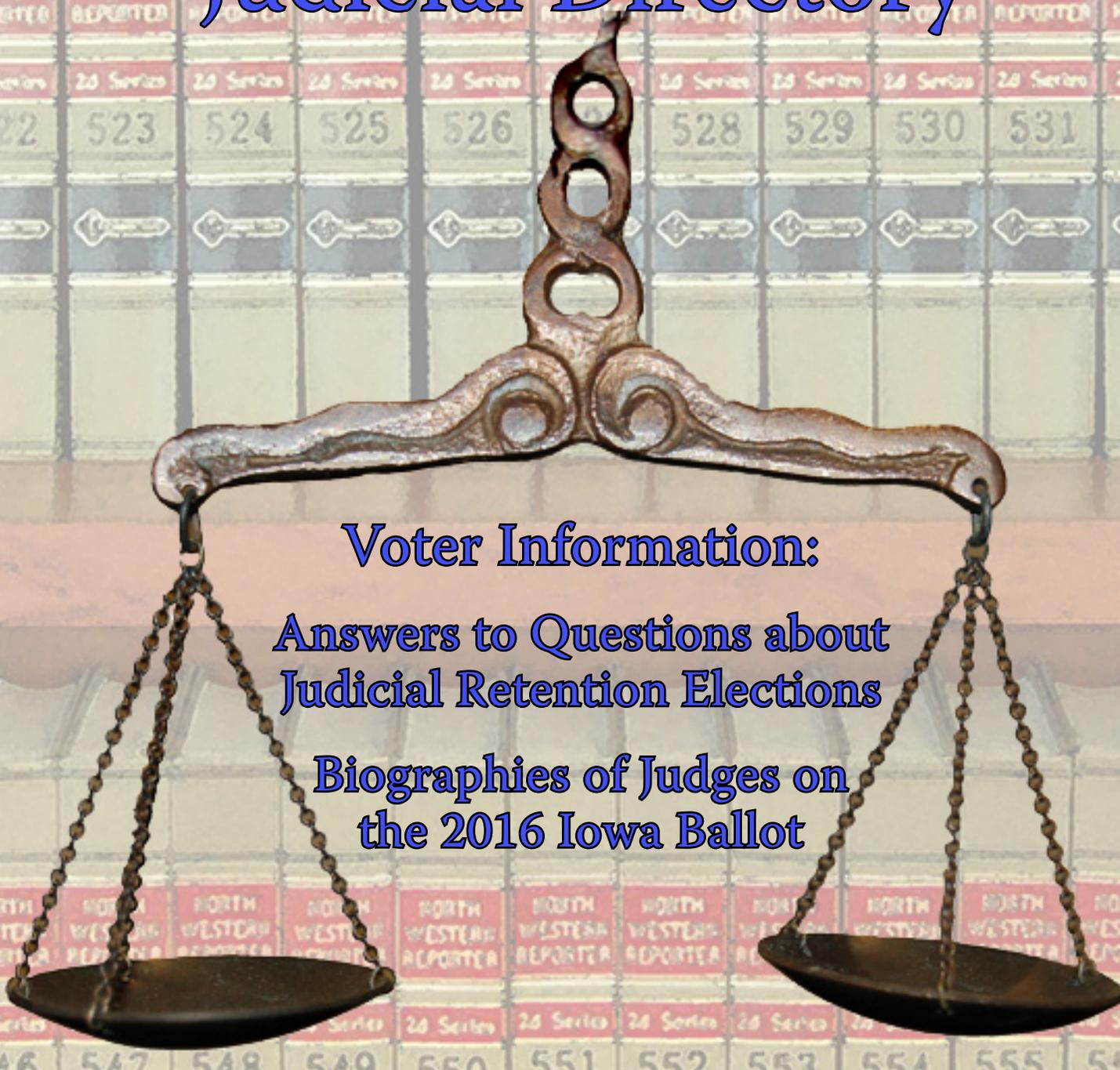


Iowa Voters' Judicial Directory



Voter Information:

**Answers to Questions about
Judicial Retention Elections**

**Biographies of Judges on
the 2016 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.

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.

IOWA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Mark S. Cady Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice



Chief Justice Cady, Ft. Dodge, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1998. The members of the court selected him as chief justice in 2010.

Born in Rapid City, South Dakota, Chief Justice Cady earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Drake University. After

graduating from law school in 1978, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Second Judicial District for one year. He was then appointed as an assistant Webster County attorney and practiced with a law firm in Fort Dodge. Chief Justice Cady was appointed a district associate judge in 1983 and a district court judge in 1986. In 1994, he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals. He was elected chief judge of the court of appeals in 1997 and served until his appointment to the supreme court.

