

2020

Judicial Performance Review



Prepared by The Iowa State Bar Association



Introduction

Since Iowa adopted its merit system for selecting judges in 1962, The Iowa State Bar Association has conducted the Judicial Performance Review as a way of giving voters information on the Iowa judges up for retention that election year.

Under Iowa's judicial merit selection system, judges are appointed by the governor after going through an extensive interview and evaluation process by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Voters then decide during the November elections whether the judges should remain in office.

According to the 2020 Judicial Performance Review, the 87 district court judges and eight appellate judges standing for retention in this year's general elections on November 3 are qualified to remain as judges.

All 95 were evaluated on their professionalism and demeanor as determined by the attorneys who voted in the biennial review held late August 2020 to early September 2020. All 14 of Iowa's judicial election districts have at least one judge standing for retention in the 2020 elections.

In order for attorneys to be eligible to rate a judge or justice, attorneys must have appeared before him or her frequently. Attorneys rate the judges on questions related to their professional competence; i.e., knowledge and application of the law, perception of factual issues, attentiveness to arguments and testimony, management and control of the courtroom, and promptness of rulings and decisions. The ratings range from 1-5 with 5 being "excellent" and 1 being "very poor."

Attorneys also rated judges on questions related to their demeanor; i.e., avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges, and lawyers from the bench or in written orders; decides cases on the basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence; is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers, and court personnel; deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively; and treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias. The ratings on these questions also range from 1 to 5, with 5 being "strongly agree" and 1 being "strongly disagree."

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Frequently Asked Questions

1 What are judicial retention elections?

Retention elections are intended to focus on the professional competency of Iowa's judges rather than the popularity of individual rulings. In a retention election, voters decide whether a judge should be retained or removed from office. If a judge receives a majority of "yes" votes, the judge serves another full term. If a judge receives a majority of "no" votes, the judge is removed from office at the end of the year.

2 Why does Iowa have retention elections?

In 1962, Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment that replaced elections of judges with merit selection and retention elections. A process using merit selection and retention elections:

- ♦ Curbs the influence of political parties and special interest groups in the selection of Iowa's judges.
- ♦ Emphasizes the selection of judges based upon their professional qualifications.
- ♦ Gives voters the final say about who serves as a judge.
- ♦ Is the most effective way to ensure fair and impartial courts.

3 Where can I find a performance evaluation of judges on the ballot?

The Iowa State Bar Association surveys its members about judges standing for retention. The results of this performance evaluation are available prior to the general election in this publication and at www.iowabar.org.

4 How are courts held accountable?

Our system of government is carefully designed to foster fair and impartial courts while maintaining judicial accountability through a series of checks on judicial power.

- ♦ If a party in a case believes a judge made an error, the party may appeal to a higher court.
- ♦ If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of a law, they may petition the legislature to amend the law and change the law's effect in the future.
- ♦ If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of the constitution, they have the ultimate power to amend the constitution to change its effect in the future.
- ♦ If a person thinks a judge has behaved unethically, the person may ask the Judicial Qualifications Commission to investigate.

In these ways, courts are accountable to the laws, to the constitution, and to the people.

5 What make a good judge?

- ♦ **Integrity** - honest, upright, and committed to the rule of law
- ♦ **Professional Competence** - keen intellect, extensive legal knowledge, and strong writing ability
- ♦ **Judicial Temperament** - neutral, decisive, respectful, and composed
- ♦ **Experience** - strong record of professional excellence in the law
- ♦ **Service** - committed to public service and the administration of justice



Frequently Asked Questions

6 What about a judge's personal views on certain issues?

- ♦ It is inappropriate for a judge to consider his or her personal views, political pressure, or public opinion when deciding cases. Judges must be neutral and follow the rule of the law.
- ♦ If a judge announces a position on an issue, the judge's impartiality may be called into question. The judge may need to decline presiding over any case that involves that issue.
- ♦ Judicial ethics prohibit judges from commenting about cases pending in court to ensure that litigants receive a fair trial.

