1989 to 2008. In 2008 he was appointed as a District Associate Judge for the 2A Judicial District. He was appointed to the district bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Rosenblatt is a member of the Cerro Gordo County Bar Association, 2A Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

**Family:** Judge Rosenblatt is married and has one daughter.

## DISTRICT 2A

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DeDra L. Schroeder  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Schroeder received her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1991 and her law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1994.

**Career:** Judge Schroeder worked in the private practice of law with her father at Schroeder Law Office in Charles City and Osage with an emphasis on family law,

civil and criminal litigation. She served as Mitchell County Magistrate from 2005 to 2012.

**Community Activities:** Judge Schroeder volunteers in community, school and church activities. She has been a Judge at Regional Mock Trial Competition, a DARE speaker, and youth athletics coach.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Schroeder has been a member of the State of Iowa Bar Association, District 2A Bar Association, Floyd and Mitchell County Bar Associations, and the Iowa Association of Women Attorneys.

**Family:** Judge Schroeder is married with three children.

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Colleen D. Weiland  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Weiland was raised in Mason City. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1994.

**Career:** After internships with the Iowa Attorney General and the Dubuque

County Attorney, Judge Weiland began her law career with a small firm in the general practice of law. She

was an instructor of criminal law and business law for NIACC and Buena Vista University. Judge Weiland served as Cerro Gordo County Magistrate from 1997 until her appointment to the district court.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Weiland is a member of the Cerro Gordo County and Subdistrict 2A bar associations, the Iowa State Bar Association, American Bar Association and Iowa Judges Association.

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## DISTRICT 2A

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Annette Boehlje  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:**

Judge Boehlje was born in Mason City, and grew up in Rockwell. Judge Boehlje is a graduate of Marycrest University, earning her bachelor's degree in 1994. In 1997, she received her law degree from Pace University School of Law, where she co-chaired the National Environmental Law Moot

Court Competition and was involved in the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic. She received her Masters of Divinity in 2013 from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Career:** After law school, Judge Boehlje worked for two years in private practice in Story City, Iowa. She

then joined the State Public Defender's office until her appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Boehlje is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and serves on the Juvenile Law Committee. In 2014, she served on the Committee on Social Media Policy, helping craft proposed policies governing the use of social media by judicial branch employees, including judges. She is a member of the Cerro Gordo County and American Bar Associations.

**Community Activities:** She sings with Una Vocis Choral Ensemble, an audition adult choir, since 2010. Judge Boehlje is involved with her church and serves in leadership and teaching positions.

**Interests:** Judge Boehlje enjoys learning new things and this fall learned to scuba dive.

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Karen Kaufman Salic  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:**

Born in Manson, Iowa, Judge Salic earned her bachelor's degree from Buena Vista College in 1991 and her law degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1998.

**Career:** After engaging in private practice in Clear Lake for two years, Judge Salic

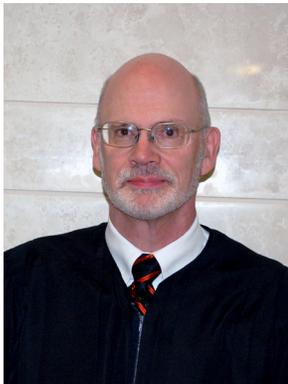
became an Assistant County Attorney in Kossuth and Hancock Counties for one year. She then served as Hancock County Attorney for 12 years until her appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Salic is presently a member of the Hancock and District 2A Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a member of the Prosecuting Attorney's Training Council, the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, Supreme Court's Children's Justice Initiative Advisory Committee (and various sub-committees and task forces), Grievance Commission of the Supreme Court, local Legal Services Advisory Board, and Supreme Court Juvenile Procedure Advisory Committee. When a member of the Iowa County Attorney's Association she served as co-chair of the Juvenile Committee and as a member of the Legislative and Domestic Violence Committees and Board of Directors. She was the President of the North Iowa Drug Task Force Advisory Committee and member of the North Iowa Dispute Settlement Center Advisory Board. She was also an adjunct instructor at Buena Vista University and North Iowa Area Community College.

## DISTRICT 2B

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James C. Ellefson  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Ellefson was born in Boone, Iowa and graduated from Ankeny High School. In 1972, he graduated from Wartburg College, Magna Cum Laude, and was a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. In 1977, he graduated Drake University Law School, Order of the Coif. He was a member

of the Order of Barristers, the Moot Court Board, and served as law clerk to the Iowa Supreme Court Justice Robert G. Allbee from 1977 to 1979.

**Career:** Beginning in 1979, Judge Ellefson worked in private practice until his appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Ellefson was a member of the Iowa Board of Law Examiners and the District 2B Judicial Nominating Commission. He was awarded the 2001 Iowa State Bar Association Community Service Award and served on the Iowa State Bar Association Board of Governors from 1984 to 1988, was a member of the ELCA Attorneys

Association and is Bencher Emeritus, Blackstone Inn of Court.

### Community Activities

Judge Ellefson was awarded the 2013 Graven Award from Wartburg College, speaks at secondary schools regarding the Iowa Judiciary, was a hearing officer, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2006-2012), a member of the Wartburg College President's Advisory Council (1997-present), the Council, Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA (1995-2001), Youth & Shelter Services of Marshall County Community Advisory Board (Chair 2000-2007), Lutheran Services in Iowa Charitable Foundation Board of Directors (1999-2011), and the Marshalltown Men's Chorus. He coached the Marshalltown Junior High and High School Mock Trial Teams from 1985 to 1995 and was recognized by the Marshalltown Education Association as a Friend of Education in 1995, and elected honorary member of the National Forensic League in 1995.

### Family and Interests

Judge Ellefson is married with two daughters, one son-in-law, and one grandchild. He is a private pilot with instrument rating and has been an Iowa High School Track and Cross Country Official for both boys and girls for 27 years.

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Timothy J. Finn  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1987

**Background and Education:** Judge Finn was born in Jefferson, Iowa. He received his bachelors degree from the University of Iowa in 1971 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1974.

**Career:** Judge Finn was the law clerk for Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Harris from 1974 to 1975 and worked in private practice in Ames from 1975 until his appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Finn is a member of the Story County Bar and The Iowa State Bar and American Bar Associations, he was an adjunct instructor at the Iowa State University School of Business from 1977 to 1984 and the Drake University Law School Trial Advocacy from 2008 to 2012.

**Family:** Judge Finn is married (Marilyn), with two children, Katie (deceased) and Patrick.

## DISTRICT 2B

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James A. McGlynn  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge McGlynn was born and raised on a farm in Boone County, Iowa. He attended Des Moines Area Community College, Boone Campus, and earned his bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1972. He received his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1975.

**Career:** Judge McGlynn was in the private practice of law in Algona, Iowa for about 10 years. While in Kossuth County he also served as Assistant County Attorney for about two years and then served as a judicial magistrate. He then moved to Hamilton County, Iowa where he engaged in the private practice of law in Webster City until appointed Associate Juvenile Court Judge for District 2B in 1999 where he served until his appointment as district judge.

**Community Activities:** Judge McGlynn has been active in his church and in his community. He previously served on the parish council and the board of education for St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Webster City. Judge McGlynn served on the board of directors of the Webster City Chamber of Commerce as well as the board of directors of the Hamilton County Economic Development Group, S.E.E.D. and held several offices in those groups including president of the Chamber of Commerce and vice president of S.E.E.D. He has been a member of the Webster City Lion's Club for over 25 years.

**Professional Activities:** Judge McGlynn is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association and the Hamilton County Bar Association. He is past president of the Hamilton County Bar Association. He participated for many years in the Adoption Saturday program.

**Family:** Judge McGlynn is married, he has three daughters and he became a first-time grandfather in September 2014.

Gary L. McMinimee  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1988

**Background and Education:** Born in Carroll, Iowa, Judge McMinimee earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering, with Distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1968. In 1972, Judge McMinimee earned his law degree from Fordham University Law School, where he was writing and research editor of the Fordham Law Review.

**Career:** After receiving his law degree, Judge McMinimee served as a law clerk for the Honorable William Hughes Mulligan, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the

Second Circuit. Judge McMinimee then served as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of New York, working primarily in the area of civil rights litigation. At the time of his appointment to the bench, Judge McMinimee was in private practice with emphasis on litigation.

**Community Activities:** Judge McMinimee served as a member of the Board of Directors of St. Anthony Regional Hospital and is a former president.

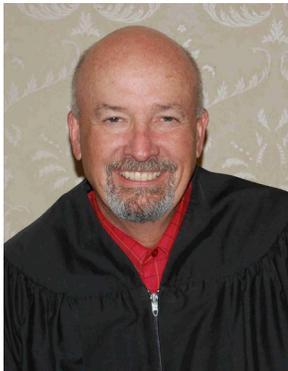
**Professional Activities:** Judge McMinimee is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the American Judicature Society, the Iowa State Bar Association and the Carroll County Bar Association. He has served on various committees of those organizations.

