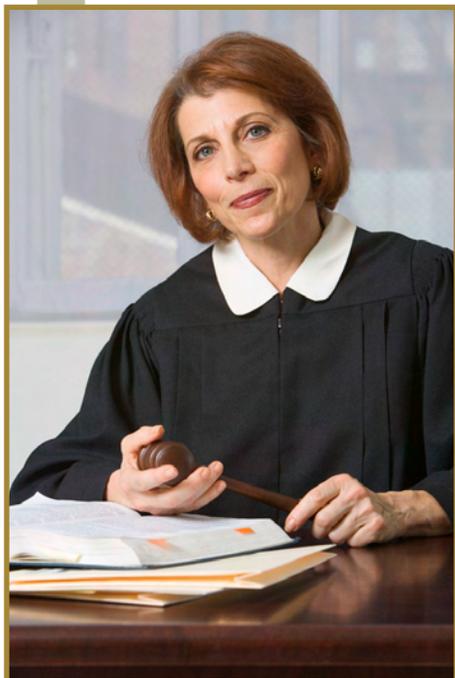


2008 VOTER GUIDE

Iowa Judicial Retention Elections



Voter Information:

- Answers to Questions about Retention Elections
- Biographies of Judges on the 2008 Iowa Ballot

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Retention Election Q & A..... pg. 3

Biographies of Judges Standing for Retention:

Supreme Court..... pg. 5

Court of Appeals..... pg. 6

District 1A..... pg. 7
Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Winneshiek

District 1B..... pg. 8
Black Hawk, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Fayette, Grundy, Howard

District 2A..... pg. 9
Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth

District 2B..... pg. 10
Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Marshall, Pocahontas, Sac, Story, Webster, Wright

District 3A..... pg. 13
Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, Kossuth, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto

District 3B..... pg. 14
Crawford, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Sioux, Woodbury

District 4..... pg. 17
Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby

District 5A..... pg. 19
Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Warren,

District 5B..... pg. 20
Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Wayne

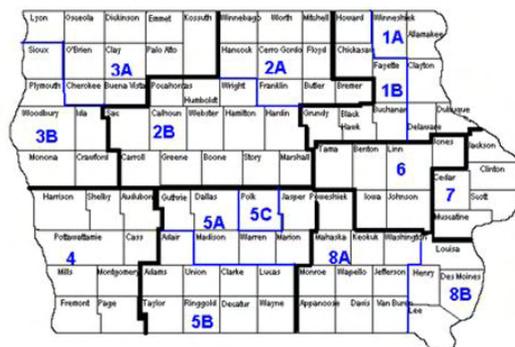
District 5C..... pg. 22
Polk

District 6..... pg. 25
Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Tama

District 7..... pg. 29
Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine, Scott

District 8A..... pg. 32
Appanoose, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Monroe, Poweshiek, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington

District 8B..... pg. 33
Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa



What is a judicial retention election?

In a retention election, voters decide whether a judge should be retained or removed from office. If a judge receives a simple majority of “yes” votes, the judge serves another full term. If a judge receives a simple majority of “no” votes, the judge is removed from office at the end of the year.

Why does Iowa use judicial retention?

In 1962, Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment that replaced the election of judges with merit selection and retention elections. Although no judicial selection system is completely free of politics, 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 that Iowa has fair and impartial courts.

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 abilities
- **Judicial Temperament** - neutral, decisive, respectful and composed
- **Experience** - strong record of professional excellence
- **Service** - committed to public service and the administration of justice

Where do I find information about a judge’s professional experience?

For information about judges on the ballot this year, click on the Voter Guide (available after August 15) posted at: www.iowacourts.gov

What about a judge’s personal views?

- Judges must be neutral and follow the rule of law. It is inappropriate for a judge to consider his or her personal views, political pressure or public opinion when deciding cases.
- A judge has the First Amendment right to free speech, but if a judge announces a position on an issue, the judge’s impartiality may be called into question. If this occurs, 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. This ensures that litigants receive a fair trial.

How are courts 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 believes a judge made an error in a case, the party may appeal to a higher court to review the judge’s ruling.
- If citizens disagree with a judge’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 undo the court’s interpretation.
- 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.

Is there a judicial performance evaluation?

Yes. Each election year the Iowa State Bar Association asks lawyers to evaluate each judge on the ballot on a wide range of attributes. The results of this evaluation are available online one month prior to the general election at: www.iowabar.org

What about an unpopular court decision?

A voter may want to consider more than the outcome of one case when assessing a judge's performance because:

- 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.
- Judges must follow the law, and sometimes the law leads to unpopular results. If citizens disagree with a law, they should petition the legislature to change it.
- High-profile cases that catch the media's attention often bear little resemblance to the cases that constitute the bulk of a judge's work. Most court cases do not involve hot-button issues.
- Sometimes a higher court reverses the decision of a lower court. Reversal by a higher court 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.

Brent Appel

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA and MA, Stanford University, 1973; JD, University of California at Berkeley, 1977

Career

Following graduation from law school, Justice Appel served as a court 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.