7 What about decisions a higher court reverses?

Sometimes a higher court reverses the decision of a lower court. Reversal does not in itself indicate the quality of a judge's work. For instance, the higher court could be ruling on an issue for the first time or clarifying one of its earlier opinions that served as precedent for the lower court.

8 What about an unpopular court decision?

There are many reasons why a voter may want to consider more than the outcome of one case when assessing a judge's performance:

- ♦ Over the course of a career, a judge may dispose of thousands of cases. One case alone is not necessarily an accurate barometer of a judicial career.
- ♦ Judges must follow the law, and sometimes the law leads to unpopular results. If citizens disagree with a law, they may petition the legislature to change it.
- ♦ High-profile cases that catch the media's attention often bear little resemblance to the cases that constitute the bulk of a judge's work. Most court cases do not involve hot-button issues.





Iowa Supreme Court



Susan Christensen

Chief Justice Christensen, Harlan, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2018. The members of the court selected her as chief justice in February 2020.

She was born and raised in Harlan, Iowa. She earned her bachelor's degree from Judson College in 1988 and her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1991.

Prior to her appointment to the supreme court, Chief Justice Christensen was appointed a district associate judge in 2007 and a district court judge in 2015. Before becoming a judge, she practiced law in Harlan for 16 years.

Chief Justice Christensen chaired the Children's Justice State Council and the Family First Task Force, and served on the Supreme Court's Family Law Pro Se Forms Committee, Child Support Guidelines Review Committee, Parents Representation Standards Committee, and Guardianship/Conservatorship Task Force as well as the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Southwest Iowa Bar Association, and the Shelby County Bar Association. Chief Justice Christensen is married with five children and almost six grandchildren.



Thomas Waterman

Justice Waterman, Davenport, was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2011.

Justice Waterman, who was born in Davenport, Iowa, earned his bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College in 1981. He graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1984, and served as associate editor of the law review. He was in private practice at Lane & Waterman LLP in Davenport from 1984 until his appointment. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Before joining the court, Justice Waterman was active in numerous organizations including the Jury Instruction Committee of The Iowa State Bar Association, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. He was a member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission from 1999-2005, and was a co-editor of Defense Update, the quarterly publication of the Iowa Defense Counsel Association. An avid endurance sports enthusiast, he has completed seven Ironman triathlons and several ultra-marathons including the Leadville, Colorado 100-mile trail run, and the Grand Canyon "Rim to Rim to Rim." His volunteer work included serving as Board Chair for the Scott County Family YMCA and Rivermont Collegiate. Justice Waterman is married and has four daughters, including triplets.



Iowa Supreme Court



Edward Mansfield

Justice Mansfield received his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1978 and his law degree from Yale in 1982. After law school he clerked one year for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Justice Mansfield then worked 26 years as an attorney in private practice until his appointment to the Iowa Court of Appeals in 2009. Two years later, Justice Mansfield joined the Iowa Supreme Court.

Justice Mansfield has been an adjunct professor of law at Drake University since 1997, teaching subjects ranging from contracts to antitrust and sports law. Justice Mansfield is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, having served several terms as Chair of the Trade Regulation Section. Justice Mansfield currently chairs the task force on revision of the Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure. He is also a member of the Polk County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Justice Mansfield has previously served as a Member and a Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Goodwill of Central Iowa. Justice Mansfield is married and has three children.



Christopher McDonald

Born overseas into a military family, Justice McDonald was raised in Des Moines. He earned his undergraduate degree from Grand View University in 1997, his law degree from the University of Iowa in 2001. Justice McDonald graduated from law school with highest distinction. He received the John F. Murray Award and earned Order of the Coif Honor Society recognition.

After graduating from law school, Justice McDonald served as a law clerk to the Honorable David R. Hansen, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Justice McDonald then worked in private practice in Central Iowa for a number of years before being appointed to serve as a Judge of the District Court, Fifth Judicial District of Iowa. In 2013, he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals. In 2019, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Justice McDonald has been an active member of his community. He has supported numerous non-profit, community, and professional organizations in Iowa. He has served on the Board of Directors of Bravo Greater Des Moines, the Iowa Asian Alliance, the Iowa Foundation for Microenterprise and Community Vitality, and the Iowa Judges Association, among others. Justice McDonald is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award. Justice McDonald is married and has three children.