**Family:** Judge McMinimee and his wife have two children.

## DISTRICT 2B

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Michael J. Moon  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** Judge Moon was born in San Francisco, California, and grew up in Beaverdale neighborhood of Des Moines. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1968, the Defense Language Institute in 1970 and Drake University School of Law with honors in 1974, Order of the Coif, and was Articles Editor

for the Drake Law Review.

**Career:** Judge Moon served in the US Army, active duty from 1968 to 1971 and worked in private practice from 1974 until his appointment to the bench. He also served as a judicial magistrate from 1993 to 2000.

**Community Activities:** Judge Moon was a mock trial coach and judge, a member of the Iowa Association of School Board Attorneys, the National School Boards Association Council of School Board Attorneys, the American Cancer Society Marshall County Unit,

the Mental Health Center of Mid-Iowa Board of Directors, the Central Iowa Residential Services Board of Directors, Junior Achievement Board of Directors, Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, Episcopal Diocese of Iowa Mission Commission, Iowa Department of Education Special Education Advisory Panel, P.R.I.D.E. Board of Directors, Iowa River Hospice Board of Directors, Emergency Food Box Board of Directors, St Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry, and the Rotary Club of Marshalltown. He is a member of John's Episcopal Church, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Moon has been an adjunct professor at Des Moines Area Community College since 2009. He is a member of the Marshall County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and The Iowa State Bar Association (serving on the Ethics and Grievance Committee, Young Lawyers Section, and Board of Governors).

**Family:** Judge Moon is married with eight children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

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William C. Ostlund  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1994

**Background and Education:** Judge Ostlund was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and received his bachelors degree from the University of Iowa in 1969. He graduated from the University of Wyoming School of Law in 1972. He was law clerk for Iowa Supreme Court Justice Warren J. Rees from 1972 to 1973.

**Career:** Judge Ostlund was in private practice in Jefferson, Iowa, from 1973 until he was appointed to the bench. He was also an Iowa state bar examiner,

judicial magistrate and juvenile referee for 10 years. Judge Ostlund continued serving as juvenile judge while on District Court bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Ostlund is a founding board member of Greene County Community Services.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Ostlund is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Greene County Bar Association.

**Family:** Judge Ostlund is married with two grown children and enjoys sports, music, and photography.

## DISTRICT 2B

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Adria Kester  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Kester graduated from Des Moines Area Community College as a paralegal in 1992, Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1994, and Drake University Law School in 1998.

**Career:** Judge Kester served as Assistant Public Defender in Nevada, worked in private practice in Ames and Boone for six years, served as Assistant Hamilton County Attorney, Assistant Boone County Attorney, and Boone County Attorney prior to her appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Kester was on the Adjunct Faculty at Des Moines Area Community College and Grandview College. She was an instructor at the City of Boone Citizens Police Academy, and

a member of the Boone County Hospital Ethics Committee, the Genesis Development Board and Executive Committee Member, a volunteer judge for the Iowa Junior High and High School Mock Trial Tournament, and a Boone Junior/Senior High Mock Trial coach.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Kester currently participate in Adoption Saturday and is a presenter for clerks, attorneys and judges at area Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) training across the state and at new judge orientation seminars on EDMS. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Boone County Bar Association. She was a member of the Iowa Association of County Attorneys, the Iowa Narcotics Officers Association, The Central Iowa Drug Task Force, The Second Judicial District Department of Corrections Advisory Committee, and the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

**Family:** Judge Kester is married with 11 children and one grandchild.

James B. Malloy  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Malloy's hometown is State Center, Iowa. He earned his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1976, a master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska in 1980, and his law degree from the University of Nebraska in 1983. While in

law school he served on the Allen Moot Court Board and was a law clerk for the general counsel for the University of Nebraska.

**Career:** After completing his bachelor's degree, Judge Malloy taught high school social studies for four years in Nebraska. After law school, Judge Malloy served as the assistant county attorney in Boone County for four years and then engaged in the general practice of law from 1987 to 2007. In 1997 he was appointed as a part-time judicial

magistrate for Boone County where he served until his appointment as a district associate judge in 2007.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his appointment in 2007, Judge Malloy was a member of the Boone School Board for 11 years, held various roles in the Daybreaker's Kiwanis Club, YSS, Boone County Humane Society, Boone County Prevention and Community Services and the Boone Airport Commission.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Malloy is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association and the Boone County Bar Association. He has taken part in continuing legal education (CLE) presentations within his district, is a speaker and mock trial judge for the Citizen's Police Academy run by the Ames Police Department, assisted with new judge training at the National Judicial College, and worked with Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) training for judges in various parts of the state.

**Family:** Judge Malloy is married with three children and is a member of the First Baptist Church.

## DISTRICT 2B

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Stephen A. Owen  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Born in Council Bluffs, Judge Owen grew up in the Ames and Marshalltown areas. After serving in the United States Army, he earned his undergraduate degree with distinction from Iowa State University and his law degree from Drake University Law School.

**Career:** Judge Owen began his legal career in general practice in Marshalltown and later practiced in Ames. He has served as an assistant county attorney and public defender. His practice areas have included criminal, juvenile, business, municipal law, appellate practice and family law. In addition to his legal practice he taught business law as an adjunct professor at William Penn College and Des Moines Area Community College.

**Community Activities:** Judge Owen served as President of the Legal Aid Society of Story County, Cub Scout den leader and pack committee member, scouting merit badge counselor, Secretary of the Nevada Community Historical Society, a moot court coach and judge at the middle school and college levels, a volunteer tutor in the Mesquaki Youth Tutoring Exchange, Marshall County Childcare Board member, and swimming instructor for intellectually disabled youth.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Owen is a member of the Story County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association and is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a member of the Iowa Children's Justice Training Council and a member of the 2014 Iowa Task Force on Judicial Excellence in Child Welfare Proceedings. He has also presented to bar groups, college classes and community organizations on topics in the law and legal process.

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## DISTRICT 3A

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Patrick M. Carr  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:**

Judge Carr was born in Des Moines and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1972. In 1975 he graduated from Drake University Law School with honors, Order of the Coif. He was a staff member of the *Drake Law Review*.

**Career:** Prior to his

appointment, Judge Carr was in private practice and served as Assistant County Attorney in Pottawattamie County and Clay County.

**Community Activities:** Judge Carr was the attorney coach of Spencer High School mock trial team for several year with one state championship and one runner-up.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Carr is a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure, The Iowa State Bar Association Jury Instruction Committee, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. He is a frequent presenter at new judges orientation training and at continuing legal education for attorneys, often on current Iowa appellate opinions.

**Family:** Judge Carr is married and has two children.

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Don E. Courtney  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:**

Judge Courtney was born in Fort Dodge and raised in Algona. He received his bachelor's degree from Mankato State College in 1972 and his law degree from Hamline University School of Law in 1976.

**Career:** Judge Courtney served as Assistant Tama

County Attorney before returning to Algona and entering private practice. In 1982 he became the Assistant Kossuth County Attorney and started his

own private general law practice. In 1988 he became a member and later a partner in a law firm in Algona. He remained in the general practice of law from 1988 until his appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Courtney is a member of the Iowa State and Kossuth County Bar Associations.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Courtney is married with three children and three grandchildren. His hobbies include reading and gardening.

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## DISTRICT 3A

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Carl J. Petersen  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Petersen was born and raised on a farm south of Hartley. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1990 and Hamline University School of Law in 1993.

**Career:** Judge Petersen was in private practice in Atlantic from 1993 to 2000 and served as Lyon County

Attorney from 2000 to 2012. He also served as Cass County Magistrate from 1997 to 2000.

**Community Activities:** Judge Petersen is a member of the Lester Community Fire Department (firefighter) and an AAU volleyball and basketball coach. He was the Lyon Mock Trial Coach and Judge, a member

of the Atlantic Rotary, Rock Rapids Kiwanis 2000-2005 and an adjunct faculty professor at Colorado Technical University.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Petersen is a member of the Lyon County Bar Association, the Iowa Judge's Association, and The Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA). He served on the ISBA Jury Instruction and Legislative Committees. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a member of the Iowa County Attorney Association Board of Directors and National District Attorney Association. He was president of the Iowa County Attorney Association in 2007. He is also a presenter at continuing legal education for Iowa attorneys and a speaker for National District Attorney Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Petersen is married with four daughters and enjoys historical reading, travel, golf, and his daughters' activities.

## DISTRICT 3B

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Duane E. Hoffmeyer  
Chief Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Chief Judge Hoffmeyer received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1979, and his law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1982.

**Career:** Chief Judge Hoffmeyer was engaged in private practice in Sioux

City for 19 years before his appointment as district court judge. Since January 2008 he has been Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District. He is a northwest Iowa native. He has served as chair of the Judicial Technology Committee and is currently co-chair of the Children's Justice Judicial Excellence Task Force, chairperson of the Community and Strategic Planning

Project to Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contacts within Iowa's Juvenile Justice System Task Force, and a member of many other committees at the state and local level.

**Community Activities:** Chief Judge Hoffmeyer is very active in his church, serving twice as its president and on many church committees.

**Professional Activities:** Chief Judge Hoffmeyer is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, serving as president in 2006-2007. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Woodbury County Bar Association.

**Family and Interests:** Chief Judge Hoffmeyer is married and has two adult children. He enjoys hockey, college football, boating, snow skiing, reading and spending time with children, family and friends.

