



Judicial Biographies - Districts 7 & 8A

District 7

District Judge Paul L. Macek



Judge Macek was appointed to the bench in 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1973. He is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

District Judge Mark J. Smith



Judge Smith, LeClaire, was appointed to the bench in 1997. Born in Davenport, Iowa, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose University in 1972 and his law degree from St. Louis University in 1975. He has experience with real estate and personal injury cases, as well as trial work as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney.

District Judge Stuart Werling



Judge Werling, Tipton, was appointed to serve Cedar County as a magistrate in 1986 before being appointed to the district court bench in 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1980. Stuart Werling is a member of the Cedar County and Iowa State Bar Associations and has served as president of the Cedar County Bar and as a member of the Board of Governors of The Iowa State Bar Association. He is the recipient of the first Meritorious Service Award from the Iowa Judicial Branch presented in 2004.

Judge Werling is married with two children.

District Associate Judge Phillip J. Tabor



Judge Tabor was appointed to the bench in 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Iowa in 1981. He then received his law degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1984. Judge Tabor served as an Assistant County Attorney, an Assistant Public Defender, and an Assistant Attorney General in Wyoming. In Iowa, he was elected Jackson County Attorney in 1990. He was re-elected in 1994, 1998, and 2006.

Judge Tabor is married with two children.

District 8A

District Judge Joel D. Yates



Judge Yates, Sigourney, was appointed to the bench in December 2007. He received his bachelor's degree from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1986 and his law degree from the Drake University Law School in 1994. Judge Yates spent 12 years in private practice with Clements Law Firm in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Keokuk County Bar Association.

He is married with three children.



District Associate Judge Kirk A. Daily



Judge Daily, Ottumwa, was appointed to the bench in 1998. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1981. In 1984 he received his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, graduating with distinction. After graduation he went into private practice until his appointment in 1998. He was also a magistrate for Wapello County from 1984–1986. Judge Daily presides over Drug Court and Mental Health Court in District 8A and received the Iowa Corrections Association's Outstanding Public Official Award in 2016. Judge Daily is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married with two children.

Associate Juvenile Judge William S. Owens



Judge Owens, Ottumwa, was appointed to the bench in 1999. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in 1981 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1984. He served as Assistant Monroe County Attorney from 1984–1989 and Monroe County Attorney from 1990–1998. He was in private practice until his appointment. Judge Owens is co-chair of the Advisory Committee, Iowa Supreme Court Children's Justice; is a member of the Children's Justice State Council; and is chair of the Juvenile Judge Committee of the Iowa Judge's Association. In 2008, Judge Owens received the Supreme Court of Iowa Court Innovation Award for initiating a Family Treatment Court in Wapello County. In 2013 Judge Owens received the Harold E. Hughes, Exceptional Rural Professional – Award of Excellence given annually by the National Rural Drug Abuse Network.

Judge Owens is married with three children.

District 8B

District Associate Judge Gary R. Noneman



Judge Noneman was appointed to the bench in 1987. He received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1977 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1980. After graduation, he was in private practice for two years and then served as assistant Lee County public defender until 1987. Judge Noneman is a member of the Iowa State and American Bar Association, as well as the Iowa Judges Association. He attained the honor of Order of the Coif and was awarded the United States Department of Justice Crime Victims Service Certificate.



Judicial Performance Review Results

District 8A

- 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)

Kirk Daily

William Owens

Joel Yates

Knowledge and application of the law	4.65	4.75	4.06
Perception of factual issues	4.56	4.73	4.16
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.59	4.67	4.51
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.62	4.64	4.10
Management and control of the courtroom	4.47	4.72	4.33
Temperament and demeanor	4.21	4.77	3.91
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.53	4.72	4.00
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.65	4.67	4.26

- 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.	4.18	4.74	4.27
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.44	4.72	4.20
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.37	4.63	3.89
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.43	4.72	4.47
Retention percentage	97	100	89
Number of respondents	65	69	88