Professional Activities

Justice Appel is a member of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court. He has served on the Supreme Court Bar Conduct Committee and is currently a member of the Subcommittee on Supreme Court Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Mark S. Cady

Date of Appointment: 1998

Education

BA, Drake University; JD, Drake University, 1978

Career

After graduating from law school, 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. 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.

Professional Activities

Justice Cady is a member of the Order of Coif (honorary), 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. Justice Cady is an adjunct faculty member at Buena Vista University and serves on the President's Advisory Council.

Daryl L. Hecht

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, Morningside College, 1974; JD, University of South Dakota, 1977; LLM, University of Virginia, 2004

Career

Judge Hecht practiced law in Sioux City for twenty-two years before his appointment to the court of appeals in 1999.

Professional Activities

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.

"Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes."

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

Larry J. Eisenhauer

Date of Appointment: 2001

Education

BA, Emporia State University, 1968;
JD, Drake University, 1974

Career

Judge Eisenhauer practiced law privately and served as a juvenile referee from 1985 - 1993. He was appointed to the district court bench in 1994 and served as district court judge until his appointment to the court of appeals.

Professional Activities

Judge Eisenhauer is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Terry L. Huitink

Date of Appointment: 1994

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1974; JD,
Drake University, 1976

Career

Prior to joining the court, Judge Huitink served as a district court judge from 1988 to 1994. Judge Huitink also served as a part-time juvenile court referee from 1981 to 1987. Judge Huitink practiced law in Ireton and Sioux Center until his appointment to the trial bench in 1988.

Professional Activities

He has served on numerous committees, including the Iowa Supreme Court's appellate restructuring and case processing committees, the judges association's board of directors, and legislative policy, judicial administration, and family law committees. Judge Huitink has also served on the Iowa Bar Association's bench bar committee, and judicial administration committee.

In 2001, Judge Huitink received an *Angels in Adoption Award* from the bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption for his commitment to promoting adoption.

Rosemary Shaw Sackett

Date of Appointment: 1983

Education

BA, Buena Vista College, 1960; JD,
Drake University, 1963; LLM, University of Virginia, 1990; Honorary Doctorate Buena Vista University 2006

Career

Prior to joining the court, she practiced law in Pocahontas and Spencer, Iowa for nearly twenty years. She also served as an Assistant County Attorney in Clay County.

Professional Activities

Judge Sackett has served as chief judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals for the past decade. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and of the American, Iowa State, Judicial District 3A and Dickinson County Bar Associations and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. She has served as chair of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar, as president of the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal, as chairman of the board of the Appellate Judges Institute, and as president of both the Judicial District 3A and Clay County Bar Associations. She has written and lectured on various legal topics and has served on a number of committees concerned with improving the law and for a number of years coached high school mock trial teams. In 2007 she spent several weeks in Bahrain working as an appellate specialist and advising their Ministry of Justice on ways to improve its appellate system.

“Although it may be appropriate for politicians to consider public opinion and the views of special interest groups when drafting laws and regulations, it is never appropriate for judges to do so when deciding cases. Judges are accountable to the Constitution and the law, and in this way judges are always accountable to the people.”

former Chief Justice Louis A. Lavorato, Iowa Supreme Court

Thomas Straka

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1991; JD, Creighton University, 1995

Career

He served as law clerk for the Sarpy County Juvenile Court. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Straka practiced primarily in the area of family and criminal law.

Professional Activities

He was a former secretary of the Dubuque County Bar Association and President of the Young Lawyers Division.



“Judges have to be careful not to inject their own views into the interpretation of the Constitution and, for that matter, into the interpretation of statutes. That’s not the job that we are given.”

Justice Samuel Alito, U. S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

DISTRICT 1B - DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Thomas N. Bower

Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Illinois State University, 1984;
JD, Drake University, 1987

Career

Judge Bower worked as Assistant Black Hawk County Attorney. He also served as assistant city attorney before his appointment.

Professional Activities

Judge Bower is a member of the Iowa Bar Association, the Black Hawk County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He is a board member of the Black Hawk/Grundy Coalition Against Domestic Violence, co-chair of the Iowa Supreme Court Task Force on Domestic Abuse, member of the Iowa Supreme Court Committee to Review Child Support Guidelines, member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and presiding judge of the Black Hawk County Adult Drug Court Program.

Community Activities

Judge Bower is a board member of the Family and Children's Council, board member of Empowering Dads and a member of the University of Northern Iowa College of Business Instructors.

Brad Harris

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Loras College, 1976; JD, University of Iowa, 1980

Career

Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner at the law firm of Kliebenstein, Heronimus, Schmidt, and Harris, and also served as the Assistant Grundy County Attorney from 1995 to 2003, and the Grundy County Attorney from 2003 to 2007.

Professional Activities

Judge Harris is a member of the Iowa Bar Association, the Grundy County Bar Association, as well as the Iowa County Attorney Association.