Iowa Court of Appeals



Thomas N. Bower

Chief Judge Bower, Cedar Falls, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in January 2012 and was elected as Chief Judge in October 2019. Judge Bower received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in 1984 and his law degree from Drake University in 1987.

Judge Bower was appointed to the district associate court bench in 1993 and the district court bench in 1995. He was appointed Chief Judge of the First District in 2010. Prior to his appointment, he served as an Assistant City Attorney for the city of Ames and as an Assistant Black Hawk County Attorney. Judge Bower helped to establish the Black Hawk County Adult Drug Court program in 2006 and a mental health court program in 2009. Judge Bower is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Black Hawk County Bar and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Bower is married and has two sons.



David May

Judge May, Polk City, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in April 2019. In February 2016, he was appointed as a district judge in Judicial Election District 5C. Judge May previously practiced law with Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C., in Des Moines. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia, his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and his law degree from Drake University Law School.



Sharon Soorholtz-Greer

Judge Soorholtz-Greer, Marshalltown, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in April 2019. She received double undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Child Development from Iowa State University and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Before her appointment, Judge Soorholtz-Greer practiced law with Cartwright, Druker & Ryden in Marshalltown. She is a member of the American College of Trial Attorneys.



Iowa Court of Appeals



Julie Schumacher

Judge Schumacher, Schleswig, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in August 2019. She was raised in rural Sioux County, Iowa. Judge Schumacher earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in 1990, double majoring in communications and English. She was awarded her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1993.

Judge Schumacher spent nearly 20 years in private practice in Denison, Iowa. She also served as a prosecutor for Crawford County, as an assistant city attorney for Denison, and as a hospitalization referee. She was selected as a district associate judge for the Third Judicial District in December 2012 and appointed to the district court bench in January 2017.

Judge Schumacher is a current co-chair of the Judicial Technology Committee, current co-chair of the Family First Task Force, and a member of the Business Advisory Committee for the Electronic Document Management System. She has previously served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission and the Iowa Supreme Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission. She has served as a faculty member for new judge orientation, as a grade examiner for the Iowa bar exam, and has been a frequent presenter for continuing legal education on the topics of juvenile law, family law, and ethics.

Judge Schumacher is a member of the Crawford County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and The Iowa State Bar Association.

District 1A



Alan Heavens

Judge Heavens, Garnavillo, was appointed to the bench in February 2019. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, cum laude in 2007 and received his law degree from the same institution in 2010. He previously served as the Clayton County Attorney from 2011 to 2019 having been elected in 2010 and reelected in 2014 and 2018. Judge Heavens was also previously a partner at a law firm from 2010 to 2019 where he practiced in the areas of civil litigation, family law, real estate, estate planning, probate disputes, contracts, and personal injury. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Clayton County Bar Association. He is married with four children.



Mark Hostager

Judge Hostager, Dubuque, was appointed to the bench in 2013. He received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Luther College. In 1988, he graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law and also received a MBA degree. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hostager taught for a year at the University of Northern Iowa and subsequently worked as an Assistant County Attorney in Dubuque. He is a member of the Dubuque County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Hostager is married and has four children.



Judicial Biographies

District 1A



Stephanie C. Rattenborg

Judge Rattenborg, Manchester, was appointed to the bench in August of 2013. Prior to her appointment, she served as a magistrate in Delaware County since 1996. Judge Rattenborg graduated from the University of Iowa in 1990 with her bachelor's degree, and earned her law degree from Drake University in 1994. She graduated with distinction and has worked at two Iowa law firms. She is a member of the Delaware County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Rattenborg serves on the Iowa Judges Association Education Committee as well as the Iowa Supreme Court Judicial Officers Academy Advisory Group. She has also served on the District Judicial Support Staff Needs Committee and the Benchbook Committee.