Chief Justice Cady is a member of the Order of Coif (honorary), The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers (honorary). He also served as chair of the Supreme Court's Task Force on the Court's and Communities' Response to Domestic Abuse and is a member of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors. In 2013, Chief Justice Cady was elected to the Conference of Chief Justices Board of Directors. He is the coauthor of *Preserving the Delicate Balance Between*

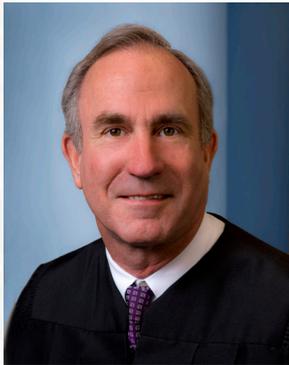
Judicial Accountability and Independence: Merit Selection in the Post-White World, 16 Cornell J.L. and Pub. Pol'y 101 (2008) and of *Iowa Practice: Lawyer and Judicial Ethics* (Thomson-West 2007). He is the author of *Curbing Litigation Abuse and Misuse: A Judicial Approach*, 36 Drake L. Rev. 481 (1987). Justice Cady also delivered remarks at the 2012 Drake Law School Constitutional Law Symposium, *The Iowa Judiciary, Funding, and the Poor*, 60 Drake L. Rev. 1127 (2012) and presented the inaugural Drake Law School Iowa Constitution Lecture, *A Pioneer's Constitution: How Iowa's Constitutional History Uniquely Shapes Our Pioneering Tradition in Recognizing Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*, 60 Drake L. Rev. 1133 (2012). He served on the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices and chairs its Committee on Courts, Children, and Families, and the Committee on Judicial Selection and Compensation.

Chief Justice Cady was an adjunct faculty member at Buena Vista University for more than 30 years and served on its President's Advisory Council. In 2012 he received an honorary doctorate degree in Public Service from Buena Vista University. Chief Justice Cady received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association in 2015. He received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Drake University Law School in 2011 and received the Alumni Achievement Award from Drake University in 2012. Chief Justice Cady is also the Iowa chair of iCivics Inc.

Chief Justice Cady is married with two children and three grandchildren.

IOWA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Brent R. Appel Iowa Supreme Court Justice



Justice Appel, Ackworth, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2006.

A Dubuque native, Justice Appel received his bachelor's and master's degree from Stanford University in California in 1973 and his J.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in

1977. Following graduation from law school, Justice Appel served as a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In 1979, Justice Appel was appointed Iowa First Assistant Attorney General, and in 1983 became Iowa Deputy Attorney General. While serving in the Iowa Attorney General's office, Justice Appel argued

and briefed four cases before the United States Supreme Court, including the second "Christian burial" case, *Nix V. Williams*. In 1987 until 2006, Justice Appel was engaged in private practice in central Iowa.

Justice Appel has served as chair of the Iowa State Children's Justice Council since 2010. Between 2010 and 2016, Justice Appel was appointed by United States Chief Justice John Roberts to serve as a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence. Since 2015 he has served as chair of the workgroup restyling the Iowa Rules of Evidence. In the summer of 2016, Justice Appel was named by the Iowa Supreme Court to chair the newly formed Access to Justice Commission.

Justice Appel is married with five sons and a daughter.

Daryl L. Hecht Iowa Supreme Court Justice



Justice Hecht, Sioux City, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2006.

Raised near Lytton, Iowa, Justice Hecht received his bachelor's degree from Morningside College in 1974 and his J.D. degree from the University of South Dakota in 1977. He received his L.L.M. degree from the

University of Virginia Law School in 2004. Justice Hecht practiced law in Sioux City for twenty-two years before his appointment to the court of appeals in 1999.

Justice Hecht is a past president of the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the

Boys and Girls Home and Family Services, the Morningside College Alumni Association, the Woodbury County Judicial Magistrate Nominating Commission, and the Woodbury County Compensation Commission. Justice Hecht served as chairperson for the Iowa Supreme Court Task Force for Civil Justice Reform. The task force final report was presented to the Iowa Supreme Court on January 30, 2012. Justice Hecht is also involved in the study of civil justice reform at the national level. He is a member of the Civil Justice Improvement Committee appointed by the Conference of Chief Justices. The committee submitted its report and recommendations to the Conference of Chief Justices in 2016.

Justice Hecht is married with two daughters and three grandchildren.

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

David Danilson

Iowa Court of Appeals Chief Judge



Chief Judge Danilson, Pleasant Hill, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2009. The members of the court selected him as chief judge in 2010.

Born in Perry, Iowa, and raised on a farm north of Woodward, Iowa, Chief Judge Danilson earned his bachelor's

degree from Iowa State University in 1976. He graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 1979. Chief Judge Danilson was

in private practice in Boone from 1980 to 1987 and during this time served as judicial hospital referee and judicial magistrate. He was appointed to the district associate bench in the Second Judicial District in 1987. Judge Danilson was appointed to the district court bench in 1997 and served two years as the assistant chief district judge of the Second Judicial District until his appointment to the court of appeals.

Judge Danilson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Danilson is married with five children.

Richard H. Doyle

Iowa Court of Appeals Judge



Judge Doyle, Des Moines, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in 2008.