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Edward A. Jacobson  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Judge Jacobson was born in Onawa and raised in Sloan and Odebolt. He graduated from Odebolt-Arthur Community School in 1966, Morningside College in 1971, and from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1974. While a student at Morningside, he was the editor of the student

newspaper, student body president, and student member of the College Board of Directors. He also worked in the College Admissions Office.

**Career:** In 1974, Judge Jacobson began practice as a general practitioner in South Dakota. In 1976, he was appointed as a law-trained magistrate. Judge Jacobson entered private practice in 1982 in Ida Grove where he became General Counsel and National Trial Counsel for Gomaco Corporation and General Counsel for United Bank of Iowa. He was elected Ida County Attorney in 1998.

**Community Activities:** Judge Jacobson has always been active in community matters. He has been a member of the local Ducks Unlimited committee for more than 30 years, having chaired the group several times. He was also zone chairman for three years. He was a nine-year member of the Pheasants Forever Board, a member of the Ida County Conservation Foundation, the Harold and Leone Godbersen Foundation and Scholarship Awards Committee.

**Family and Interests:** In 1982, Judge Jacobson and his family moved to an acreage near Ida Grove where they have resided since. He is married to his wife of 34 years, Cindy, who works in Denison. They have three grown married children and three grandchildren. He has been an avid outdoorsman for life. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, beekeeping, raising and training retrievers, gardening, and tree planting.

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## DISTRICT 3B

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Mary Jane Sokolovske  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:**

Born in Sioux City, Judge Sokolovske graduated from Regis College, Denver, Colorado, with honors in 1974. While at Regis she was inducted into the National Jesuit Honor Society Alpha Sigma Nu and was the recipient of the History Award for Excellence as the top senior student in the history

department. She earned a law degree from Creighton University in 1977.

**Career:** Judge Sokolovske served as an Assistant Woodbury County Attorney and was named as First Assistant Woodbury County Attorney before leaving for private practice. She also served as a public defender for Woodbury County. In 1992 she was

appointed as a District Associate Judge and served until her appointment as a District Judge in 2000.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Sokolovske is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Woodbury County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. She was the co-chair of the Child Welfare Community Collaboration Team for Woodbury County, is current chair of the Third Judicial District Juvenile Court Committee and was a member of the Woodbury County Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee. She has served as a Group Facilitator for new judges at The National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada. She attended a leadership conference at The National Judicial College while she was a District Associate Judge.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Sokolovske enjoys traveling with her nieces and nephews. She also has a love of the arts and enjoys pastel painting and photography.

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John C. Nelson  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:**

Judge Nelson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and Davenport, Iowa. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1987, and, after taking a year off from college to work and save money, he went to law school at the University of Iowa, graduating

in 1991.

**Career:** Following his law school graduation, Judge Nelson worked in the Sioux City legal department for 13 months before joining the Woodbury County Attorney's Office where he prosecuted indictable and felony criminal cases. After four years in the county attorney's office, he went into private practice for 11 years. In 1997, he was appointed judicial magistrate and served for nine years until being appointed district associate judge.

**Community Activities:** While in private practice,

Judge Nelson managed college students that interned in his law office for several years as part of a college-sponsored class through Morningside College in Sioux City. He has made several junior high and high school class presentations talking with students about the legal profession and the role of the courts. He has participated as a moot court judge at University of South Dakota Law School and was an annual guest teacher at the University of South Dakota for six years for a criminal procedure course.

**Professional Activities:** For the past four years, Judge Nelson has volunteered to run the Project Compass docket in Woodbury County. Project Compass is a specialty court that deals with criminal defendants with mental health issues and needs. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. He also served on the Limited Jurisdiction Task Force and helped author a list of recommendations to the legislature, some of which were passed into law.

**Family:** Judge Nelson has been married for 23 years and has two children, a son who is a sophomore at the University of Iowa and a daughter who is a sophomore in high school. He is an avid reader who enjoys playing basketball and listening to live music.

## DISTRICT 3B

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Julie Ann Schumacher  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Schumacher was raised in Orange City. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota in 1990, and earned a law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1993.

**Career:** Prior to assuming the bench, Judge

Schumacher was in private practice in Denison, Iowa, for 20 years. From 2008-2013, she also served as an Assistant Crawford County Attorney. Judge Schumacher was the Assistant City Attorney for Denison, Iowa for fifteen years. She has also served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission, the Iowa Supreme Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission, and the Board of Bar Examiners.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Schumacher is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Crawford County Bar Association. She is a frequent lecturer on ethics and family law. Judge Schumacher serves as a judge for Adoption Saturday.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Schumacher enjoys spending her free time supporting the Denison High School Monarchs and also enjoys participating in outdoor activities with family and friends, such as walking, cross-country skiing, and biking. She is a member of St. Rose Catholic Church, Denison, Iowa.

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## DISTRICT 4

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James S. Heckerman  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1996

**Background and Education:** Judge Heckerman graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in business administration in 1972 and from Creighton University Law School in 1974.

**Career:** Judge Heckerman worked in private practice from 1979 to 1982 and was an Assistant Pottawattamie

County Attorney from 1975 to 1979 and Pottawattamie County Public Defender from 1982 to 1984. He was appointed district associate judge in 1984 where he served until his appointment as district judge.

**Community Activities:** Judge Heckerman was a criminal law instructor at Iowa Western Community College.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Heckerman is a member of the Pottawattamie County Bar and was a member of The Iowa State Bar serving on the Criminal Law Committee. He also presents continuing legal education programs for Iowa attorneys.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Heckerman is married with two adult daughters and one grandchild. He enjoys travel, golf, attending college football and basketball games.

Timothy O'Grady  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Judge O'Grady was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree in History from Creighton University in 1977. He graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 1980, receiving his J.D. with honors.

**Career:** After law school,

Judge O'Grady was in general private practice for ten years with an emphasis on litigation. He was a Deputy Pottawattamie County Attorney for five years prior to his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge O'Grady has presided over moot court. Before his appointment to the bench, he was active in Lion's Club, Odyssey of the Mind, and Boy Scouts of America.

**Professional Activities:** Judge O'Grady is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Pottawattamie County Bar Association. He has been Assistant Chief Judge in the Fourth Judicial District since 2000. Judge O'Grady has served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Judges Association. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Fourth District Department of Adult Corrections since 2004. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Iowa Mediation Center since 2007. Judge O'Grady is currently part of a committee working to establish a Mental Health Court for Southwest Iowa. He has made continuing education presentations to the Iowa Judges Association and to the Pottawattamie County Bar Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge O'Grady is married and has four children and three grandchildren. He is an avid bicyclist.

## DISTRICT 4

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Susan Kay Christensen  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:**

Judge Christensen was born and raised in Harlan and graduated from Harlan High School. She received a Legal Secretarial Diploma from American Institute of Business in 1981, a degree in Psychology from Judson College, Elgin, Illinois, in 1988 while working part-time at as a legal secretary. She

received her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1991. During law school, she completed an internship at the Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office and was a legal research assistant at Creighton.

**Career:** Judge Christensen was in private practice in Harlan from 1991 to 2007. She practiced primarily in family law and was trained as a Professional Mediator of Family Matters through the District Court Mediation Program. She was also assistant county attorney for the following counties: Shelby County (1991-2007); Harrison County (1996-2007); and Crawford County (January 2007 to appointment on the bench).

**Community Activities:** Judge Christensen was a board member of Harlan Community School District for the 12 years prior to her appointment, a board member of the Harrison-Monona-Shelby County Empowerment (1998-2002) and Decategorization (1999-2002), a member of Iowa Workforce Development Regional Advisory Board (1997-98), a board member for Harlan Chamber of Commerce (1994-98) and Shelby County DevelopSource (1996-98), and a member of Southwest Iowa Domestic Abuse Council (1995-98).

**Professional Activities:** Since 2007, Judge Christensen has volunteered to preside over adoption proceedings on National Adoption Day. She served or currently serves on the following Iowa Supreme Court Committees: Parents' Representation Task Force; Children's Justice State Council; Data Grant Steering Committee; Child Support Review Committee; Pro Se Family Law Forms Committee; and Judicial Excellence in Child Welfare Cases. She is also a member of Iowa State Bar Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Christensen has been married 33 years to Jay Christensen. They have five children and two grandchildren. She enjoys playing the piano, going to movies and spending time with her family.

## DISTRICT 5A

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Richard B. Clogg  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Judge Clogg lives in Indianola and has been a resident of Iowa since 1970. He is a graduate of Simpson College, earning his bachelor's degree in 1971 and his law degree from Drake University in 1974.