Thomas J. Straka

Judge Thomas Straka, Peosta, was appointed to serve Dubuque County as a magistrate in 2005, and appointed to the bench as an Associate Juvenile Judge in 2006. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991, and his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1995. He served as law clerk for the Sarpy County Juvenile Court and was former secretary of the Dubuque County Bar Association and President of the Young Lawyers Division. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Straka practiced primarily in the area of family and criminal law.

District 1B



Joel A. Dalrymple

Judge Dalrymple, Waterloo, was appointed to the bench in 2012. He was born and raised in Waterloo, Iowa, and graduated magna cum laude in 1993 from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. In 1996, he earned his law degree from Drake University Law School. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Dalrymple worked in the Black Hawk County Attorneys Office where he was promoted to First Assistant in 2006. He is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association. Judge Dalrymple is married with three children.



Bradley J. Harris

Judge Harris, Grundy Center, was appointed to the bench in 2007. He received his undergraduate degree from Loras College in 1976, and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1980. Judge Harris is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Grundy County Bar Association, as well as the Iowa County Attorney Association. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner at the law firm of Kliebenstein, Heronimus, Schmidt, and Harris, served as the Assistant Grundy County Attorney and as a public defender in Black Hawk County. Judge Harris is married with two adult children.



Judicial Biographies

District 1B



Patrice Jaye Eichman

Judge Eichman was appointed to the bench for Black Hawk county in May 2018. She received her undergraduate degree in 1986 and her JD from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1989. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Eichman served as Assistant Public Defender in the State of Iowa Public Defender's office, Director of Admissions for the State Bar of Nevada, Assistant Bar Counsel for the State Bar of Nevada and Courtroom Clerk for the Northern District Court of Iowa. She is a member of the State Bar of Iowa and the State Bar of Nevada.



Linnea M.N. Nicol

Judge Nicol, West Union, was appointed to the bench in 2018. She received her undergraduate degree from Luther College in 1987 and her law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1990. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Nicol served as a Staff Attorney at the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa, now known as Iowa Legal Aid, and the Juvenile Public Defender's Office, Waterloo, Iowa. She is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Iowa Judges Association, and The Iowa State Bar Association. She serves on the Supreme Court of Iowa Family First Prevention Services Act Committee and the Child Protection Council and State Citizen Review Panel. Judge Nicol is married and has two children.

District 2A



Christopher Foy

Judge Foy, Waverly, was appointed to the bench in December of 2007. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa in 1984. He graduated with High Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1987. Judge Foy practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1987 - 1991, and in Waverly from 1991 - 2007. Judge Foy is a member of the Bremer County, District 2A and Iowa State Bar Associations. He is married and has four children.



Gregg R. Rosenblatt

Judge Rosenblatt, Mason City, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in October 2008, and as a District Judge in August 2012. He earned his AA degree from Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa in 1982, his BA degree from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1984, and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1987. Judge Rosenblatt practiced law in a private firm from 1987 to 1989, and then was an Assistant County Attorney in Cerro Gordo County (Mason City) from 1989 until 2008. He is a member of the Iowa State and Cerro Gordo County Bar Associations. He is married and has one daughter.



Judicial Biographies

District 2A



DeDra Schroeder

Judge Schroeder, Osage, was appointed to the district bench in May of 2012. Judge Schroeder graduated from the University of Iowa in 1991, and earned her law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1994. Judge Schroeder practiced law in private practice until her appointment to the district bench and served as a judicial magistrate from 2005 - 2012. She is a member of the Floyd and Mitchell County Bar Associations, the Iowa and 2A Bar Associations, and the Iowa Association of Women Lawyers.



Colleen D. Weiland

Judge Weiland, Mason City, was appointed to the district bench in July of 2007. She earned her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Iowa. Judge Weiland engaged in the private practice of law for four years and has instructed for North Iowa Area Community College and Buena Vista University. She served as a judicial magistrate from 1997 - 2007. Judge Weiland is a member of the Cerro Gordo County, District 2A, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.



Karen Kaufman Salic

Judge Salic, Garner, was raised near Manson, Iowa, and graduated from Buena Vista College before obtaining her law degree from Southern Methodist University. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Salic was in private practice for two years, an assistant Hancock and Kossuth County Attorney for one year and the Hancock County Attorney for over twelve years. She is a member of the Hancock County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.