“So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case.”
former Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court

Christopher C. Foy

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1984; JD University of Iowa, 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.

Professional Activities

Judge Foy is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Bremer County, District 2A, and Iowa State Bar Associations.

Community Activities

Judge Foy is a native of Britt. He lives in Waverly, is married and has four children.

Colleen D. Weiland

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1991; JD, University of Iowa, 1994

Career

She has done internships with the Dubuque County attorney's office and the Iowa attorney general. Judge Weiland practiced law in Mason City from 1994-1998 and served as a judicial magistrate from 1997-2007.

Professional Activities

Judge Weiland is a member of the Cerro Gordo County, District 2A, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

“Senator, my answer is that the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court requires that nominees before this committee for a position on that court not forecast, give predictions, give hints about how they might rule in cases”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

DISTRICT 2B - DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Timothy J. Finn

Date of Appointment: 1987

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1971; JD, Drake University, 1974

Career

Judge Finn practiced law in Ames, Iowa, and clerked for Justice David Harris of the Iowa Supreme Court.

Gary L. McMinimee

Date of Appointment: 1988

Education

BS, University of Iowa, 1968; JD, Fordham Law School, 1972

Career

Judge McMinimee clerked for the Honorable William Mulligan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, served as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of New York, and was in private practice in Carroll before his appointment.

Professional Activities

Judge McMinimee is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Carroll County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association and various committees of those associations. He has served as a faculty advisor with the National Judicial College.

Community Activities

His community activities include serving as a member of the board of directors of St. Anthony Regional Hospital. Judge McMinimee is married and has two adult children.

“I hope the day will never come when persons will be put upon the bench to carry out political or party principles.”

W. Penn Clarke, framer of the Iowa Constitution,
speaking at the Debates of the Iowa Constitutional Convention, 1857

Michael J. Moon

Date of Appointment: 2000

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1968; JD, Drake University, 1974

Career

Judge Moon served as Magistrate in Marshall County from 1993 to 2000. He also practiced law privately from 1974 to 2000.

Professional Activities

Judge Moon is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the Marshall County Bar Association.

William C. Ostlund

Date of Appointment: 1994

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1969; JD, University of Wyoming, 1972

Career

He clerked for Justice Warren J. Rees of the Iowa Supreme Court after law school and then went into private practice. He also served as a judicial magistrate and juvenile referee.

William J. Pattinson

Date of Appointment: 1994

Education

BA, Winona State University; JD, University of Iowa

Career

Judge Pattinson practiced law in Ames from 1977 until his appointment to the District Court bench in 1994. He also served as Story County's Judicial Magistrate from 1985 to 1994.

Professional Activities

Judge Pattinson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He was the District Court's liaison to the Boone County Coalition against Domestic Violence for many years and he is presently the District Court's representative in the Judicial Branch's EDMS (Electronic Document Management System) pilot project in Story County.

“We don’t turn a matter over to a judge because we want his view about what the best idea is, what the best solution is. It is because we want him or her to apply the law.”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

DISTRICT 2B - DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

James B. Malloy

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Iowa State University, 1976;
M.Ed, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1980; JD University of Nebraska, 1984.

Career

Judge Malloy was a magistrate from 1997-2007, was the Assistant County Attorney in Boone from 1984-1987, and was in private practice from 1987-2007.

Professional Activities

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Kurt Stoebe

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of South Dakota, 1977; JD, University of Iowa, 1980

Career

Prior to his appointment, he was a law clerk for Judge Roy Stephenson with the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Humboldt County Attorney and was in private practice with Stoebe Law Office. He served as Humboldt County magistrate from 2001 through 2006.

Professional Activities

Stoebe is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Humboldt County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

“The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises.”

Alfred Carlton, Jr., President, 2002-2003 American Bar Association

Patrick M. Carr**Date of Appointment:** 1995**Education**

BA, University of Iowa, 1972; JD, Drake University, 1975

Career

He has worked as Assistant Clay County Attorney and in a private law firm before his appointment.

Professional Activities

Judge Carr is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, Judicial Education Committee, and American Judicature Society.

Don E. Courtney**Date of Appointment:** 2001**Education**

BA, Mankato State, 1972; JD, Hamline University, 1976

Career

Judge Courtney has served as Assistant Tama County Attorney, Assistant Kossuth County Attorney, and most recently as partner at Cassel, McMahon, Courtney & Stowater.

John P. Duffy**Date of Appointment:** 1994**Education**

BA, Buena Vista University; JD, Drake University

“Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action.”

Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court

DISTRICT 3B - DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Duane E. Hoffmeyer

Date of Appointment: 2001

Education

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1979; JD, Creighton University, 1982

Career

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 Data Sub Committee and a member of many other committees at the state and local level. He was recently selected to be a member of the Judicial Branch Trial Management faculty.

Professional Activities

Judge Hoffmeyer is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association, serving as president in 2006-2007. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association and the Woodbury County Bar Association.

