



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

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.



District Judge Martha L. Mertz



Judge Mertz, Knoxville, was appointed to the bench in February 2002. She received her undergraduate degree from Northeast Missouri State University in 1974, and she graduated with honors from Drake University Law School in 1982. Judge Mertz is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has received the ICADV Gold Seal Award in 1994, the Athena Award in 1989, the Rodney L. Hudson Appellate Advocacy Award in 1982, and the Order of Barristers in 1981.

Judge Mertz is married.

District 5B

District Judge John D. Lloyd



Judge Lloyd, Osceola, was appointed to the bench in 2002. He was born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa and graduated from Drake University, with honors. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Lloyd worked in private law practice and as the Clarke County Attorney. He is a member of the District 5B Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Judge Lloyd is married with one child and one grandchild.

District Judge Dustria Ann Relph



Judge Relph, Corydon, was appointed to the bench in 2014. She graduated from Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in 1988, Mercy College of Health Sciences in 2003, and Drake University Law School in 2006. Before her appointment, Judge Relph was in private practice with the Chambers & Relph Law Firm, P.C. She is a member of the American Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Judicial District 5B Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the National Association of Women Judges.

Judge Relph is married and has four children.

District 5C

District Judge Jeffrey D. Farrell



Judge Farrell, Urbandale, was appointed to the bench in 2013. He was born in Fort Dodge and also lived in Lytton before moving to Carroll and graduating from Carroll High School. He received his B.A. in 1986 and J.D. in 1989, both from the University of Iowa. He was a law clerk for the Fifth Judicial District from 1989 to 1991. Judge Farrell served for twelve years as an assistant attorney general and ten years as an administrative law judge before being appointed to the bench.

He is married with two children.

District Judge Robert B. Hanson



Judge Hanson, West Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 2003. He was born and raised in Jefferson, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1981. Following his graduation from law school, he spent 21 years in private practice in Des Moines, Iowa, before his appointment to the bench. Judge Hanson is a member of the American, Iowa State, and Polk County Bar Associations as well as the Iowa Judges Association. He is also a member and past president of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Judge Hanson is married with two children.



District 5A			
	Gregory Hulse	Paul Huscher	Martha Mertz
<p>5 - Excellent (performance is outstanding)</p> <p>4 - Good (performance is above average)</p> <p>3 - Satisfactory (performance is adequate)</p> <p>2 - Deficient (performance is below average)</p> <p>1 - Very Poor (performance is well below average and unacceptable)</p>			
Knowledge and application of the law	4.41	4.49	3.77
Perception of factual issues	4.35	4.50	3.85
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.59	4.57	2.65
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.47	4.44	3.86
Management and control of the courtroom	4.54	4.51	3.51
Temperament and demeanor	4.11	4.41	4.01
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.38	4.42	3.77
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.42	4.56	3.15
<p>5 - Strongly Agree</p> <p>4 - Agree</p> <p>3 - Neither</p> <p>2 - Disagree</p> <p>1 - Strongly Disagree</p>			
Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.35	4.45	4.00
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.45	4.47	3.97
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.26	4.53	4.18
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.54	4.57	4.24
Retention percentage	90	93	78
Number of respondents	126	131	133