Born in Elgin, Illinois, and raised in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, Judge Doyle received his bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1971. He then served in the United States Army for two years before

attending Drake University Law School. He was a staff member of the Drake Law Review while in law school. After graduating in 1976,

he served for a year as an assistant attorney general in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Iowa Attorney General's office. He was in private practice in Des Moines from 1977 until his appointment to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Doyle is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Iowa Judges Association, and Lincoln Inne of Court. He co-authored History of the Iowa Court of Appeals, 60 Drake L. Rev. 1 (2011).

Judge Doyle is married with two children and two grandchildren.

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

Amanda Potterfield **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge**



Judge Potterfield, Tiffin, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida, Judge Potterfield attended Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1969. She received her

law degree, with honors, from the National Law Center, George Washington University in 1974. Judge Potterfield worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Georgia Criminal Justice Council and, later, for Prisoners' Legal Services in New York City. She moved to Iowa in 1982 and worked in the Linn County Public Defender's office. She was in private practice from 1989-2001 before being appointed to the district court bench.

Gayle Nelson Vogel **Iowa Court of Appeals Judge**



Judge Vogel, Spirit Lake, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in 1996.

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Judge Vogel graduated cum laude from Rockford College in 1971. In 1983 she graduated from Drake University Law School, Order of the Coif. Following law school, she worked in the private

practice of law in Knoxville. In 1994, she was awarded the Chamber of Commerce Business Woman of the Year Award.

Her membership in the Iowa State Bar Association since 1983 has included serving on the Grievance Commission from 1988 - 1996. As a past co-chair of the Iowa Court Improvement Project, Judge Vogel was instrumental in developing rules to expedite appeals in child dependency cases. Judge Vogel is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association, serving on the Probate section of the Judicial Bench Book. In 2015, Judge Vogel was appointed to serve on the Judicial Technology Committee.

Judge Vogel is married with three children and four grandchildren.

DISTRICT 1A JUDGES

Michael J. Shubatt
District Judge



Judge Shubatt, Dubuque, was appointed to the bench in 2008. He attended the University of Iowa, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1987 and his law degree with distinction in 1990. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was in private practice in Dubuque and served

clients for 18 years as a general practitioner

with an emphasis in civil litigation and trial work. Judge Shubatt practiced in the state and federal courts of Iowa and Illinois, as well as the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Dubuque County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. Judge Shubatt is a past president of the Iowa Judges Association and currently serves the ABA's National Conference of State Trial Judges as a delegate and executive committee member. He also is the presiding judge of the Dubuque and Delaware County Drug Courts.

He is married and has four children.

DISTRICT 1B JUDGES

Linda Fangman
District Judge



Judge Fangman, Waterloo, was appointed to the bench in 2015. She received her undergraduate degree from St. Ambrose University in 1992 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 1995. Before being appointed to the

bench, Judge Fangman served as Assistant Marshall County Attorney and Assistant Black Hawk County Attorney, and she was appointed Black Hawk County Attorney in July 2015. Judge Fangman is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association and American Bar Association. She serves on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure.

David P. Odekirk
District Judge



Judge Odekirk, Black Hawk, was appointed to the bench in 2015. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1989 and his law degree from the same institution in 1993. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Odekirk

was in private practice from 1995 until 2015. He is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

DISTRICT 1B JUDGES

George Stigler District Judge

Judge Stigler, Waterloo, was appointed to the bench in 1978. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa

and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Richard D. Stochl District Judge



Judge Stochl, New Hampton, was appointed to the bench in 2007. He graduated summa cum laude from Western Illinois University in 1986. He obtained his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1989. Prior to his appointment to

the bench he was a partner in a northeast Iowa firm for over 18 years. Judge Stochl is a member of the Iowa and Minnesota State Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, and the Chickasaw County Bar Association.

He and his wife Kathy have three sons.

James D. Coil District Associate Judge



Judge Coil, Cedar Falls, was appointed to the bench in 1986. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he received his bachelor's degree from Simpson College in 1973 and his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1977. Judge Coil served in

the Iowa Air National Guard from 1970 to 1978. After graduating, he worked as special prosecutor in Judicial District 1B and in 1979 worked as assistant Black Hawk County attorney. Judge Coil went into private practice from 1983 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Associations, along with the Iowa Judges Association.

DISTRICT 1B JUDGES

Alan D. Allbee
Associate Juvenile Judge



Judge Allbee, West Union, was appointed to the bench in 1990. He was born in West Union, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa for both undergraduate and law school. He graduated from law school in 1977. Judge Allbee spent 12 years in private practice

but also worked as an assistant county attorney, city attorney, and part-time juvenile referee. Judge Allbee is a member of the Iowa Judges Association Juvenile Court Committee, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the juvenile and family law section of the Iowa Bar Association.

Daniel L. Block
Associate Juvenile Judge



Judge Block, Cedar Falls, was appointed to the bench in 1997. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1985. In 1989 he graduated from Creighton University School of Law and began his law career serving as assistant Black Hawk county attorney

from 1990 to 1996. He was in private practice from 1996 until his appointment to the bench. Judge Block is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Block also is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Northern Iowa.

He is married and has three children.