Community Activities

Judge Hoffmeyer is very active in his church, serving twice as its president and on many church committees.

Judge Hoffmeyer is married and has two children, both currently in college.

Edward A. Jacobson



Date of Appointment: 2001

Education

BA, Morningside College, 1971; JD, University of South Dakota, 1974

Career

Judge Jacobson spent 26 years in private practice, served as Ida County Attorney, and was national trial counsel for major equipment manufacturer/product liability defense for 15 years.

Professional Activities

He is a member of the Ida County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association and the South Dakota State Bar Association. Judge Jacobson also helped found and has been the only judge of the West Central Iowa Drug Court.

James D. Scott



Date of Appointment: 1994

Education

BA, University of South Dakota, 1974; JD, University of South Dakota, 1976

Career

He worked as an Assistant Sioux County Attorney, an alternate district associate judge, and in private practice before his appointment.

Professional Activities

Judge Scott is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges' Association, the Family Law and Courts and Community Committees, and the Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Rules of Civil Procedure.

“Judges must not test the winds of public opinion before entering a decision. They are bound by their oath of office to render decisions based on the constitution and statutory law. When there is dispute about the meaning or application of a law, judges turn to well-established legal principles to guide their decisions. This is the rule of law.”

former Chief Justice Arthur McGiverin, Iowa Supreme Court

Mary J. Sokolovske

Date of Appointment: 2000

Education

BA Regis College, 1974;
JD, Creighton University, 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 and the Woodbury County Bar Associations. She is the co-chair of the Child Welfare Community Collaboration Team for Woodbury County, a member of the Third Judicial District Juvenile Court Committee and the Woodbury County Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee. She has served as a Group Facilitator for new judges at The National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada.

Gary E. Wenell

Date of Appointment: 1989

Education

BA, University of South Dakota,
1967; JD, University of Iowa, 1970

Career

Judge Wenell began his legal career with the Office of General Counsel, United States Department of Agriculture in 1970. He was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa from 1972 to 1976. He then entered private practice in Sioux City, Iowa, where he continued until his appointment to the district court.

Professional Activities

Judge Wenell is a member of the Woodbury County Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association and a member of the Iowa Judges Association. He has been a lecturer and panelist for numerous legal education seminars.

“Results-oriented jurisprudence is never justified because it is not our job to try to produce particular results. We are not policy-makers and we shouldn’t be implementing any sort of policy agenda or policy preferences that we have.”

Justice Samuel Alito, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

John C. Nelson



Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1987; JD,
University of Iowa, 1991

Career

Judge Nelson was the Assistant City Attorney from 1991 to 1992 and the Assistant Woodbury County Attorney from 1992 to 1995. He then worked in private practice until 2006 and also served as a part-time Magistrate Judge from 1996 to 2006.

Professional Activities

Nelson has previously served as a member of the Woodbury County Civil Service Commission. He is a member of the Optimist Club.

Judge Nelson is married and has two children.



“Pleasing the crowds has never been what this [court] system strives for. Within our own individual abilities, we first aim to do right and by doing right we strive to serve the law—be it our constitution, the statutes enacted by the other two branches of government, or our own case precedent. We strive to serve the law whether we agree with it or not. . . .”

former Chief Justice Blatz, Minnesota Supreme Court

James S. Heckerman

Date of Appointment: 1996

Education

BA, Iowa State University, 1972;
JD, Creighton University, 1974

Career

He worked in private practice, as Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney, and Pottawattamie County Public Defender before being appointed to the district associate bench in 1984.

Professional Activities

Judge Heckerman is a member of the Iowa Judges' Association.

Timothy O'Grady

Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Creighton University, 1977;
JD, Creighton University, 1980

Career

Before being appointed to the bench, Judge O'Grady went into private practice as well as serving as Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney for five years. Since 2000, he has been Assistant Chief Judge for the Fourth Judicial District.

Professional Activities

He is a member of the Iowa Bar and Iowa Judge's Associations.

“[I]n this country we accept decisions of judges, even when we disagree on the merits, because the process itself is vastly more important than any individual decision. . . . Americans understand that no system is perfect and no judge immune from error, but also that our society would crumble if we did not respect the judicial process and the judges who make it work.”

Theodore Olson, journalist

DISTRICT 4 - DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Susan L. Christensen



Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Judson College, 1988;
JD, Creighton University, 1991

Career

From 1991 to 2003, Judge Christensen was in private practice with the firm of Larson, Childs, Hall & Christensen in Harlan. From 2003 to 2007, she was in solo practice in Harlan. In addition, she served as Assistant Shelby County Attorney from 1991 to 2007; Assistant Harrison County Attorney from 1996 to 2007; and Assistant Crawford County Attorney in 2007 until her appointment to the bench.

Professional Activities

She currently serves on the Supreme Court's Pro Se Family Law Forms Committee, Child Support Review Committee, and Data Grant Steering Committee. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Shelby County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Prior to her appointment, she was a long-term board member of the Harlan Community School District.

Judge Christensen is married and has five children.