Adam D. Sauer

Judge Sauer was appointed as a District Associate Judge effective February 23, 2018. He received his Business Administration degree from Grand View College in 2004 and his law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2008. After receiving his law degree, Judge Sauer was in private practice until 2008. He then served as Winnebago county attorney and Assistant Worth county attorney until his appointment to the bench. Judge Sauer served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission Attorney Disciplinary Board from 2011-2017.



Judicial Biographies

District 2B



Gina C. Badding

Judge Badding was appointed to the bench in April 2019. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Religion with Honors from the University of Iowa in 2001, and her J.D. with Distinction from the University of Iowa in 2004. Her past work experience includes being an associate attorney and partner in private law, as well as a staff attorney for the Iowa Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Iowa State and Carroll County Bar Associations as well as the Coon-Rapids Rotary.



Bethany Currie

Judge Currie, Marshalltown, was appointed to the bench in 2018. She earned her undergraduate degree from Augustana College in 2000 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2003. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Currie was a Law Clerk for the Honorable Linda R. Reade, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Iowa from 2003 to 2005. She was in private practice at Peglow, O'Hare & See, PLC, in Marshalltown from 2005 to 2018 and served as Marshall County Magistrate. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Marshall County Bar Association, and Story County Bar Association. She is married and has two children.



Angela L. Doyle

Judge Doyle, Fort Dodge, was appointed to the bench in 2011 as district associate judge. In 2018, she was appointed as district court judge. She received her undergraduate degree from Creighton University in 1982, graduating Summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In 1984, she earned her law degree from Creighton University School of Law, graduating Magna cum laude. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Doyle served as law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court and was in private practice in Omaha, Nebraska, and Fort Dodge. She served clients for 26 years as a general practitioner with an emphasis in family law and juvenile law. Judge Doyle is a member of the Webster County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.



James C. Ellefson

Judge Ellefson, Marshalltown, was appointed to the bench in February of 2012. He earned his Bachelor's degree From Wartburg in 1974 and graduated with Honors from Drake Law School in 1977. Judge Ellefson Clerked for Robert G. Allbee, Chief Judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals (1977-1978) and Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court (1978 - 1979). Judge Ellefson practiced law in Eldora from 1979 - 1985, and in Marshalltown from 1985 - 2012. He is a member of the Blackstone Inn of Court, American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, and the Marshall County Bar Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 2B



Christopher C. Polking

Judge Polking was appointed to the bench in June 2019. He received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Tufts University in 1994 and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2001, graduating Magna Cum Laude; Order of the Coif. His past experience includes an attorney in private practice, as well as the Carroll County Magistrate. He is a member of the Carroll County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.



James B. Malloy

Judge Malloy was appointed to the district associate bench in October of 2007. He earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1976, M.ED. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1980 and law degree from the University of Nebraska in 1984. Judge Malloy was a magistrate from 1997 - 2007, was the Assistant County Attorney in Boone from 1984 - 1987, and was in private law practice from 1987 - 2007. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Boone County Bar Association.



Stephen A. Owen

Judge Owen is an Iowa native, Army veteran, husband, and father. After active duty service in the United States Army, he earned a BS from ISU and JD from Drake. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he practiced extensively in criminal and civil law from offices in central Iowa. Judge Owen has also worked as an adjunct professor and lecturer. He holds memberships and volunteers for several community, youth, conservation, legal and charitable organizations. Judge Owen is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.



Joseph L. Tofilon

Judge Tofilon, Webster City, was appointed to the bench on January 14, 2019. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 2002 and graduated with his law degree from the University of Iowa in 2005. He served as law clerk to Honorable Joseph Gordon of the Illinois Appellate Court - First Division. He then worked as an Assistant County attorney and private practitioner. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and Webster County Bar Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 3A



Charles K. Borth

Judge Borth, Spencer, was appointed as district judge in June of 2018. He served as district associate judge since his appointment to the bench October, 2009. He served as Assistant Clay County Attorney and was in private practice in Spencer since 1997. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mankato State University in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1995. Judge Borth is a member of the Clay County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association.