**Career:** Admitted to the Bar in 1974, Judge Clogg was in private practice until his appointment in 2000 as a District Associate Judge. He served as a District Associate Judge until his appointment to the District Court.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his judicial appointment he served as a Warren County Civil Service Commissioner. He has also been a member of the City of Indianola Parks and Recreation Commission, Indianola Drug Abuse and Alcohol Commission, Indianola Community Athletic Facilities Board, Indianola Little League Board of Directors,

Indianola Softball Advisory Committee, Indianola United Campaign, Simpson College Alumni Board of Directors, Simpson College Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Advisor, Rotary Club of Indianola, Indianola Athletic Boosters Club, Simpson Gold Club. He also enjoyed coaching youth soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, and football teams.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Clogg is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa State Bar Association. He has served as a faculty member for new magistrate training. Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Clogg was a member of the Juvenile Court and Criminal Rules, Forms, and Young Lawyers Law Related Education Committees of the Iowa State Bar Association; a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of Iowa; a member and President of the Rural 5-A and Warren County Bar Associations; and was an active participant in the Volunteer Lawyers Project. He also has served as a mock trial judge and coach for Junior and Senior High School Competitions.

**Family:** Judge Clogg is married and has three children and two grandchildren.

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Steven W. Guiter  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Born in Ottumwa, Judge Guiter graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in 1978. In 1982 he received his law degree from Drake University.

**Career:** Admitted to the Bar in 1974, Judge Guiter was engaged in the general practice of law in Knoxville from 1982 until his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his appointment as a district associate judge, he served on the Knoxville

Chamber of Commerce Board (past president), Knoxville Library Board (past president), Knoxville Low Rent Housing Board, the Board of the Knoxville Heritage Foundation, and Knoxville Rotary Club Board of Directors (past president). Judge Guiter volunteered for many other community activities including mock trial.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Guiter is a member of the Marion County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Guiter is married. He and his wife are involved in a small farming operation raising cattle and dairy goats.

## DISTRICT 5A

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Steven J. Holwerda  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Holwerda was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned his bachelor's degree from Dordt College in 1979 and his law degree from Valparaiso University in 1983.

**Career:** Judge Holwerda practiced law in Newton for

most of his professional career. He was in a private practice firm from 1983 to 2007 before opening his own law office in 2007. He was also the Jasper County Magistrate from 2010 until his appointment.

**Community Activities:** Judge Holwerda was a longtime board member of the Newton YMCA. He has also served on various school and church boards and committees as well as coaching youth sports.

**Family:** Judge Holwerda is married with two sons, one daughter, and one daughter-in-law.

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Mark F. Schlenker  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Schlenker was born in Des Moines. He graduated from Indianola High School in 1972. He earned a degree in Economics from Iowa State University in 1975 and a law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1978.

**Career:** Judge Schlenker was admitted to the practice

of law in June of 1978 and was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General of Iowa, in the Special Prosecutions Division. In 1979 he accepted a post as First Assistant Warren County Attorney, a position he held until he entered private practice. He continued in private practice until his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Schlenker is a member and past president of the Indianola Rotary Club. He has been active in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and is an Eagle Scout. He received Scouting's Silver Beaver Award, the highest award given to adults by the local scout council. He helped organize a new Boy Scout Troop in Indianola, Troop 123, and has served on the board of the Mid-Iowa Council BSA for many years. He is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and is a Life Fellow of the Iowa State Bar Foundation. He helped organize the Christopher Street Foundation, and has served as a youth soccer coach in Indianola.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Indianola.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Schlenker is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, and the Warren County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He was admitted to practice in the State of Iowa, all Federal Courts in Iowa, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Tax Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served on many Iowa State Bar Association committees and is currently the chair of the International Law Section. He served as co-editor of the Iowa Bar Association Environmental Law Manual and authored the chapter on agriculture. He has been a frequent lecturer at bar association seminars. He served on the Iowa Supreme Court's Sesquicentennial Committee and in that position helped produce the "Citizen's Guide to Iowa Courts" and "Iowa's Legal Heritage", a video history of the court system in Iowa.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Schlenker has been married 27 years. He and his wife have two children. One child is a graduate of the University of Iowa and the other is a junior at Iowa State University. He enjoys attending sporting events, gardening, fishing, hunting, and is involved in operation of his family's farm. He has been a licensed amateur radio operator for more than 40 years and helped organize the Warren Amateur Radio Society, a local emergency services support organization. He serves as Honorary Consul for Germany & France in Iowa, a volunteer position, to promote cultural and educational programs between these countries and the State of Iowa.

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## DISTRICT 5B

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Monty W. Franklin  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Franklin was born in Oskaloosa. He grew up in Decatur County and is a graduate of Mormon Trail Community High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1978.

**Career:** Judge Franklin served as a Wayne County Attorney from 1982 to 1986 and was in private practice in Humeston, Iowa, from 1979 to his appointment to the bench. He served as City Attorney for the City of Humeston for more than 25 years and also served as City Attorney for the cities of Garden

Grove, Corydon, Allerton, and Van Wert.

**Community Activities:** Judge Franklin has been a member of the Humeston Volunteer Fire Department and the Humeston Emergency Medical First Responders since 1992. He was President, Vice-President and Board Member of the Mormon Trail Community Development Corporation. He is a member and past master of Fidelity Lodge, a member and past president of Lucas County Shrine Club, and a member of Za-Ga-Zig Shrine.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Franklin is a member and has served as President of the Wayne County Bar Association, and is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He also received the Angels in Adoption Award from the U.S. Congressional Coalition On Adoption Institute in March 2005 for his work with juveniles and adoptions.

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## DISTRICT 5C

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Richard G. Blane, II  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:**

Born in Chicago, Judge Blane graduated from Drake University in 1970, and Drake University Law School in 1973, where he was a Moot Court finalist that argued before the Iowa Supreme Court at Supreme Court Day. He earned the American Jurisprudence Awards (highest grade) in

Constitutional Law I and II.

**Career:** After receiving his law degree, Judge Blane served as an Assistant Polk County Attorney from 1973 to 1978, as a felony trial attorney, major offense bureau prosecutor and felony trial bureau chief. From 1978 to 1979, Judge Blane was First Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, overseeing the criminal division. From 1979 to 1995, he was in general practice as a civil trial attorney in Des Moines until his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Blane was a junior high school mock trial coach and little league coach for both sons. He served as a mock trial judge at junior high, high school, college and law school tournaments and was inducted into the American Mock Trial Association Judges' Hall of Fame. He was also inducted into the Drake Law School Honorary Order of Barristers. He is a past member of the Drake

Law School Board of Counselors. Judge Blane is an adjunct professor of law at the Drake University Law School, teaching trial advocacy for the past 19 years. He is a member of the Iowa Judges' Association and has served on several committees. He is a founding member and past president of the Blackstone Inn of Court (Des Moines). Judge Blane teaches at the Iowa New Judge Orientation Program. He also volunteers as a judge for Adoption Saturday at the Polk County Courthouse each November.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Blane has been appointed by the Iowa Supreme Court to serve on numerous Supreme Court committees, including the inaugural Advisory Committee on Iowa Rules of Evidence, Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure (former chair and current member) and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Social Policy and Law Clerk Rules of Conduct (current member). Judge Blane also served on numerous Iowa State Bar Association committees, including the Federal Practice Committee (chair) and Uniform Civil Jury Instructions Committee. Judge Blane also served as standing chair of the Polk County Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee before his appointment as a judge. While in private practice, Judge Blane was elected to the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and volunteered with the Polk County Volunteer Lawyer Project, providing pro bono (free) legal services to indigent clients.

**Family:** Judge Blane is married, has two sons and two grandchildren.

## DISTRICT 5C

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Robert J. Blink  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Judge Blink is a 1972 graduate of North Central College in Naperville, Illinois where he majored in English and Speech Communication. In 1975 he received his law degree from Drake University Law School. He is an honorary member of the Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers.

**Career:** Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Blink worked as an Assistant County Attorney, Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant United States Attorney. After serving as a prosecutor, Judge Blink joined a Des Moines law firm, as a trial lawyer practicing in the areas of product liability and insurance defense. He has served as a law professor

at Drake Law School for more than 30 years, including two years as Assistant Director of Clinical Programs.

**Community Activities:** Judge Blink was a Boy Scout leader, little league, girls' softball and soccer coach, junior high mock trial coach and has held numerous positions of responsibility at his church. He is a frequent lecturer to civic groups and at schools regarding the law and the legal system.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Blink is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa Bar Association and the Polk County Bar Association. He has been a nominee for the Iowa Supreme Court, an instructor on legal writing for the New Judges Orientation Program and a contributor to the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Blink and his wife have five children and three grandchildren. He enjoys writing, photography and woodworking.

Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Born and raised in Clearwater, Florida, Judge Ebinger received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and her law degree from Yale University. While in law school, Judge Ebinger served as Tributes Editor on the Yale Law Journal. Judge Ebinger also won the Morris Tyler Moot Court competition, receiving the Potter Stewart Award.

**Career:** Judge Ebinger clerked for the Honorable Michael J. Melloy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Ebinger served as a federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Iowa

and the Southern District of Iowa. While serving as a federal prosecutor, Judge Ebinger received the FBI Director's Award for outstanding prosecutive skills and assistance to the FBI and an award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Ebinger is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Women Attorneys, the Iowa Judges Association, the National Association of Women Judges, the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, and the C. Edwin Moore American Inn of Court. On September 11, 2014, Chief Justice Cady appointed Judge Ebinger to serve on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure. Judge Ebinger also serves on the Security Committee for the Polk County Courthouse.