DISTRICT 2A JUDGES

Peter B. Newell
District Associate Judge

Judge Newell, Waverly, was appointed to the bench in 1995. Born in Yale, Michigan, he received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in 1984. He attended Drake

University Law School and graduated in 1987. Judge Newell is a member of the 2A and the Iowa State Bar Associations.

DISTRICT 2B JUDGES

Thomas J. Bice
District Judge



Judge Bice, Fort Dodge, was appointed to the bench in November of 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1969. He graduated Order of the Coif from Drake University Law School in 1972. Judge Bice was in private

practice for 36 years prior to his appointment. Judge Bice is the past Chair of the Iowa Board of Law Examiners (2004-2008) and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. He is a Lifetime Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Judicial Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and Past President of the Webster County Bar Association

John J. Haney
District Judge



Judge Haney, Marshalltown, was appointed to the district court bench in May of 2014. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Marshalltown. He received an AA degree with honors from Marshalltown Community College in 1991, his BA

degree with honors from Grinnell College in 1993, and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996. Prior to his appointment, Judge Haney was in private practice and also served as a Marshall County magistrate from 2007. He is a member of the Marshall County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association.

Judge Haney is married with four children and ten grandchildren.

Steven P. Van Marel
District Associate Judge



Judge Van Marel, Ames, was appointed to the bench in 1987. Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he attended Iowa State University. After earning his degree in community and regional planning in 1980, Judge Van Marel attended the University of Iowa College

of Law and received his law degree in 1983. He has worked as the Assistant Wapello County Attorney and the Assistant Story County Attorney. Judge Van Marel is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

Judge Van Marel has a wife and two children.

DISTRICT 3A JUDGES

Charles K. Borth District Associate Judge



Judge Borth, Spencer, was appointed to the bench on October 1, 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mankato State University in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1995. He served as Assistant Clay

County Attorney and was in private practice in Spencer since 1997. Judge Borth is a member of the Clay County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association.

Ann M. Gales District Associate Judge

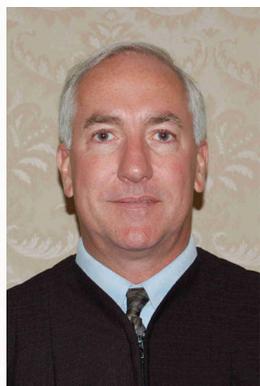


Judge Gales was appointed to the bench effective February 25, 2014. She works primarily in the three-county area including Emmet, Kossuth, and Palo Alto counties. Judge Gales received her undergraduate degree from the University of

Notre Dame and her law degree from Duke University School of Law. Her previous legal experience included working in the U.S. Department of Justice—Antitrust Division in Chicago, Illinois, serving as an Assistant Kossuth County Attorney, and working as a sole practitioner in Algona, Iowa. She is a member of the Iowa State and Kossuth County Bar Associations.

She is married with three children.

David C. Larson District Associate Judge



Judge Larson, Spirit Lake, was appointed to the bench as a full-time district associate judge in 1998. He is a resident of Dickinson County and routinely hears cases in Dickinson, O'Brien, and Osceola counties, and will occasionally preside in the other counties as

needed. Judge Larson received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and graduated from Creighton University School of Law. He spent 17 years in private practice and served as an alternate district associate judge from 1983–1998 prior to his appointment as a district associate judge. Judge Larson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

DISTRICT 3A JUDGES

Mary L. McCollum Timko
Associate Juvenile Judge



Judge McCollum Timko was appointed to the bench in 1988. She earned her bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Iowa in 1979. She received a master's degree with honors from the same institution in 1984 and a law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in

1982. Judge McCollum Timko served as an assistant county attorney for Johnson County from 1982 to 1988 and has served as an adjunct professor at Buena Vista University

since 1993. Judge McCollum Timko is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and served on the Iowa Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project. She is a member of the Child Advocacy Committee, the Parents and Children Together Committee, and the CASA Advisory Board, serving as director until 2008. She is a judge for Cherokee/Ida Family Treatment Court and the founder and judge of the Buena Vista County Family Drug Court. She serves on the Drug Endangered Children Committee, the Native American Advisory Committee for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Siouxland, the Faith Hope and Charity Board of Directors (until 1995), the Storm Lake Softball Association Board (until 2003) and the "I Will Not Worry" Foundation.

DISTRICT 3B JUDGES

John D. Ackerman
District Judge



Judge Ackerman, a lifelong resident of Woodbury County, Iowa, was appointed to the bench in September 1997. He graduated summa cum laude from Morningside College in Sioux City with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1979. Subsequently, he graduated from the

University of Iowa College of Law in 1982 with high distinction. Judge Ackerman was

in private practice with the Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa, from 1982 until he was appointed to the bench. Judge Ackerman participated in the creation of the Woodbury County Drug Court in 1999, and he continues to be involved in that court and serves as the presiding district court judge. Judge Ackerman has served on the board of directors for the Siouxland Community Soup Kitchen since its inception in 1987 and has also been on the board of directors for the warming shelter since it originated in 2015. Judge Ackerman is a member of the Iowa State and Woodbury County Bar Associations.

