



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.

## District Judge Patrick H. Tott



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 University 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.

Judge Tott is married with seven children.

## District 4

### District Judge Susan Christensen



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.

### District Judge Richard H. Davidson



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.

### District Judge Kathleen A. Kilnoski



Judge Kilnoski, Council Bluffs, was appointed as District Court Judge in 2009, and served as District Associate Judge since 1996. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and attended Grinnell College, graduating 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.



## Judicial Biographies - Districts 4 & 5A

### Chief Judge Jeffrey L. Larson



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.

He is married and has two children.

### District Associate Judge Gary Anderson



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.

### District Associate Judge Charles D. Fagan



Judge Fagan, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench January 30, 2009. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1988 and received his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law 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

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### District Judge Gregory A. Hulse



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.

### District Judge Paul R. Huscher



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 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.



# Judicial Performance Review Results

## District 4

- 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)

Gary Anderson

Susan Christensen

Richard Davidson

Charles Fagen

Kathleen Kilnoski

Jeffrey Larson

Knowledge and application of the law

4.14

4.18

4.41

3.92

4.71

4.44

Perception of factual issues

4.02

4.11

4.49

3.94

4.62

4.41

Punctuality for court proceedings

4.07

4.15

4.38

4.25

4.80

4.54

Attentiveness to arguments and testimony

3.74

4.12

4.48

4.11

4.78

4.46

Management and control of the courtroom

4.17

4.20

4.52

4.08

4.67

4.68

Temperament and demeanor

3.43

3.77

4.61

4.37

4.84

4.49

Clarity and quality of written opinions

4.00

4.14

4.51

3.94

4.74

4.39

Promptness of rulings and decisions

3.93

4.19

4.15

4.21

4.70

4.31

**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.

4.02

3.81

4.51

4.23

4.86

4.53

Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.

3.95

3.92

4.38

3.89

4.77

4.42

Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.

3.82

3.98

4.70

4.44

4.88

4.53

Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.

4.27

4.21

4.68

4.56

4.88

4.56

Retention percentage

86

84

96

85

97

95

Number of respondents

66

75

76

64

74

78