**Family:** Judge Ebinger is married to a sixth-generation Iowan. They have three children.

## DISTRICT 5C

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Arthur E. Gamble  
Chief Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1983

**Background and Education:** Chief Judge Gamble was born in Des Moines and graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in History and Political Science in 1975. He graduated from the University of Iowa School of Law, with distinction, in 1978.

**Career:** Chief Judge Gamble was in private practice from 1978 until his appointment to the bench working in civil litigation.

**Professional Activities:** Chief Judge Gamble is a past president of the Iowa Judges Association and was awarded the association's Award of Merit. He is Vice Chair of the Polk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and on the executive board of the Fifth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Polk County Bar Association, and past president of the C. Edwin Moore American Inn of Court.

**Family and Interests:** Chief Judge Gamble is married with four adult children and three grandchildren. He enjoys golf and outdoor sports.

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Michael D. Huppert  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Huppert received his bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1979, summa cum laude. He received his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1982, at which time he was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

**Career:** Admitted to the bar in 1980, Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Huppert was in private practice in Des Moines.

**Community Activities:** Judge Huppert is a member of Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Huppert is a member of The Iowa State and Polk County Bar Associations, as well as the American College of Business Court Judges. He is also a member and former director of the Iowa Judges Association, and currently serves as the chair of that organization's Legislative Policy Committee. He is a Master of the Bench (Emeritus) and former president of the C. Edwin Moore American Inns of Court. In addition to his duties as a district judge in District 5C, Judge Huppert was appointed in 2013 to serve as one of three judges assigned on a statewide basis to cases which qualify for inclusion in the Iowa Business Court pilot program.

**Family:** Judge Huppert is married and has three children and one stepson.

## DISTRICT 5C

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Lawrence P. McLellan  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge McLellan earned his undergraduate degree in History, summa cum laude and member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, from Drake University in 1979, and his law degree, with honors in 1983. While in law school he was Articles Editor for Drake Law Review from 1982 to 1983 and was awarded the H.G. Cartwright

Award for the top student published law review article. After law school, Judge McLellan served as a law clerk for the Hon. Ronald E. Longstaff, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. He also received a LL.M. in Dispute Resolution from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 2006.

**Career:** Judge McLellan was in private practice from 1984 until his appointment to the bench practicing in trial law including, but not limited to, business and commercial law, construction law, employment law, environmental law, insurance law, personal injury and utility law.

**Community Activities:** Judge McLellan was an Adjunct Professor of Law, Drake University Law

School teaching arbitration and environmental law and served as a coach for the Drake Law School Mock Arbitration Teams for five years.

**Professional Activities:** Judge McLellan is a member of the FINRA Dispute Resolution, Board of Arbitrators, the Iowa Department of Education Panel of Administrative Law Judges, the Board of Directors of the American Academy of ADR Attorneys, past president of the American Academy of ADR Attorneys and is a American Academy of ADR Attorneys Board Certified Mediator. He was admitted to practice in the State of Iowa, all Federal Courts in Iowa, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. District Court for Nebraska and admitted pro hac vice in federal courts in Wisconsin, Missouri and Minnesota. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, American Academy of ADR Attorneys, where he served as president, The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Drake University School of Law Board of Counselors, C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court- President, and Lincoln Inne. He is also a fellow in the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. He was awarded Top Lawyer, Corporate Counsel, The Best Lawyers in America, The Best Lawyers in America, Environmental Law, Midwest Super Lawyers, Environmental Law, Polk County Volunteer Lawyers Project Pro Bono Award, Iowa State Bar Association Pro Bono Award, and Drake Law School Honorary Order of the Barristers.

Douglas F. Staskal  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Judge Staskal graduated from the University of Iowa in 1976 and the University of Iowa College of Law in 1979.

**Career:** Judge Staskal served as an Assistant Iowa Attorney General and Assistant Iowa Appellate Defender from 1979 to 1986. He worked as an associate and then a

partner in a Des Moines law firm from 1986 until his appointment to the bench.

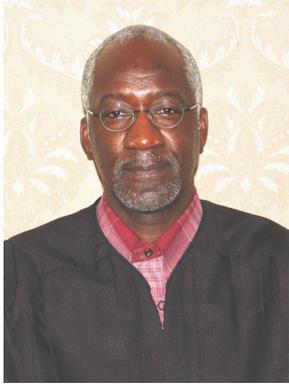
**Professional Activities:** Judge Staskal is a member of the American, Iowa State and Polk County bar associations. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and serves on the association's Courts and Community Committee. He also serves on the Iowa Judicial Branch's Judicial Technology Committee.

**Family:** Judge Staskal is married with two children.

## DISTRICT 5C

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Dennis J. “DJ” Stovall  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Judge Stovall graduated from Chicago State University and Drake University Law School.

**Career:** Judge Stovall was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Des Moines from 1982 through 1986. He served as a Polk County magistrate from 1986 until

his appointment to the bench as a district associate court judge in June of 1995. He was also in private practice between 1986 and 1995.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Stovall is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and has served as a member of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors.

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Joseph W. Seidlin  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Judge Seidlin attended Drake University, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1982, and his law degree in 1985. He was a two-term President of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, and received the Outstanding Student Attorney Award in 1985.

**Career:** Judge Seidlin served as a lawyer in private practice for 28 years before his appointment to the bench. He was primarily a civil trial attorney, focusing his practice on family law and mediation in later years. Judge Seidlin also served as a Polk County Magistrate from 2005 to 2013. He frequently lent his time as a volunteer lawyer and mediator for the Polk County Volunteer Lawyers Project.

**Community Activities:** Judge Seidlin has been a member of the Lions Club and Valley High School Drama Booster Club. He volunteered his time as a Cub and Boy Scout counselor and advisor, and coached Little League baseball for six years. He

has spoken to various elementary, junior high and high school groups about the law profession, coached junior high mock trial teams, and judged intercollegiate mock mediation competitions. He and his family are members of Lutheran Church of Hope.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Seidlin has been a longstanding member of the Polk County, Iowa and American Bar Associations, participating in the family law sections/ committees for each. He also sat on the Story County Legal Aid Society Board of Directors, including as its president. As a magistrate and judge, he has served on the Polk County Courthouse Site Safety Committee, Courtroom Audio Technology Committee, and Polk County Pre-EDMS (Electronic Document Management System) Planning Committee. Throughout his career, he has been a frequent speaker at various continuing legal education programs for Iowa attorneys. He is a member of the Lincoln and C. Edwin Moore Inns of Court.

**Family:** Judge Seidlin has been married for 26 years and has two adult children.

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## DISTRICT 5C

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Colin J. Witt  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Witt is a graduate of the University of Iowa, earning his bachelor's degree with honors in English in 1996 and his law degree with distinction in 1999. Judge Witt was Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Corporation Law*.

**Career:** From 1999 to 2002, Judge Witt served as a law clerk to then Chief Judge Ronald E. Longstaff of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. From 2002 to 2006, Judge Witt practiced law at a private firm in Des Moines. He was a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel. He served as a part time magistrate in Polk County in 2005 to 2006.

**Community Activities:** Judge Witt has coached basketball and seeks to stay active in mentoring young people. He was a member of the Boards of Good Samaritan Urban Ministries and Mentor Iowa prior to his appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Witt has been working in juvenile court since 2010. He works with a juvenile drug court team, and also helps preside over truancy court. He enjoys presenting on legal matters regarding juvenile court to various groups. He worked on an improvement project to try to better engage fathers in juvenile court in 2010 and 2011. He serves as part of Interpreter Advisory Committee and Iowa Children's Justice. He served as part of committee to adapt and edit the Judicial Canons. He is a Master in the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Craig E. Block  
Associate Probate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Block was born in Ottumwa and graduated from Centerville High School. He earned his College AA Degree from Indian Hills Community College in 1977, a Political Science degree from Drake University in 1979, and his law degree, with honors, from Drake University Law School in 1981.

**Career:** Judge Block was in private practice for 31 years working in the areas of real estate, wills and trusts, estates, family law, general tax, corporate law, bankruptcy, juvenile, criminal work, mental health, and civil litigation. From 2011 until his appointment to the bench, he was Assistant to the Director at the Iowa Economic Development Authority, where he was responsible for 125 employees and handling all legal affairs for the agency, including contract negotiation, compliance issues, lobbying at the Iowa Legislature, and budget preparation.

**Community Activities:** Judge Block was a member of the Ankeny City Council, serving as Mayor Pro-Tem from 2002 to 2004 and a member of the Ankeny School Board.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Block is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association where he served on the Probate and Title Standards Committee, and the Polk County Bar Association. He is also a presenter for continuing legal education for Iowa attorneys. He was a member of the National League of Cities, Iowa League of Cities Board of Directors, Metro Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Ankeny Economic Development Committee, the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, the Ankeny Family YMCA Board of Directors, the Ankeny Board of Adjustments, the Ankeny Substance Abuse Project Board of Directors, the Ankeny Jaycees, the Ankeny Rotary Club, the Iowa Legislature's Elder Abuse Advisory Committee, and the Iowa Supreme Court's Guardianship & Conservatorship Summit.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Block is married to Angela Block and has four daughters and four granddaughters. He enjoys golf, reading, and landscaping.