Carl J. Petersen

Judge Petersen, Spirit Lake, was appointed to the bench in 2012. He was born and raised in Hartley, Iowa. Judge Petersen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1990 and his law degree from Hamline University in 1993. He practiced law in Atlantic, Iowa from 1993-2000 and served as the Cass County Magistrate Judge from 1997-2000. Judge Petersen served as the Lyon County Attorney from 2000-2012. He served as the President of the Iowa County Attorney Association in 2007. Judge Petersen is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association serving on the Jury Instruction Committee and the Lyon County Bar Association. He is married and has five daughters.



Andrew Justin Smith

Judge Smith was appointed district associate judge in 2018. He has served as magistrate for Calhoun County since January of 2016. He graduated from Truman State University in 1995 with a BA in Communications and from the University Of Iowa School Of Law in 1998 with High Distinction. Judge Smith clerked for the 5th Judicial District before entering private practice in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Bar and the Buena Vista Bar, where he served as president from 2001 to 2004.

District 3B



Duane E. Hoffmeyer

Judge Hoffmeyer, Sioux City, was appointed to the bench in January 2001 and appointed to serve as chief judge January 1, 2008. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1979 and his law degree from Creighton Law School in 1982. Judge Hoffmeyer was engaged in private practice in Sioux City since his graduation. Hoffmeyer is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association and the Woodbury County Bar Association. He is married with two adult children.



Judicial Biographies

District 3B



Tod J. Deck

Judge Deck began judicial service as a Woodbury County Magistrate on November 3, 2014. He was then appointed District Court Judge in 2017. He was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. He attended West High School in Sioux City and graduated magna cum laude from Morningside College in Sioux City in 2003 with a B.A. in American History. He attended Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville and graduated with a degree of Juris Doctor in 2006. Judge Deck was admitted to the Iowa State Bar in 2006 and was a partner at Deck Law, LLP prior to his appointment to the bench. He is part of the third generation of lawyers in his family to practice law in Sioux City. He was admitted to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa in 2007 and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in 2009. Judge Deck is married and has two children.



Zachary S. Hindman

Judge Hindman was appointed to the bench in August 2018. He earned his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, from Morningside College in 2007. He attended the Drake University School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Drake Law Review, and he graduated Order of the Coif and ranked first in his class in 2010. After law school, Judge Hindman served as a law clerk to the Honorable Steven M. Colloton, circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He then worked in private practice in Sioux City until his appointment. Judge Hindman is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Woodbury County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has three children.



Mark C. Cord III

Judge Cord, Sioux City, was appointed to the bench in 2018. He earned his B.B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1988 and his law degree from the University of South Dakota in 2005. Prior to his appointment, Judge Cord worked in private practice as a partner in a Sioux City law firm and was licensed to practice law in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and Woodbury County Bar Association. Judge Cord is married and has two children.



John C. Nelson

Judge Nelson, Sioux City, was appointed to serve Woodbury County in 1997 as a magistrate. He was appointed district associate judge in 2006. He attended the University of Iowa, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1987 and his law degree in 1991. He has worked at the Sioux City Legal Department, Woodbury County attorney's office and was in private practice. Nelson has served as a member of the Woodbury County Civil Service Commission. He is married and has two children.



Judicial Biographies

District 3B



Daniel P. Vakulskas

Judge Daniel Vakulskas, Sioux City, was appointed to serve Woodbury county in 2017 as a magistrate. He was appointed district associate judge in 2018 and serves Plymouth and Sioux counties. Judge Vakulskas graduated from the University of Iowa with his undergraduate degree and received his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Prior to his appointment practiced law at Vakulskas Law Firm in Sioux City.

District 4



Craig M. Dreismeier

Judge Craig M. Dreismeier, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench as a District Court Judge on October 19, 2018. From December 2010 until October 19, 2018 he served as a District Associate Judge for the Fourth Judicial District. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1989. In 1992, Judge Dreismeier earned his law degree from Creighton University. From 1992 until 2010 he was in private practice also serving as an assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney from 1995-1996. Judge Dreismeier is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association. He is married and has one child.



