

**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

**In the Matter of Lessons Learned )  
From the Judicial Branch Response )  
To COVID-19 )**

CLERK SUPREME COURT  
**April 28, 2021**

Beginning in early March 2020, the judicial branch was preparing to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the services it provides to Iowans. In the span of just a few weeks, the planning effort transitioned into the need for immediate actions.

As the pandemic worsened and more information about the virus became available, the Iowa Supreme Court issued orders to protect the public and court employees while keeping the courts as open and operational as possible. Between March 12 and November 24, nearly thirty supervisory orders were issued.

As the judicial branch begins to plan for a post COVID-19 world, it seeks to review the formal orders and informal policies or practices adopted by the branch in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The supreme court establishes the Lessons Learned Task Force to make recommendations to the supreme court on rules, polices or practices that should be retained, modified or stopped. The recommendations shall be submitted to the supreme court by June 4, 2021. The following individuals are appointed to the Task Force:

Honorable Susan Christensen, Chief Justice, Iowa Supreme Court, Harlan, chair

Honorable Kellyann Lekar, Chief Judge, First Judicial District, Waterloo

Honorable David Porter, District Judge, Des Moines

Honorable Russell Keast, District Associate Judge, Cedar Rapids


Steve Bradford, corporate counsel, Muscatine

Carrington Buze, Children’s Justice, Des Moines  
Guy Cook, private practice attorney, Des Moines  
Diane Crookham-Johnson, Magistrate, Oskaloosa  
Connie Diekema, private practice attorney, Des Moines  
Kathy Gaylord, District Court Administrator, Davenport  
John Goerdt, Interim State Court Administrator, Des Moines  
Katie Graham, private practice attorney, Des Moines  
Donna Humpal, Clerk of the Appellate Court, Des Moines  
Laura Kyndesen, Clerk of Court for Pottawatomie County, Council  
Bluffs  
Tom Kunstle, Sioux County Attorney, Orange City  
Amy Lampman, court reporter, Nevada  
Jerry Schnurr, private practice attorney, Fort Dodge  
Brooke Timmer, private practice attorney, Des Moines  
Stacey Warren, private practice attorney, Des Moines  
Jeff Wright, State Public Defender, Des Moines

Task Force members may be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable travel expenses according to Iowa Court Rules 22.16 through 22.20.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2021.

**THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA**

By   
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Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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Legislative Services Agency  
Task Force members