## DISTRICT 6

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Marsha Bergan  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:**

Born in Decorah, Judge Bergan received her bachelor's degree from Luther College in 1973. In 1977 she received her law degree from University of Iowa College of Law, where she was Note and Comments Editor of the *Iowa Law Review*.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge

Bergan received a national Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship to provide legal services through the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa. She later served as the co-managing attorney of the Iowa City Legal Aid Office. In 1981 Judge Bergan went into private practice with an Iowa City law firm and engaged in the general practice of law for 25 years. She served as a part-time judicial hospitalization referee for Johnson County for two years and as a part-time

Johnson County Judicial Magistrate for 18 years. She served as the first Drug Treatment Court Judge in Johnson County.

**Community Activities:** Judge Bergan helped develop the Small Claims Mediation Program in Johnson County and, for that service, was awarded the Iowa Judicial Branch annual Meritorious Award for Part-time Judicial Officers in 2005.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Bergan is a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, the Iowa Judges Association, and the American Bar Association. She has assisted with training of new magistrates in Iowa. She is an emeritus member of the Dean Mason Ladd American Inn of Court and a fellow of the Iowa State Bar Association. She has served on the board of governors of the Iowa State Bar Association and on the board of directors of the Iowa Association of Magistrate Judges. She also served as vice-chair of the Iowa Board of Law Examiners.

Mary E. Chicchelly  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:**

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Judge Chicchelly earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1989, and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992.

**Career:** After receiving her law degree, Judge Chicchelly served as a judicial clerk for the judges of District 2A in

Iowa. Thereafter, she engaged in the private practice of law in Fort Dodge, Waterloo, and then in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At the time of her appointment to the bench, Judge Chicchelly was engaged in a general practice focusing on family law cases.

**Community Activities:** Judge Chicchelly has served as a mock trial coach, and has served as a mock trial judge at both the high school and middle school levels. She is also a charter member of the Marion Metro Kiwanis Club, and serves as a lector at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Chicchelly is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, and has been an active member of the Linn County and Iowa State Bar Associations. At the time of her appointment to the bench, she served as President-Elect to the Linn County Bar Association, and had been a member of its Board of Governors. Since her appointment, Judge Chicchelly has served as a speaker at The Iowa State Bar Association Annual Meeting, as well as for the Linn County Family Law Committee, and the Cedar Valley Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters.

**Family:** Judge Chicchelly and her husband have two daughters.

## DISTRICT 6

Patrick R. Grady  
Chief Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Chief Judge Grady was born in Davenport and graduated from Creighton University in 1975 and the University of Iowa School of Law in 1979.

**Career:** Chief Judge Grady was in private practice in Davenport from 1979 to

1980, was a state appellate defender in Des Moines from 1980 to 1985, and the Linn County Public Defender in Cedar Rapids from 1985 to 1989. He was appointed Juvenile Referee/Associate Juvenile Judge in 1989 and chief judge in 2009.

**Professional Activities:** Prior to taking the bench, Chief Judge Grady was a member of the HELP Legal Aid Board of Directors in Davenport and served on the Johnson County Foster Care Review Board. He also participated in the Iowa Permanency Planning Task Force and did continuing education for foster parents. He has also acted as a Mock Trial Judge at all levels from middle school to law school.

**Professional Activities:** Chief Judge Grady presented at a number of continuing legal education for Iowa attorneys events including The Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA), the Iowa Public Defender Association and the Iowa Criminal Defense Association. He was also a past president of the Iowa Public Defender Association. Since taking the bench in 1989, Chief Judge Grady has served on the Child Welfare Task Force, the Lieutenant Governor's Task Force on Adoption Reform, and the Board of Directors of the Iowa Judges' Association. (IJA). He served as co-chair of the Joint IJA-ISBA Task Force on Pro Se Litigation and chaired the Iowa Supreme Court Pro Se Forms Committee. He is the current Chair of the Linn County Leadership Circle, which is attempting to address and remedy racial disparity in the child welfare system. He has continued to lecture at continuing education events on areas of criminal law and ethical issues involving pro se litigants.

**Family and Interests:** Chief Judge Grady is married with a step-son, two grandchildren and an adult foster son. He enjoys bicycling.

Fae Hoover-Grinde  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Born in St. Ansgar and raised in Marion, Judge Hoover-Grinde graduated from Cornell College with degrees in English and Spanish in 1987 and the University of Iowa College of Law in 1990.

**Career:** Judge Hoover-Grinde worked for Legal Service Corp. for one year and was

the Linn County Public Defender for 12 years before she was appointed district association judge in 2003. She was a drug court judge for seven years, serving two counties.

**Community Activities:** Judge Hoover-Grinde is a speaker for the Law and Government class Washington High School, and for Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Classes at Cornell College. She is also a volunteer elementary school reader and a middle school, high school, and college mock trial judge.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Hoover-Grinde served on Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) judicial interface workflow committee and is a member of the Iowa Judges Association's Education and Memorial Committee member.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Hoover-Grinde has been married for 26 years and has two children. She enjoys running, gardening, reading, hiking, camping, cooking and knitting.

## DISTRICT 6

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Casey D. Jones  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Judge Jones received his diploma from Washington High School before graduating cum laude from Cornell College in 1987. Following that, he received his JD with Distinction from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1990.

**Career:** Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Jones worked as a Federal Public Defender in the Northern District of Iowa for two years. Before that, Jones was the managing attorney at the Linn County Advocate for 15 years where he represented indigent persons in criminal and juvenile court matters. Judge Jones began his legal career in a general private practice.

**Community Activities:** Judge Jones has spoken to

several community organizations regarding issues pertaining to the judicial system.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Jones is a member of the Linn County Bar Association. He is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Jones has been a presenter at continuing legal education seminars for Iowa attorneys and is in the process of becoming a Georgetown University Fellow following a weeklong certificate program in September, 2013 concerning racial disparity in the juvenile justice system. His work in the area of addressing and correcting racial disparity in the juvenile justice system is ongoing as he is part of a multi-disciplinary team from Linn County which is developing a pilot project as part of the Georgetown certificate program. He was also appointed as the chairperson of the Judicial Branch Awards Committee.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Jones is married with three children. He is an avid sports fan and has volunteered as a coach for girls softball and basketball. He has also coached boys' baseball.

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Russell Glen Keast  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Keast was born in Hastings, Nebraska, and raised in Manchester, Iowa. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa in 1982. In 1985, he was awarded a Doctor of Jurisprudence with Honors from Drake University.

**Career:** Judge Keast joined the Linn County Attorney's Office in 1986 where he served as a criminal prosecutor for 20 years.

**Community Activities:** Judge Keast has been involved throughout the years with rugby, coaching youth sports, community theatre, student and public historic presentations and scouting. He has volunteered to judge mock trial competitions.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Keast is a member of the Iowa Judges Association where he has served as co-chairman of the District Associate Judge committee and as a member of the Juvenile Court Committee.

**Family:** Judge Keast has been married for over 30 years. He is the proud father of two sons and three grandsons.

## DISTRICT 6

Barbara H. Liesveld  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Liesveld was born and raised in Cedar Rapids. She graduated from the University of Iowa, with honors in 1977. In 1987, Judge Liesveld received her law degree with distinction from the University of Iowa.

**Career:** After receiving her law degree, Judge Liesveld clerked for Justice James

H. Carter of the Iowa Supreme Court. Following her clerkship, Judge Liesveld was in general private practice for 19 years, with an emphasis on criminal and family law. In addition to her private practice, Judge Liesveld also served as a part-time staff attorney for Linn County Advocate, Inc. a non-profit organization, representing indigent criminal defendants and families and children in need of assistance from 1991 to 1994. In 1997, Judge Liesveld was appointed to serve as a Linn County magistrate and continued to serve in this capacity until her appointment to District Associate Judge.

**Community Activities:** Judge Liesveld volunteers as a speaker at community events. She served on the Area Substance Abuse Council Board of Directors

from 1991 to 1996 and as its president in 1996. She served on the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Foundation Board from 1992 to 1998. Judge Liesveld volunteered as a judge for mock trials for the Cedar Rapids Community Schools and University of Iowa Appellate Advocacy Mock Trial. Judge Liesveld is also a sustaining member of the Cedar Rapids Junior League.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Liesveld is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and Linn County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Iowa Judge's Association since 2007 where she serves on its Board of Directors as the Sixth Judicial District representative and on the Juvenile Law committee. Judge Liesveld also serves on the Linn County Iowa Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Reducing Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes for Children and Families of Color team. Judge Liesveld was a member of the Iowa State Magistrate Association from 1997 to 2006. She served as its Vice-President from 2004-2006. She also served on the Board of Governors for the Linn County Bar Association from 2000 to 2006 and as its President from 2004 to 2005. Judge Liesveld was a member of the Dean Mason American Inn of Court.

**Family:** Judge Liesveld is married and has two children.

Angeline Marie Wilson  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2007

**Background and Education:** Judge Wilson was born and raised in Cedar Rapids. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College, cum laude, in 1989. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence with Honors from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992.