“The foundation of a constitutional democracy is impartial courts—courts adjudicating civil and criminal cases free from political and other influences. Consistent standards and principles guide the decisions of impartial courts.”

Chief Justice Thomas Stover, Ohio Supreme Court

Dale B. Hagen

Date of Appointment: 1988

Education

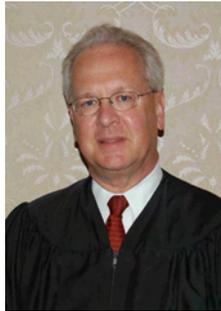
BA, Northern State College; JD, Drake University, 1973

Career

After graduating from law school, Judge Hagen went into private practice in Indianola. He was an Adjunct Professor teaching Business Law at Simpson College from 1978 to 1982. He served as alternate full-time Magistrate (now District Associate Judge) in Warren County from 1976 to 1980. In 1981 he was appointed as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer serving Warren, Madison, Adair, Marion and Jasper counties and continued in that capacity until his appointment to the bench in 1988.

Professional Activities

Judge Hagen is a member of the Warren County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

William H. Joy

Date of Appointment: 1989

Education

BA, University of Iowa; JD, University of Iowa, 1968

Career

After graduating from law school, Judge Joy went into private practice in Perry until his appointment to the bench in 1989.

Professional Activities

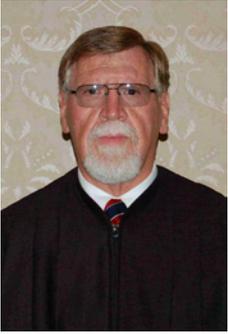
Judge Joy belongs to the District 5A, Dallas County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He is on the education committee of the Iowa Judges Association and is a member of the American Judicature Society. Judge Joy is also a member of the Board of Directors of Wiese Foundation.

Judge Joy is married with three children.

“I think it’s vitally important that [judicial] nominees, to use Justice Ginsburg’s words, give ‘no hints, no forecasts, no previews.’”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

David L. Christensen



Date of Appointment: 1993

Education

BA, University of Iowa; JD, University of Iowa, 1973

Career

After graduating from law school, Judge Christensen went into private practice for approximately 20 years.

Professional Activities

Judge Christensen is a member of the District 5B, Taylor County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He also belongs to the Iowa Judges' Association.

Community Activities

Judge Christensen is married with 3 adult children. He is a member of the Grand River St. Patricks Church.



“Judges must not test the winds of public opinion before entering a decision. They are bound by their oath of office to render decisions based on the constitution and statutory law. When there is dispute about the meaning or application of a law, judges turn to well-established legal principles to guide their decisions. This is the rule of law.”

former Chief Justice Arthur McGiverin, Iowa Supreme Court

Monty W. Franklin

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BS, Iowa State University;
JD, University of Iowa

Career

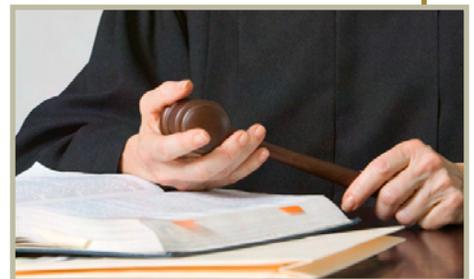
Judge Franklin served as a Wayne County Attorney from 1982 to 1986 and was in private practice from 1979 until his appointment to the bench.

Professional Activities

Judge Franklin is a member of the Wayne County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He also received the Angels in Adoption Award from U.S. Congressional Coalition On Adoption Institute in March 2005.

Community Activities

Judge Franklin is a past officer of the Mormon Trail Community Services Corporation; member of Fidelity Masonic Lodge; member of Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, member of Lucas County Shrine Club, member of Wayne County Emergency Medical Services Council, member of Humeston Medical First Responders and Humeston Volunteer Fire Department.



“Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes.”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court

DISTRICT 5C - DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Richard G. Blane II



Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Drake University, 1970; JD, Drake University, 1973

Career

Judge Blane worked as an Assistant Polk County Attorney, first Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, and for a private firm in Des Moines. He also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the Drake University Law School.

Professional Activities

Judge Blane is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He served on the Iowa Supreme Court Committee on the Rules of Evidence and chaired the Iowa Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Procedure. He also chaired the Iowa State Bar Association Federal Practice Committee and served on the Uniform Jury Instruction Committee. He is a member and past president of the Blackstone Inn of Court in Des Moines.

Robert J. Blink



Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, North Central College, 1972; Drake University Law School, 1975

Career

Judge Blink has served as an Assistant Polk County Attorney, Assistant Iowa Attorney General and Special Deputy United States Attorney. He was also a partner in a Des Moines law firm before becoming a judge. He has been a professor at Drake University Law School since 1981.

Professional Activities

He is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Blink is an Honorary Member of the Order of the Coif and the Order of Barristers.

Judge Blink is married and has five children.