DISTRICT 3B JUDGES

Steven J. Andreasen
District Judge



Judge Andreasen was appointed as a district judge in January 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1989 and his law degree from the same institution in 1992. Judge Andreasen was in private practice in Sioux

City from 1992 until serving as a magistrate in Woodbury County in 2006 and 2007 before his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State and Woodbury County Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married with one child.

Jeffrey A. Neary
District Judge



Judge Neary was appointed to the bench in 2002. He received his bachelor's degree in German from Westmar College, Le Mars, in 1981, and his law degree from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1987. Judge Neary served as a part-time magistrate for Plymouth County in the mid 1990s

and was an assistant federal public defender in the Northern District of Iowa until his appointment to the bench. He also served as an Assistant Woodbury County Attorney, was in private practice with Sioux City and Le

Mars law firms, and served with the U.S. Army Reserves as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps until his honorable discharge in 1999. Judge Neary is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, is a past member of the South Dakota Bar Association, and served as President of the Iowa Judges Association from 2015 to 2016. He is currently an adjunct professor at Western Iowa Tech Community College teaching reserve deputies through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Judge Neary is currently the presiding judge in Plymouth County, which was a pilot county for EDMS (Electronic Data Managing System). Judge Neary also heads up the Plymouth County Drug Court and works with the members of his local Boy Scout Troop.

Patrick H. Tott
District Judge



Judge Tott was appointed to the bench in September 2014. He graduated cum laude from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1989 and magna cum laude from Creighton School of Law in 1991.

Judge Tott served as a part-time Associate Juvenile Judge from 1994 to 2001 and as a part-time magistrate for Woodbury County from 1999 until his appointment to the district court. Immediately prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Tott was a member of the firm of Buckmeier & Daane Lawyers P.C. in Sioux City.

He is married with seven children.

DISTRICT 4 JUDGES

Susan Christensen
District Judge



Judge Christensen, Harlan, was appointed to the bench November 4, 2015. She graduated from Harlan High School in 1980; American Institute of Business in 1981 (legal secretarial diploma); Judson College in 1988 (bachelor's degree); and Creighton University School of Law in 1991. From 1991 to

2007, she was in private practice in Harlan with an emphasis on family law. She also served as Assistant County Attorney in Shelby County from 1991 to 2007, Harrison County

from 1996 to 2007, and Crawford County in 2007. From 2007-2015, she was a District Associate Judge. In November 2015, she was appointed to the District Court bench. Judge Christensen is serving on, or has served on, the following professional committees: Pro Se Family Law Forms, Child Support Guideline Review, Children's Justice State Council, Parent Representation Standards, Advisory Committee on Rules of Juvenile Procedure, Judicial Excellence Task Force, Guardianship and Conservatorship Reform Task Force and Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Judge Christensen is married with five children and three grandchildren.

Richard H. Davidson
District Judge



Judge Davidson, Clarinda, was appointed to the bench in 2009. He attended Drake University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981 and a Juris Doctorate in 1984. He then moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as a trial attorney for the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission until May 1986. In June of 1986, he joined the law firm Wright and Talisman. In 1991, he returned to Clarinda and practiced law with Bailey and Davidson, later known as Davidson Law Firm. In addition to his private practice, Judge Davidson served as Page County Attorney from 2001 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar and Iowa Judges Associations.

He is married and has three children.

Kathleen A. Kilnoski
District Judge



Judge Kilnoski, Council Bluffs, was appointed as District Court Judge on January 9, 2009, and served as District Associate Judge since 1996. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and attended Grinnell College. After graduating with her bachelor's degree

in 1981, she went on to earn her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1985. She worked as assistant city attorney for Council Bluffs until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and a member and past officer of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.

DISTRICT 4 JUDGES

Jeffrey L. Larson
Chief Judge

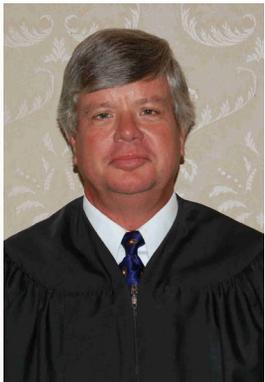


Chief Judge Larson, Harlan, was appointed to the bench in 2003 and became Chief Judge in 2010. He earned his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1985. He was in private practice in Harlan from 1985-2003 and

served as Shelby County Attorney.

Chief Judge Larson is married and has 2 children.

Gary Anderson
District Associate Judge



Judge Anderson, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench in 1987. He received his undergraduate education from the University of Iowa and his law education from Creighton University School of Law.

Charles D. Fagan
District Associate Judge



Judge Fagan, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench January 30, 2009. He graduated from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1988 and received his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University in 1995. Judge Fagan served in the State of Iowa Public Defender's Office until his appointment to the

bench. He is a past member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure, is Chairman of the Iowa Judges Association Criminal Law and Rules Committee, and is a member of the Iowa Judges Association Juvenile Judges Committee and Judicial Administration and Technology Committee. He is a member of the Iowa Bar Association, Pottawattamie County Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married and has three children.