**Career:** Judge Wilson began her legal career in private practice in Mount Pleasant. She went to work as an assistant Henry County Attorney in 1998. Judge Wilson moved back to Cedar Rapids and continued her career as a criminal prosecutor in the Linn County Attorney's office in 2001, and remained in

that position until appointed to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Wilson was president of the Mount Pleasant Kiwanis and president of the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce during her time in Mount Pleasant. She served on the council at Swedesburg Lutheran Church and continued to be active teaching Sunday school and volunteering at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. She has also been involved in the leadership of Cub Scout Pack 560 in Cedar Rapids.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Wilson was president of the Henry County Bar Association and is a member of the Linn County Bar Association. She is active in and enjoys volunteering to speak to schools and other groups about the judicial profession.

**Family:** Judge Wilson is divorced and has a daughter and son who attend Linn-Mar Schools in Marion.

## DISTRICT 7

Joel W. Barrows  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** After being raised in Folletts and Camanche, Judge Barrows received a bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1983, a master's degree in history from Southern Illinois University in 1986, a law degree from Drake University in 1989, and a master of laws degree in international and comparative law, with distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1993.

University Law Center in 1993.

**Career:** Prior to appointment to the bench, Judge Barrows was in private practice in St. Louis, Missouri, served as a child support recovery attorney

for Clinton, Jackson and Cedar Counties, as an Assistant Polk County Attorney in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in both the Des Moines and Davenport offices. He has also taught at Drake University Law School as a member of the adjunct faculty.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Barrows served on the board of the James Arthur Albert Foundation.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Barrows is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Dillon Inn of Court, and the Iowa Judges Association. He is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars for Iowa attorneys.

**Family:** Judge Barrows is married and has two children.

Marlita A. Greve  
Chief Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Chief Judge Greve was born in Reno, Nevada, and lived throughout the United States and in Europe while growing up. After her father's retirement from civil service, the family moved to their home state of Iowa where Chief Judge Greve earned her bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University, graduating magna cum laude, and her

law degree from the University of Iowa in 1992 with high distinction.

**Career:** Prior to graduating from law school, Chief Judge Greve was in management in several financial institutions. After receiving her law degree, she was a trial lawyer in private practice for 14 years with an emphasis on employment law and general civil litigation.

**Community Activities:** Chief Judge Greve volunteers as a judge for the Iowa Law School appellate and trial advocacy programs on an almost yearly basis, participates in career fairs at local high schools, and speaks to students annually on Government Day. Chief Judge Greve participates in the annual

National Adoption program and is a frequent speaker at local continuing legal activities. Judge Greve enjoys mentoring young people interested in law and teaching them about our judicial system.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Greve is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association. She served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Judges Association (IJA) from 2008-12 and currently serves on the IJA Judicial Ethics Committee. She is a judge member of the Scott County Dillon Inn of Court. Judge Greve has also served on a variety of local committees including Pat Cepican CLE Series Committee; Family Law Mediation Committee; Jury Contempt Committee; Expedited Temporary Custody Hearing Committee; and the Imaging Governance Committee. She served on the statewide Supreme Court Advisory Committee Concerning Certain Civil Justice Reform Task Force Recommendations and currently chairs the statewide Expedited Civil Action Implementation Committee. Judge Greve was recently appointed to a three-year term on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. Judge Greve served as the presiding judge for the Scott County Adult Drug Court program from 2012 to 2014. In April of 2013, Judge was appointed as Chief Judge of the 7th Judicial District.

**Family:** Judge Greve is married and has one daughter and two granddaughters.

## DISTRICT 7

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Mary E. Howes  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Born in Davenport, Judge Howes graduated from Drake University in 1979 and the University of Iowa College of Law in 1982. While in law school, she was Managing Editor for *Journal of Corporation Law* and President of the Iowa Law School Student Association.

**Career:** Judge Howes served as Scott County Assistant County attorney for seven years before becoming a judicial magistrate. She served as Scott County Magistrate from 1993 until she was appointed Associate District Court Judge in 2007 where she served until she was appointed District Judge.

**Community Activities:** Prior to her appointment, Judge Howes was a board member for the Center for Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS), a board member on the Rape/Domestic Violence Council, and a Sunday school teacher at First Presbyterian Church.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Howes has been Chairperson of the Scott County Magistrate Commission since 2006, she is a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Criminal Procedure Rules, the Scott County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. She is also a speaker at professional seminars. Prior to her appointment, Judge Howes was a member of the Scott County Bar Association Executive Council and a District Representative to State Magistrates Association.

**Family:** Judge Howes has two sons and one grandson.

Henry William Latham II  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Born and raised in Davenport, Judge Latham graduated from Davenport West High School in 1982. He earned a degree in Accounting from St. Ambrose College in 1986, and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1989.

**Career:** Judge Latham was engaged in the general practice of law primarily in two private practice firms in Davenport, Iowa. Although he was in general practice, he had an emphasis in real estate, estate planning, corporate and family law.

**Community Activities:** Prior to his appointment, Judge Latham served on the Board of the Family

Credit Union, serving on various committees and was the vice-chairman. He also, served on the Board of the North Scott Soccer Club and held various offices.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Latham currently preside over Drug Court in Scott County. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Scott County Bar Association, and Inns of Court. He has given presentations on legal careers at local schools at various levels and has been a presenter at continuing legal education seminars for Iowa attorneys. Prior to his appointment, he was President of the Scott County Bar Association and Inns of Court. Served on the Grievance Committee and Social Committee of the Scott County Bar Association. He also Co-Chaired the Barristers Ball which is a fund-raiser for Help Legal Aid.

**Family:** Judge Latham is married with three children and resides in Eldridge, Iowa.

## DISTRICT 7

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Mark R. Lawson  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge Lawson was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from St. Ambrose College in 1976 and Drake University Law School in 1979.

**Career:** Judge Lawson was in private practice in Maquoketa for 33 years, with an emphasis on litigation. He served as the Bellevue

City Attorney for 30 years and the Maquoketa City

Attorney for 10 years. He served as a Jackson County Magistrate from 2010 until his appointment to the district court bench.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Lawson is a member of the Jackson and Clinton County Bar Associations, the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family:** Judge Lawson resides in Bellevue. He is married with four adult children and one grandchild.

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Mark R. Fowler  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Born in Macomb, Illinois, Judge Fowler grew up in Rushville Illinois, graduating from Rushville High School in 1986. He attended and graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in 1990. He earned his M.B.A. from St. Ambrose University in 1997. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in

1999. Between college and law school he worked for the Thomas J. Lipton Co, and M&M Mars Inc. He has been a resident of Iowa since 1991.

**Career:** Upon graduating from law school, Judge Fowler worked at the law firm of Califf & Harper P.C. in Moline, Illinois, until 2002. He then practiced law at Gomez, May LP in Davenport. Licensed in Illinois and Iowa he practiced primarily in the areas of criminal defense, civil litigation, and employment law.

**Community Activities:** While in private practice he served as an ombudsman for district 9 for the ESRG (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve). He has also served as a mock trial judge.

**Family:** Judge Fowler and his wife have three children.

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## DISTRICT 7

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Christine Dalton Ploof  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Dalton was raised in Solon, IA. She graduated from Coe College in 1986 and the University of Iowa College of Law in 1989.

**Career:** Judge Dalton worked as a staff attorney at Muscatine Legal Services then became an Assistant County Attorney in Muscatine in 1991. She was hired to

head the 7th Judicial District Office of the State Public Defender in 1997, and stayed in that position until being appointed to the bench in Scott County, Iowa in 2006. She just completed her tenure as the judge assigned to Family Treatment Court in Scott County, which began full-time in 2012.

**Community Activities:** Judge Dalton volunteers as a mock trial judge at the junior high, high school, and college levels, and is active in several community groups.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Dalton is a member of the local bar association, The Iowa State Bar Association, as well as the Iowa Judge's Association. She is an active member of the Juvenile Judge's Committee, and has served on a number of other state level committees. Judge Dalton also serves on a number of local committees involving mental health, domestic violence, and juvenile justice. She has attended trainings on criminal and juvenile law.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Dalton resides with her husband and son in Eldridge and their adult daughter is enrolled in an Iowa college. She and her husband enjoy fishing, boating, and spending time with family.

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Cheryl Traum  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2012

**Background and Education:** Judge Traum was born in Milwaukee and raised in Iowa. Judge Traum earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1979 and her law degree from Northern Illinois University in 1998.

**Career:** After receiving her law degree, Judge Traum engaged in the general

practice of law until being appointed to the bench.

**Community Activities:** Judge Traum served on several boards including Greenway Habitat Project, City of Bettendorf Tree Committee, St. Paul's Board of Education, and H.E.L.P. Legal Services. She has been an active volunteer for Boy Scouts and Girl

Scouts. Judge Traum completed the Master Gardner program.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Traum has been a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. She serves on the board of Scott County Kids and the Mental Health and Law Enforcement Task Force. Judge Traum is a frequent speaker at schools and community events.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Traum is married and has two children. Her hobbies include gardening, photography, and traveling, including a medical mission trip to Haiti.