Arthur Gamble

Date of Appointment: 1983

Education

BA, University of Iowa; JD, University of Iowa, 1978

Career

Prior to his appointment, Chief Judge Gamble was in the law firm of Gamble & Davis where he practiced civil litigation and administrative law with an emphasis on trial and appellate practice in state and federal courts. He was appointed Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District in 1995.

Professional Activities

Chief Judge Gamble was the president of the Iowa Judges Association and President of the the C. Edwin Moore American Inn of Court. Judge Gamble served on the Iowa State Bar Association Uniform Jury Instruction Committee. He co-chaired the Iowa State Bench-Bar Conference Committee and Litigation Section Rules Committee.

Judge Gamble received the Judicial Achievement Award for the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association in 1996. In 1999, he received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association and in 2002, he received the Distinguished Service Award from Drake University Law School.

“Although it may be appropriate for politicians to consider public opinion and the views of special interest groups when drafting laws and regulations, it is never appropriate for judges to do so when deciding cases. Judges are accountable to the Constitution and the law, and in this way judges are always accountable to the people.”

former Chief Justice Louis A. Lavorato, Iowa Supreme Court

Michael D. Huppert

Date of Appointment: 1999

Education

BA, Drake University, 1979; JD
Drake University Law School, 1982

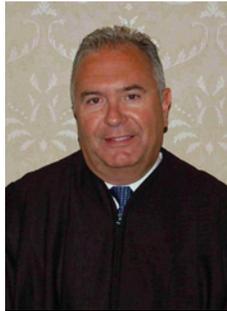
Career

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Huppert was a partner in the law firm of Patterson, Lorentzen, Duffield, Timmons, Irish, Becker and Ordway in Des Moines.

Professional Activities

He is a member of the Iowa State and Polk County Bar Associations, as well as the American Judicature Society. He is also a member and director of the Iowa Judges Association. He is a Master of the Bench and former president of the C. Edwin Moore American Inns of Court.

Judge Huppert is a member of the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. He is married and has three children.

Douglas F. Staskal

Date of Appointment: 2001

Education

BS, University of Iowa 1976; JD,
University of Iowa College of Law,
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 in 1996.

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.

Dennis J. "DJ" Stovall

Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Chicago State University; JD,
Drake University

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 appointed to the district court bench in September of 1995. He was also in private practice between 1986-1995.

Professional Activities

Judge Stovall is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and a member of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors.

“Judges have to be careful not to inject their own views into the interpretation of the Constitution and, for that matter, into the interpretation of statutes. That’s not the job that we are given.”

Justice Samuel Alito, U. S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

Colin Witt

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Iowa; JD, University of Iowa

Career

He was a law clerk for three years to Judge Ronald E. Longstaff of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. Judge Witt also was in private practice prior to his appointment to the district associate bench.



“So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case.”

former Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court

Nancy A. Baumgartner

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, Iowa State University, 1975;
JD, University of Iowa, 1979

Career

Judge Baumgartner was a magistrate and in private practice in Iowa City. She then worked as a Public Defender in Cedar Rapids until her appointment to the bench as a District Associate Judge in 1995. She was appointed as a District Court Judge in 2006.

Professional Activities

She is a member of the Linn County and Iowa State Bar Associations; the National Association of Women Judges; and a founding and current member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. She is the immediate past president of the Iowa Judges Association. She has served on various judicial committees and is currently a member of the Limited Jurisdiction Task Force.

Marsha Bergan

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

B.A., Luther College, 1973
J.D., University of Iowa, 1977

Career

Judge Bergan served as Johnson County Magistrate for 18 years while in private practice in Iowa City for 25 years. She also served as a substitute hospitalization referee. Prior to private practice, she worked for Legal Services Corporation as a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow and later co-managing attorney of the Iowa City Legal Aid office. In 2005 she received the Iowa Judicial Branch annual Meritorious Award for Part-time Judicial Officers.

Professional Activities

She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the Johnson County Bar Association. She is a master member of the Dean Mason Ladd American Inn of Court and a fellow in the Iowa State Bar Foundation. She 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 held the office of president of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. She served as vice-chair of the Iowa Board of Law Examiners.

Patrick R. Grady

Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Creighton University, 1975;
JD, University of Iowa

Career

After earning his law degree from the University of Iowa, he served as a state appellate defender, Linn County public defender, and practiced law with a firm. In 1989 he began serving as a juvenile referee.

Professional Activities

Judge Grady has served on task forces in the areas of permanency planning and adoption. He has been a continuing legal education instructor in the areas of ethics, criminal law and juvenile law. He has chaired the Linn County Magistrate Nominating Commission since 2003. Most recently, he has co-chaired the joint IJA/ISBA task force on pro se litigation and the Supreme Court Pro Se Family Law Forms Committee.

“Senator, my answer is that the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court requires that nominees before this committee for a position on that court not forecast, give predictions, give hints about how they might rule in cases”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

DISTRICT 6 - DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Fae Hoover-Grinde



Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Cornell College, 1987; JD, University of Iowa, 1990

Career

Judge Hoover-Grinde has served as an assistant public defender in Linn County, a managing attorney at the Linn County Advocate and a staff attorney for the Legal Services of Iowa.