DISTRICT 5A JUDGES

Gregory A. Hulse
District Judge



Judge Hulse, Adel, was appointed to the bench in 1997. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1969. In 1973, he graduated from Drake University School of Law and went into private

practice. Judge Hulse also served in the Iowa National Guard from 1969 to 1975. He belongs to the Dallas County and Iowa State Bar Associations as well as the Iowa Judges Association.

Judge Hulse is married and has two children.

Paul R. Huscher
District Judge



Judge Huscher, Waukee, was appointed to the bench in 1997. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, he went to undergraduate college at Oklahoma State University. After graduating in 1977, he went to the Drake University Law School and graduated in 1980. He was in private practice

for sixteen years before his appointment. Judge Huscher is a member of the Dallas County, Guthrie County, and Iowa State Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association.

Martha L. Mertz
District Judge



Judge Mertz, Knoxville, was appointed to the bench in February 2002. She received her undergraduate degree from Northeast Missouri State University in 1974, and she graduated with honors from Drake University Law School in 1982. Judge Mertz is

a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has received the ICADV Gold Seal Award in 1994, the Athena Award in 1989, the Rodney L. Hudson Appellate Advocacy Award in 1982, and the Order of Barristers in 1981.

Judge Mertz is married.

DISTRICT 5B JUDGES

John D. Lloyd
District Judge



Judge Lloyd, Osceola, was appointed to the bench in 2002. He was born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa and received his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1971 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1974,

both with honors. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Lloyd worked in private law practice and as the Clarke County Attorney. He is a member of the District 5B Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Judge Lloyd is married with one child and one grandchild.

Dustria Ann Relph
District Judge



Judge Relph, Corydon, was appointed to the bench in 2014. She graduated from Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in 1988, Mercy College of Health Sciences in 2003, and Drake University Law School in 2006. Before her appointment,

Judge Relph was in private practice with the Chambers & Relph Law Firm, P.C. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, the Judicial District 5B Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the National Association of Women Judges.

Judge Relph is married and has four children.

DISTRICT 5C JUDGES

Jeffrey D. Farrell
District Judge



Judge Farrell, Urbandale, was appointed to the bench in 2013. He was born in Fort Dodge and also lived in Lytton before moving to Carroll and graduating from Carroll High School. He received his BA in 1986 and JD in 1989, both from the University of Iowa. He

was a law clerk for the Fifth Judicial District from 1989–1991. Judge Farrell served for twelve years as an assistant attorney general and ten years as an administrative law judge before being appointed to the bench.

He is married with two children.

DISTRICT 5C JUDGES

Robert B. Hanson
District Judge



Judge Hanson, West Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 2003. He was born and raised in Jefferson, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1981. He was a law clerk for the late

Justice K. David Harris of the Iowa Supreme Court for one year following his graduation from law school, after which he spent 21 years in private practice in Des Moines, Iowa, before his appointment to the bench. Judge Hanson is a member of the American, Iowa State, and Polk County Bar Associations as well as the Iowa Judges Association. He is also a member and past president of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Judge Hanson is married with two children.

William P. Kelly
District Judge



Judge Kelly, was appointed to the bench in October of 2015. He received his undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1986 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1999. Judge Kelly has spent 16 years in private practice. He is a member

of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He also spent five years as adjunct professor of law at Drake University.

David M. Porter
District Judge



Judge Porter was appointed to the bench in 2015. He received his undergraduate degree in Criminology and Communications from the University of Maryland in 2000 and his law degree from Drake University in 2004. He served as Assistant Wapello County

Attorney and Assistant Polk County Attorney prior to his appointment. Judge Porter is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations.

DISTRICT 5C JUDGES

Karen A. Romano
District Judge



Judge Romano, Johnston, was appointed as a District Court Judge in December 2001. She received her bachelor's degree from Creighton University in 1983 and her law degree from University of Iowa College of Law in 1986 with distinction. Judge Romano worked for a private law firm before

serving as an Assistant Polk County Attorney from 1987 to 1996. She served as a District Associate Judge from April 1996 until her

appointment as a District Court Judge. Judge Romano is a member of the Polk County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. She is also a member of Polk County Women Attorneys, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Iowa Judges Association, and National Association of Women Judges. Judge Romano serves as the chair of the Polk County Courthouse Security Committee and is a member of Court Interpreter Policies Advisory Committee. Judge Romano speaks frequently to legal, civic, and school groups on various areas of the law.

She is married and has two children.

Scott D. Rosenberg
District Judge



Judge Rosenberg, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in January of 1997. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1976 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1979. He has experience in private

law practice and private business, as well as experience at the state appellate defenders office and as Assistant Polk County Attorney. Judge Rosenberg was appointed to the district associate bench in 1992. He is a member of the Polk County Bar Association.

Judge Rosenberg is married and has two children.

Paul Scott
District Judge



Judge Scott, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 2014. He received his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1984 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1987. Prior to taking the bench he was in private practice.

Judge Scott is the Vice President of the Iowa Judges Association and served as its Secretary/Treasurer. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers.

He is married and has three children.

