



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.



Judicial Biographies - District 5C

District Judge William P. Kelly



Judge Kelly, was appointed to the bench in October of 2015. He received his undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1986 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1999. Judge Kelly has spent 16 years in private practice. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He also spent five years as adjunct professor of law at Drake University.

District Judge David M. Porter



Judge Porter was appointed to the bench in 2015. He received his undergraduate degree in Criminology and Communications from the University of Maryland in 2000 and his law degree from Drake University in 2004. He served as Assistant Wapello County Attorney and Assistant Polk County Attorney prior to his appointment. Judge Porter is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations.

District Judge Karen A. Romano



Judge Romano, Johnston, was appointed as a District Court Judge in December 2001. She received her bachelor's degree from Creighton University in 1983 and her law degree from University of Iowa College of Law in 1986 with distinction. Judge Romano worked for a private law firm before serving as an Assistant Polk County Attorney from 1987 to 1996. She served as a District Associate Judge from April 1996 until her appointment as a District Court Judge. Judge Romano is a member of the Polk County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. She is also a member of Polk County Women Attorneys, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Iowa Judges Association, and National Association of Women Judges. Judge Romano serves as the chair of the Polk County Courthouse Security Committee and is a member of Court Interpreter Policies Advisory Committee. Judge Romano speaks frequently to legal, civic, and school groups on various areas of the law.

She is married and has two children.

District Judge Scott D. Rosenberg



Judge Rosenberg, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in January of 1997. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1976 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1979. He has experience in private law practice and private business, as well as experience at the state appellate defenders office and as Assistant Polk County Attorney. Judge Rosenberg was appointed to the district associate bench in 1992. He is a member of the Polk County Bar Association.

Judge Rosenberg is married and has two children.

District Judge Paul Scott



Judge Scott, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 2014. He received his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1984 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1987. Prior to taking the bench he was in private practice. Judge Scott is the Vice President of the Iowa Judges Association and served as its secretary/treasurer. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers.

He is married and has three children.



District Judge Jeanie K. Vaudt



Judge Vaudt was appointed to the bench in February 2014. She received her B.A. in History and Political Science with honors from Upper Iowa University and her M.P.A. and J.D. with honors from Drake University. Her legal career included a private practice with the Davis Brown law firm, and for the last fifteen years prior to her appointment, she was an assistant attorney general in the Iowa Department of Justice. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

District Associate Judge Susan Cox



Judge Cox was appointed to the bench in 2014. She grew up on the northeast side of Des Moines. After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with highest honors, she received her law degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge Cox practiced law for more than twenty years at Legal Services and the Polk County Attorney's Office.

District Associate Judge Heather L. Lauber



Judge Lauber was appointed to the bench in 2015. She attended Drake University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 2000 and her law degree in 2003. Judge Lauber was in private practice from 2003–2011. She was Assistant Public Defender from 2011–2015. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Association of Women Attorneys, Polk County Woman Attorneys, and C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

District Associate Judge Odell McGhee, II



Judge McGhee, Des Moines, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in February 2002. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell College in 1974 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1977. Judge McGhee has worked as the Program Planner for the Iowa Commission of the Aging, Administrative Hearing Officer with the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality, and in the Polk County Attorney's Office. Judge McGhee is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the National Association of District Attorneys, and the National Association of Prosecutors. He is a Commissioner on the Iowa Supreme Court's Continuing Legal Education Commission and an officer of the National Association of Prosecutors (NAP).

He is married with two children.

District Associate Judge Cynthia M. Moisan



Judge Moisan, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 1995. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and earned her bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. In 1982 she received her law degree from Drake University Law School. Judge Moisan practiced law with a firm from 1984 until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and the Polk County Bar Association.



District 5C

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)	Susan Cox	Jeffrey Farrell	Robert Hanson	William Kelly	Jeanie Kunkle Vaudt	Heather Lauber	Odell McGhee	Cynthia Moisan	David Porter	Karen Romano	Scott Rosenberg	Paul Scott
Knowledge and application of the law	4.45	4.35	4.67	4.51	4.01	4.56	3.32	4.10	3.94	4.58	4.38	4.50
Perception of factual issues	4.47	4.37	4.66	4.57	3.92	4.64	3.42	4.04	4.11	4.61	4.40	4.54
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.53	4.69	4.67	4.62	4.34	4.66	3.71	4.17	4.34	4.72	4.49	4.59
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.58	4.60	4.70	4.65	4.31	4.65	3.56	3.93	4.17	4.65	4.48	4.63
Management and control of the courtroom	4.58	4.52	4.70	4.63	4.01	4.64	3.51	3.96	4.25	4.68	4.51	4.64
Temperament and demeanor	4.54	4.59	4.75	4.65	4.40	4.70	3.50	3.03	4.11	4.51	4.44	4.62
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.47	4.39	4.63	4.51	4.05	4.55	3.29	4.08	3.98	4.59	4.29	4.52
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.57	4.45	4.30	4.53	3.95	4.62	3.55	4.18	3.97	4.57	4.33	4.50
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.	4.58	4.56	4.78	4.66	4.52	4.68	3.77	3.34	4.26	4.63	4.57	4.72
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.51	4.40	4.70	4.67	4.39	4.59	3.74	3.87	4.17	4.63	4.52	4.65
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.64	4.68	4.77	4.68	4.58	4.72	3.72	3.11	4.16	4.60	4.51	4.73
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.68	4.58	4.85	4.69	4.62	4.75	4.04	3.89	4.45	4.74	4.60	4.73
Retention percentage	93	93	97	98	88	95	71	68	87	95	96	96
Number of respondents	189	215	246	197	206	181	203	205	202	242	229	194