Professional Activities

She is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, Iowa Judges Association, EDMS Judge's Workflow Committee, Court Technology Committee and Judicial Outreach Committee.

Community Activities

Judge Hoover-Grinde is a volunteer with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, a chaperone for elementary school field trips and does public speaking, specifically on Drug Treatment Courts on behalf of the Iowa Judicial Branch.

Thomas L. Koehler

Date of Appointment: 1979

Education

BA, University of Iowa; JD, University of Iowa

“I hope the day will never come when persons will be put upon the bench to carry out political or party principles.”

W. Penn Clarke, framer of the Iowa Constitution,
speaking at the Debates of the Iowa Constitutional Convention, 1857

Casey D. Jones

Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Cornell College, 1987; JD, University of Iowa, 1990

Career

Prior to being appointed, Jones worked as a Federal Public Defender. Before that, Jones was the managing attorney at the Linn County Advocate for 15 years after working in private practice.

Professional Activities

Judge Jones is a member of the Linn County Bar Association. He is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

Community Activities

Judge Jones volunteers as a coach for girls softball and basketball. He is married with three children.

Russell Keast

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1982; JD, Drake University, 1985

Career

Judge Keast served as Assistant Linn County Attorney from 1986 until 2006. He also was in private practice until his appointment to the bench.

Barbara Liesveld

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BS, University of Iowa, 1977; JD, University of Iowa, 1987

Career

Judge Liesveld served as Linn County Magistrate for 9 1/2 years while in private practice in Cedar Rapids for 19 years. Prior to entering private practice she clerked for Justice James H. Carter of the Iowa Supreme Court. Early in her law career she served as a part-time staff attorney with the Linn County Advocate Office.

Professional Activities

Judge Liesveld has held offices in the Iowa State Magistrate Association and the Linn County Bar Association. She is a member of the Linn County and Iowa State Bar Associations as well as the Iowa Judges Association.

“We don’t turn a matter over to a judge because we want his view about what the best idea is, what the best solution is. It is because we want him or her to apply the law.”

Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

Angeline M. Wilson



Date of Appointment: 2007

Education

BA, Luther College, 1989; JD, University of Iowa; 1992

Career

Judge Wilson was in private practice from 1992 to July 1999. She served as part-time Assistant Henry County Attorney from 1997 through July of 1999. She served full time as Assistant Henry County Attorney through August 2001. She was Assistant Linn County Attorney from 2001 until her appointment to the bench.

Professional Activities

Judge Wilson is a member of the Linn County Bar Association. She was previously a member of the Iowa County Attorneys Association, the Henry County Bar Association and the Linn County BEP/SOP Advisory Board.

Community Activities

Judge Wilson teaches Sunday School at First Lutheran Church and is Awards Chair for Cub Scout Pack 560.

Judge Wilson is married and has two children.

“The foundation of a constitutional democracy is impartial courts—courts adjudicating civil and criminal cases free from political and other influences. Consistent standards and principles guide the decisions of impartial courts.”

Chief Justice Thomas Stover, Ohio Supreme Court

J. Hobart Darbyshire

Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

BA, Morningside College, 1964; JD, University of Iowa, 1967

Career

He served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Clay LeGrand, Iowa Supreme Court Justice, from 1967-68; practiced law in Rockwell City, Mapleton, and Davenport; and served as a part-time U.S. magistrate for the Southern District of Iowa from 1972-79.

Professional Activities

Judge Darbyshire is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges' Association.

Marlita Greve

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BS, Upper Iowa University, 1990; JD, University of Iowa, 1992

Career

Judge Greve was a trial lawyer in private practice in a law firm from 1992 to 2006.

Professional Activities

She is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association. Currently Judge Greve is on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Judges Association.

“The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises.”

Alfred Carlton, Jr., President, 2002-2003 American Bar Association

Mary E. Howes



Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, Drake University, 1979;
JD, University of Iowa, 1982

Career

Prior to her District Court appointment, Judge Mary Howes served as a District Associate Court Judge for Scott County January 2000 to September 2006. She was appointed Scott County Magistrate in 1993 and served as a Magistrate until her appointment as District Associate Judge in 2000. Prior to serving as Magistrate, she was employed as an Assistant Scott County Attorney for seven years and was an original member of the Drug Enforcement Task Force. As Assistant County attorney she was elected as a representative to the Iowa County Attorney's Association.

Professional Activities

She is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and Dillon Inns of Court. Currently, Judge Howes serves as Chairperson of Scott County Magistrates.

Gary D. McKenrick

Date of Appointment: 1999

Education

B.S.S. Cornell College, 1979;
JD, University of Iowa, 1982

Career

Judge McKenrick served as a law clerk in the Seventh Judicial District from 1982-1983. He was in private practice of law from 1983 to 1993. He was appointed District Associate Judge in Scott County in 1993 and District Judge in 1999.