DISTRICT 5C JUDGES

Jeanie K. Vaudt
District Judge



Judge Vaudt was appointed to the bench in February 2014. She received her B.A. in History and Political Science with honors from Upper Iowa University and her M.P.A. and J.D. with honors from Drake University. Her legal career included service

as a graduate law clerk for a justices of the Iowa Supreme Court, private practice with the Davis Brown law firm, and for the last fifteen years prior to her appointment, she was an assistant attorney general in the Iowa Department of Justice. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Susan Cox
District Associate Judge



Judge Cox was appointed to the bench in 2014. She grew up on the northeast side of Des Moines. After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with highest honors, she received her law degree with distinction from the University of Iowa college of Law. Judge Cox practiced law

for more than twenty years at Legal Services and the Polk County Attorney's Office.

Heather L. Lauber
District Associate Judge



Judge Lauber was appointed to the bench in 2015. She attended Drake University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 2000 and her law degree in 2003. Judge Lauber was in private practice from 2003–2011. She was Assistant Public

Defender from 2011–2015. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Association of Women Attorneys, Polk County Woman Attorneys, and C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

DISTRICT 5C JUDGES

Odell McGhee, II District Associate Judge



Judge McGhee, Des Moines, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in February 2002. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell College in 1974 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1977. Judge McGhee has worked as the Program Planner for the Iowa Commission

of the Aging, Administrative Hearing Officer

with the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality, and most recently in the Polk County Attorney's Office. Judge McGhee is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the National Association of District Attorneys, and the National Association of Prosecutors. He is a Commissioner on the Iowa Supreme Court's Continuing Legal Education Commission and an officer of the National Association of Prosecutors (NAP).

He is married with two children.

Cynthia M. Moisan District Associate Judge



Judge Moisan, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 1995. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and earned her bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. In 1982 she received her law degree from Drake University Law School. Judge

Moisan practiced law with a firm from 1984 until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and the Polk County Bar Association.

DISTRICT 6 JUDGES

Lars G. Anderson District Judge



Judge Anderson, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench in July 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from Luther College in 1992 and his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1995. Prior to being appointed to the

bench, he was in private practice in Iowa City from 1995–2014 and was an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa College of Law in 2014. Judge Anderson served as an alternate Judicial Hospitalization Referee for Johnson County from 1997 to 2001 and as a Judicial Hospitalization Referee from 2003 to 2014. Judge Anderson is a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and Dean Mason Ladd American Inn of Court.

DISTRICT 6 JUDGES

Christopher L. Bruns
District Judge



Judge Bruns, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench on December 17, 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Drake University in 1988 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1991, Order of the Coif.

After graduation from law school, Judge Bruns was in private practice with Cedar Rapids law firms until his appointment to the bench. He is a Fellow in the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and a member of ABOTA, the Linn County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judge's Association.

He is married and has one child.

Chad A. Kepros
District Judge



Judge Kepros, North Liberty, was appointed to the district court bench in February 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1993 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996, with high honors. He worked as a private attorney and mediator in Iowa

City beginning in 1996 and also served as a Johnson County magistrate from June 2013 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association (past Chair of the Family & Juvenile Law Section) and the Johnson County Bar Association, and previously served as Sixth District Representative in the Iowa Association of Magistrate Judges. Judge Kepros also serves on the Iowa Supreme Court Family Law Case Processing Reform Task Force and the Iowa Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Review Committee.

Kevin McKeever
District Judge



Judge McKeever, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench on September 30, 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1991 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2001. Prior to being appointed to

the bench, he was an Officer with the United States Navy (1991–1998), an Assistant Ramsey County Attorney (2001–2007), a staff attorney with ACT Inc. (2007–2011), and an Assistant Muscatine County Attorney (2011–2015). Judge McKeever serves as a board member of the African American Museum of Iowa, and he enjoys bicycle riding and reading books about history.

DISTRICT 6 JUDGES

Sean W. McPartland
District Judge



Judge McPartland was appointed to the district court bench in 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1981, with distinction, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Tau Alpha honor societies. Judge McPartland received his law

degree in 1984, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge McPartland practiced in general civil litigation with law firms in Kansas City, Missouri (1984–1989), and in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1989–2008). Judge McPartland served on the Iowa Civil Justice Reform Task Force Steering Committee from 2009–2012 and contributed to the report entitled Reforming the Iowa Justice System, Report of the Iowa

Civil Justice Reform Task Force, January 30, 2012. Judge McPartland also served as a member of the Advisory Committee Concerning Certain Civil Justice Reform Task Force Recommendations beginning in 2012, with the work of the Committee leading to the adoption of 2015 amendments to the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure related to areas including required initial disclosures, discovery, and expedited civil actions. Judge McPartland also has served as a frequent speaker, including in follow-up to the work of the Task Force and Advisory Committee, and has served as a faculty member in New Judge Orientation programs presented by the Iowa Judicial Branch in years 2012–2015. Judge McPartland currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Iowa Judicial Branch New Judge Orientation program. Judge McPartland is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Ian K. Thornhill
District Judge



Judge Thornhill, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the district court bench September 25, 2009, and began his career as a district judge October 23, 2009. He received his B.B.A., from the University of Iowa in 1989. In 1991 he received his M.B.A. from the University of Iowa, and in 1998, received his

J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law

with high distinction. previous professional experiences have included Assistant United States Attorney (August 2002 to October 2009), United States Navy Reserve Attorney (August 2002 to present), and United States Navy Active Duty Attorney (October 1998 to August 2002). From November 2007 to May 2008, Judge Thornhill was recalled to active duty and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Judge Thornhill is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Linn County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

DISTRICT 6 JUDGES

Jason A. Burns District Associate Judge



Judge Burns, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench on August 18, 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree in Justice Systems from Truman State University in 1999 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2002.

