Judicial Biographies - Appellate Courts



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's 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.

Justice Brent R. Appel



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 lowa.

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.

Iowa Court of Appeals Chief Judge David Danilson



Chief Judge Danilson, Pleasant Hill, was appointed to the Iowa 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.



Judicial Biographies - Appellate Courts

Judge Richard H. Doyle



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.

Judge Amanda Potterfield



Judge Potterfield, Tiffin, was appointed to the Iowa 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.

Judge Gayle Nelson Vogel



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. In 2015, Judge Vogel was appointed to serve on the Judicial Technology Committee.

Judge Vogel is married with three children and four grandchildren.

Judicial Performance Review Results



Iowa Court of Appeals							
 5 - Excellent (performance is outstanding) 4 - Good (performance is above average) 3 - Satisfactory (performance is adequate) 2 - Deficient (performance is below average) 1 - Very Poor (performance is well below average and unacceptable) 	David Danilson	Richard Doyle	Amanda Potterfield	Gayle Vogel			
Knowledge and application of the law	4.22	4.37	4.22	4.18			
Perception of factual issues	4.24	4.35	4.23	4.17			
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.33	4.45	4.37	4.31			
Temperament and demeanor	4.37	4.52	4.38	4.30			
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.22	4.42	4.21	4.23			
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.38	4.48	4.37	4.34			

- 5 Strongly Agree
- 4 Agree
- **3** Neither
- 2 Disagree
- 1 Strongly Disagree

Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.48	4.50	4.43	4.44
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.38	4.42	4.33	4.30
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.48	4.52	4.49	4.41
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.51	4.55	4.52	4.46
Retention percentage	94	94	92	91
Number of respondents	264	261	261	260