## DISTRICT 8A

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Randy S. DeGeest  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:** Judge DeGeest is a life-long resident of Oskaloosa where he graduated from high school in 1971. He received his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Drake University in 1974 and his Juris Doctorate Degree from Drake University Law School in 1978 with Honors. Law school honors include Order

of Coif and *Drake Law Review*.

**Career:** Judge DeGeest began his law career in Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1978 and was in private practice as DeGeest Law Office from July of 1979 to August of 2009. He has served as a Judicial Magistrate; Judicial Hospitalization Referee; Oskaloosa Community School Attorney for 28 years; Oskaloosa City Attorney for 15 years; provided mediation services and acted as a guardian ad litem for

children for 32 years. Judge DeGeest was president of Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa, and also established the Mahaska County Volunteer Small Claims Mediation Program. On August 1, 2009, Judge DeGeest was appointed and served as District Associate Judge for the 8th Judicial District until his appointment as a District Judge.

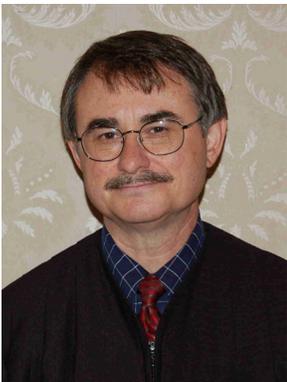
**Community Activities:** Judge DeGeest served on many boards and commissions, including American Red Cross, Public Health, YMCA Board of Directors, County Task Force to construct a new junior high school, and speaks regularly to middle and high school students, and community organizations.

**Professional Activities:** Judge DeGeest is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association; Mahaska County Bar Association; and 8A Judicial District Magistrate Nominating Commission. He speaks regularly to groups associated with the judicial system, including continuing legal education conferences, foster-parent support groups and mediators.

**Family:** Judge DeGeest lives in Oskaloosa and has four children.

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Daniel P. Wilson  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Judge Wilson was born in Pensacola, Florida. He graduated with an AA degree from Indian Hills Community College, his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and his law degree from Drake University Law School.

**Career:** Judge Wilson was in private practice in Centerville for 18 years.

**Community Activities:** Judge Wilson has served on numerous committees, boards and organizations in the past.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Wilson is a member of the Appanoose and The Iowa State Bar Associations and Iowa Judges' Association where he served on the Board of Directors.

**Family:** Judge Wilson is married with five children.

## DISTRICT 8A

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Rose Ann Mefford  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2013

**Background and Education:**

Judge Mefford grew up in Wapello County, Iowa, and graduated from Hedrick High School. She earned an associate's degree from Indian Hills Community College in 1989; her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa in 1991 and her law degree for the University of Iowa College of Law in 1994.

**Career:** She began her legal career as an assistant Wapello County Attorney in 1995-2001, and during that time held positions as Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force Prosecutor and Violence Against Women Prosecutor. Judge Mefford was in private practice in Albia between 2001-2003. She then returned as an assistant Wapello County Attorney until January 1, 2006 when she was appointed Mahaska County Attorney. She was

elected to that office in November 2006 and re-elected in 2010.

**Community Activities:** Judge Mefford received the Gold Seal Award in recognition of outstanding work on behalf of battered women in 1997. She served on the State Board of Directors of Iowa Legal Aid from 2003-2008. She serves as the Parish Treasurer for the Cedar-Fremont United Methodist Church, is a member of Altrusa, and volunteers each summer for the Blue Ribbon Foundation at the Iowa State Fair.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Mefford is a member of the Mahaska, Keokuk and Iowa State Bar Associations. She is also a member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Iowa Judges Association, National Association of Women Judges and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Mefford has four grown children and six grandchildren. She enjoys bicycling and recently completed a trek across Missouri on the Katy Trail.

## DISTRICT 8B

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Mary Ann Brown  
Chief Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Chief Judge Brown was born in Mt. Pleasant and raised on her parents' farm in Henry County, Iowa. She attended Drake University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1981 and her law degree in 1984.

**Career:** In 2012 Judge Brown was named Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial

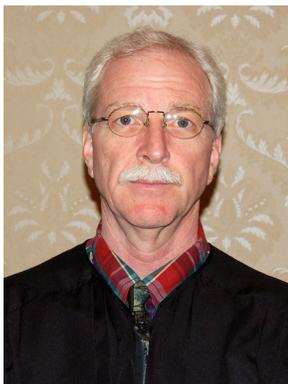
District by the Iowa Supreme Court. From 1985 to 1990 she served as a prosecutor in the Des Moines County Attorney's office. Thereafter she was in general practice until her appointment to the bench. During this time she served as City Attorney for the City of Middletown, Iowa. During law school, Judge Brown served as confidential assistant to the Vice Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

**Community Activities:** Chief Judge Brown has been involved in numerous community activities, including past service as: president of the Burlington Library

Board of Trustees, president of the Girl Scouts of Shining Trail Council, on the Burlington/West Burlington Area United Way board of directors, Burlington/West Burlington Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois board of directors. Her community service was recognized by the Iowa Bar Association in 2000 when she received its Community Service Award.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Brown in the past served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission, the Iowa Supreme Court Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and as chair of the Iowa Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters. She has on numerous occasions been a presenter at continuing education programs for attorneys and judges on topics ranging from post conviction relief to judicial discipline proceedings. In addition she has made presentations for classes at local schools and colleges. Judge Brown is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa Bar Association and the Des Moines County Bar Association.

John G. Linn  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 1995

**Background and Education:** Judge Linn was born in Hampton, Iowa, and grew up in Waukon, Iowa. Judge Linn graduated from the University of Iowa, earning his bachelor's degree, in 1973. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1976, he received his law degree from the University of Iowa, graduating with distinction.

**Career:** Judge Linn was in private practice in Muscatine, Iowa, for four years, and during one year, was assistant Muscatine county attorney.

Judge Linn was then appointed director of a three-county public defender office in Southeast Iowa. He continued in this position until his appointment as a district court judge in 1995.

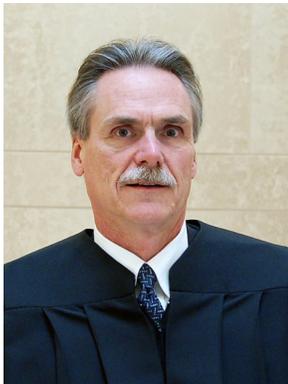
**Professional Activities:** Judge Linn is a member of the Des Moines County and Iowa State Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Iowa Judge's Association and served on the Board of Directors for six years. Judge Linn has been on the Judge's Association Education Committee for 18 years.

**Family:** Judge Linn has been married 37 years. He has two sons and three grandchildren.

## DISTRICT 8B

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Michael J. Schilling  
District Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Schilling graduated with honors from the University of Iowa in 1973. In 1976, Schilling graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law with distinction. While in law school, he participated in the *Journal of Corporation Law*, and the regional and national Client Counseling Competition.

**Career:** Following graduation from law school, Judge Schilling served as a VISTA volunteer lawyer on the three Native American reservations in Nebraska. He then served as an Assistant Public Defender before entering private practice. Judge Schilling enjoyed an active criminal and civil trial practice for almost 30 years.

**Community Activities:** Judge Schilling regularly serves as a junior high mock trial judge, organizes the People's Rights Academy, and presents an annual program on legal ethics issues for the Des Moines County Bar Association.

**Professional Activities:** Since his appointment to the bench, Schilling has served on several committees, including the Iowa Supreme Court's Civil Justice Reform Task Force, and the Eighth Judicial District's Mediation Committee. Schilling is also specially assigned as the drug court judge for several southeast Iowa counties. He is a member of the Des Moines County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Schilling serves as a lector, a Eucharistic minister, hospital Eucharistic minister, and finance council member for his church. He enjoys running, writing, reading history, and making memories with his wife of 35 years, their three children, and extended families.

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Emily S. Dean  
District Associate Judge



**Year of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Born and raised in Fort Madison, Judge Dean earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1996. In 1999, she earned her law degree from the University of Tulsa, where she was recognized for outstanding writing and research skills.

**Career:** After receiving her law degree, Judge Dean worked in private practice in Fort Madison for seven years, specializing in divorce and custody. Throughout her years of private practice, Judge Dean routinely represented parents and children in child abuse and neglect cases.

**Community Activities:** Upon her return to Fort Madison following law school, Judge Dean was active with philanthropic work through the King's

Daughters and Sons. She served as Commissioner of Fort Madison's summer band concert series for several seasons. Judge Dean has served the Fort Madison public school system in various volunteer roles, including guest speaker opportunities and career mentoring.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Dean has served on the court collections committee and is presently working on the template building committee in preparation for the District's conversion to electronic filing. Judge Dean has been the presiding judge over Lee County's mental health court since January 2014. She has been a speaker and presenter at the annual Iowa Judge's Conference. She is actively involved with the Iowa Lawyer's Assistance program. Judge Dean hosts local school events at the North Lee County Courthouse annually.

**Family and Interests:** Judge Dean has two sons. Her free time generally centers around watching her sons' sporting events. She is an avid cook and enjoys any type of physical fitness.