He was an Assistant Linn County Attorney from 2002 until his appointment to the bench. Judge Burns is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the Iowa Bar Association, and is also on the Judicial Administration Committee of the Iowa Bar Association.

He is married and has one child.

Susan Flaherty Associate Juvenile Judge

Judge Flaherty, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench in 1995. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she earned her bachelor's degree from Loras College in 1980. She then went to

the University of Iowa College of Law, where she received her law degree in 1983. From 1984 to 1995, Judge Flaherty served at the Linn County Attorney's Office.

DISTRICT 7 JUDGES

Paul L. Macek District Judge



Judge Macek was appointed to the bench in 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1973. He is a member of the Scott County Bar Association,

the Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

DISTRICT 7 JUDGES

Mark J. Smith
District Judge



Judge Smith, LeClaire, was appointed to the bench in 1997. Born in Davenport, Iowa, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose University in 1972 and his law degree from St. Louis University in 1975. He has experience with real estate and personal

injury cases, as well as trial work as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney.

Stuart Werling
District Judge



Judge Werling, Tipton, was appointed to serve Cedar County as a magistrate in 1986 before being appointed to the district court bench in 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1978 and his law degree from the University

of Arkansas School of Law in 1980. Judge Werling is a member of the Cedar County and Iowa State Bar Associations and has served as president of the Cedar County Bar and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Iowa State Bar Association. He is the recipient of the first Meritorious Service Award from the Iowa Judicial Branch presented in 2004.

Judge Werling is married with two children.

Phillip J. Tabor
District Associate Judge



Judge Tabor was appointed to the bench in 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Iowa in 1981. He then received his law degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1984. Judge Tabor served as

an Assistant County Attorney, an Assistant Public Defender, and an Assistant Attorney General in Wyoming. In Iowa, he was elected Jackson County Attorney in 1990. He was re-elected in 1994, 1998, and 2006.

Judge Tabor is married with two children.

DISTRICT 8A JUDGES

Joel D. Yates
District Judge



Judge Yates, Sigourney, was appointed to the bench in December 2007. He received his bachelor's degree from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1986 and his law degree from the Drake University Law School in 1994. Judge Yates spent 12 years in

private practice with Clements Law Firm in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Keokuk County Bar Association. He is married with three children.

Kirk A. Daily
District Associate Judge



Judge Daily, Ottumwa, was appointed to the bench in 1998. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1981. In 1984 he received his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, graduating with distinction. After graduation he went into

private practice until his appointment in 1998. He was also a magistrate for Wapello County from 1984–1986. Judge Daily presides over Drug Court and Mental Health Court in District 8A and received the Iowa Corrections Association's Outstanding Public Official Award in 2016. Judge Daily is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married with two children.

William S. Owens
Associate Juvenile Judge



Judge Owens, Ottumwa, was appointed to the bench in 1999. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in 1981 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1984. He served as Assistant Monroe County Attorney from 1984–1989 and Monroe

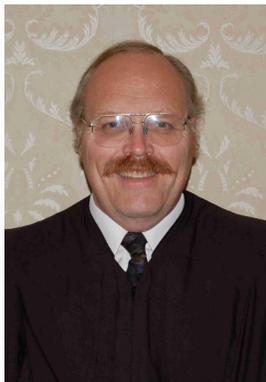
County Attorney from 1990–1998. He was in private practice until his appointment. Judge

Owens is Co-chair of the Advisory Committee, Iowa Supreme Court Children's Justice; is a member of the Children's Justice State Council; and is chair of the Juvenile Judge Committee of the Iowa Judge's Association. In 2008, Judge Owens received the Supreme Court of Iowa Court Innovation Award for initiating a Family Treatment Court in Wapello County. In 2013 Judge Owens received the Harold E. Hughes, Exceptional Rural Professional – Award of Excellence given annually by the National Rural Drug Abuse Network.

Judge Owens is married with three children.

DISTRICT 8B JUDGES

Gary R. Noneman **District Associate Judge**



Judge Noneman was appointed to the bench in 1987. He received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1977 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1980. After graduation, he was in private practice for two years

and then served as assistant Lee County public defender until 1987. Judge Noneman is a member of the Iowa State and American Bar Association, as well as the Iowa Judges Association. He attained the honor of Order of the Coif and was awarded the United States Department of Justice Crime Victims Service Certificate.