



Judicial Biographies - Districts 1B, 2A & 2B

District Associate Judge James D. Coil



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.

Associate Juvenile Judge Alan D. Allbee



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. He 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 State Association.

Associate Juvenile Judge Daniel L. Block



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 1990–1996. 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

District Associate Judge Peter B. Newell

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 Iowa State Bar Associations.

District 2B

District Judge Thomas J. Bice



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.



District Judge John J. Haney



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.

District Associate Judge Steven P. Van Marel



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.

He is married with two children.

District 3A

District Associate Judge Charles K. Borth



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.

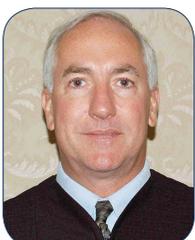
District Associate Judge Ann M. Gales



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.

District Associate Judge David C. Larson



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 2B

	Thomas Bice	John Haney	Steven Van Marel
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)			
Knowledge and application of the law	4.60	4.34	4.05
Perception of factual issues	4.64	4.40	3.81
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.76	4.53	4.53
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.64	4.43	4.10
Management and control of the courtroom	4.75	4.43	4.24
Temperament and demeanor	4.68	4.44	4.00
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.58	4.33	3.95
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.74	4.47	4.37
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.	4.63	4.51	4.26
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.64	4.49	4.02
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.75	4.51	4.05
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.76	4.68	4.26
Retention percentage	100	94	88
Number of respondents	113	95	95