Professional Activities

Judge McKenrick is a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Scott County Bar Association, Clinton County Bar Association, American Association for Justice, Iowa Trial Lawyers Association, Dillon Inn of Court, Iowa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules and Procedures 2000-2006.

“Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action.”

Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court

Christine Dalton Ploof

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, Coe College, 1986; JD, University of Iowa, 1989

Career

Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked at the State Public Defender's Muscatine Office; at the Muscatine County Attorney's office; and as a staff attorney at Muscatine Legal Services.

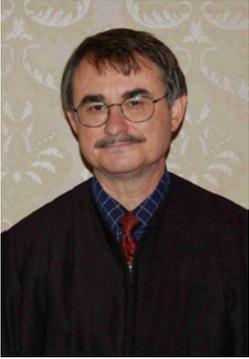
Professional Activities

Her memberships include the Iowa State Bar Association, the Muscatine County Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Iowa Public Defenders' Association.

“Judges must not test the winds of public opinion before entering a decision. They are bound by their oath of office to render decisions based on the constitution and statutory law. When there is dispute about the meaning or application of a law, judges turn to well-established legal principles to guide their decisions. This is the rule of law.”

former Chief Justice Arthur McGiverin, Iowa Supreme Court

Daniel P. Wilson



Date of Appointment: 1995

Education

Indian Hills Community College,
1971-1972, BA, University of Iowa,
1974; JD, Drake University, 1976

Career

In addition to 18 years in private practice, Judge Wilson served as Iowa assistant attorney general.

Professional Activities

Judge Wilson belongs to the Appanoose County and Iowa State Bar Associations. He serves on the Courts and Community Committee and Judicial Ethics Committee of the Iowa Judges' Association. He received the IHCC Foundation's Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1997.



“Results-oriented jurisprudence is never justified because it is not our job to try to produce particular results. We are not policy-makers and we shouldn't be implementing any sort of policy agenda or policy preferences that we have.”

Justice Samuel Alito, U.S. Supreme Court,
speaking at his confirmation hearing

Mary Ann Brown

Date of Appointment: 2001

Education

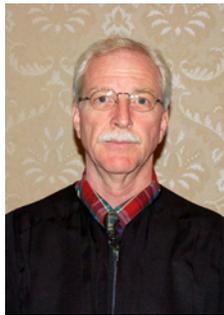
BA, Drake University, 1981;
JD, Drake University, 1984

Career

Judge Brown was a prosecutor with the Des Moines County Attorney's Office from 1985 to 1990. She was then in private practice in Burlington with the firm of Bauer, Schulte, Hahn, Swanson and Brown until her appointment to the bench.

Professional Activities

She currently is a member of the Des Moines County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Judicial Qualifications Commission. In 2000 she received the Iowa Bar Association Community Service Award.

John G. Linn

Date of Appointment: 1994

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1973; JD,
University of Iowa, 1976

Career

Prior to his appointment, Judge Linn spent three years in private practice and 15 years as a public defender in Burlington, Iowa.

Professional Activities

Judge Linn is a member of the Iowa Bar Association; Iowa Judges Association; Board of Directors of Iowa Judges Association (2006 - 2010); Judicial Education Committee and Criminal Law Committee.

Judge Linn is married, has two sons and one grandson.

Michael Schilling

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Iowa, 1973; JD,
University of Iowa, 1976

Career

From 1976 - 1978 Judge Schilling worked as a staff attorney with Inter Tribal Legal Services in Winnebago, NE; 1978 - 1980 he was Assistant Public Defender for the 8B Judicial District, State of Iowa; Judge Schilling was engaged in a civil and criminal trial practice for 30 years: from 1980 - 1990 with the Ford Law Offices; 1990 - 2000 with Cahill, Dietrich and Schilling Law Office; and 2000 - 2006 with the Cahill and Schilling Law Offices.

Professional Activities

Judge Schilling is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Nebraska State Bar Association, Des Moines County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association and the American Judicature Society. He is past president and long time member of the Burlington Notre Dame School Board.

“Pleasing the crowds has never been what this [court] system strives for. Within our own individual abilities, we first aim to do right and by doing right we strive to serve the law-be it our constitution, the statutes enacted by the other two branches of government, or our own case precedent. We strive to serve the law whether we agree with it or not...”

former Chief Justice Blatz, Minnesota Supreme Court

Emily Dean

Date of Appointment: 2006

Education

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1996; JD, University of Tulsa, 1999

Career

Judge Dean was a partner at Saunders, Humphrey, Johnson and Dean from 1999 to 2006.

Professional Activities

She is member of the Iowa Bar Association and currently serves on the DHS Service Advisory Committee.



“[I]n this country we accept decisions of judges, even when we disagree on the merits, because the process itself is vastly more important than any individual decision. . . . Americans understand that no system is perfect and no judge immune from error; but also that our society would crumble if we did not respect the judicial process and the judges who make it work.”

Theodore Olson, journalist