James S. Heckerman

Judge Heckerman, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench in 1996. He was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1972. In 1974 he graduated with his law degree from Creighton University. He worked in private practice, as assistant Pottawattamie County attorney, and Pottawattamie County public defender before being appointed to the district associate bench in 1984. Judge Heckerman is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.



Michael Donn Hooper

Judge Hooper was appointed to the bench in January 2019. He and his family live in Atlantic, Iowa. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hooper was the Cass County attorney. In private practice, he worked primarily as a criminal defense attorney. He graduated with a BA in Sociology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received his J.D. from Creighton School of Law. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the 4th Bar Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 4



Margaret J. Reyes

Judge Reyes, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench on October 19, 2018. Margaret “Maggie” Popp Reyes is a 1993 graduate of Creighton University School of Law and a 1990 graduate of Creighton University. Maggie worked as an Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney in charge of the office’s Civil Division since 2003. As an Assistant County Attorney, Maggie acted as legal counsel to the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, elected officials and department heads and handles civil litigation matters including an ever-increasing caseload of postconviction cases. Maggie is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association including the Criminal Law, Employment/Labor Law, and Government Sections and a member of the Criminal Law Legislative Subcommittee. She is a member of the Iowa County Attorneys Association, Government Practice Committee; the National Association of District Attorneys and a member of the Pottawattamie County Bar Association.



Amy L. Zacharias

Judge Zacharias, Logan, was appointed to district associate judge in December 2015 and district court judge in March 2019. She received her BSBA from Creighton University in 1998 and her Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in 2001, Magna Cum Laude. She clerked for Judge John Irwin with the Nebraska Court of Appeals from 2001 to 2003 was an Associate with Childs & Hall, P.C. in Harlan from 2003 to 2005, and served as Assistant County Attorney in the Pottawattamie County Attorney’s Office from 2005 to 2015.



Jennifer Benson Bahr

Judge Bahr, Crescent, was appointed to the bench on May 3, 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2002 and her Juris Doctorate from Drake University School of Law in 2005. Judge Bahr served as a law clerk for the Second Judicial District from 2005 to 2006. She was elected as the Humboldt County Attorney in 2006 and the Webster County Attorney in 2014. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Bahr worked as an Assistant County Attorney in the Pottawattamie County Attorney’s Office.



Eric John Nelson

Judge Nelson, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench in December 2018. He was raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska in 2001 and his law degree from Oklahoma City University in 2005. Judge Nelson was in private practice from 2006-2010 and served in the State of Iowa Public Defender’s Office until his appointment to the bench. Judge Nelson is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and 4th Bar Association. He served two terms as a member of the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. He is married with two children.



Judicial Biographies

District 4



Scott D. Strait

Judge Strait, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench in August of 2018. He received his Bachelor's degree from Creighton University in 1991 and his law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1994. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Strait was in private practice for twenty-four years practicing primarily in the areas of criminal law, juvenile law, and family law. He was also a certified family law mediator and a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Iowa Mediation Center. He is married with two children.

District 5A



Richard Clogg

Judge Clogg, Indianola, was appointed as a District Court Judge in 2012. He served as a District Associate Judge from 2000 until his appointment to the District bench. He was in private practice for 25 years prior to his appointment. Judge Clogg received his bachelor's degree from Simpson College in 1971 and his law degree from Drake University in 1974. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association. Judge Clogg is married and has three children.



Michael K. Jacobsen

Judge Jacobsen was appointed to the bench in June 2018. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from South Dakota State University in 1990 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake in 1993. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Jacobsen was in private practice for Diehl, Clayton & Jacobsen (1990-1996), assistant Jasper County Attorney (1996- 2009), and Jasper County Attorney (2009-2018). He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.



Thomas P. Murphy

Judge Murphy was appointed to the bench in 2017. In 1985, Judge Murphy received his undergraduate degree as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Marquette University. Judge Murphy then served four years on active duty in the United States Army. In 1992, he received his law degree with Honors from Drake University Law School. Judge Murphy practiced law for twenty-five years prior to his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State and Dallas County Bar Associations.



Judicial Biographies

District 5A



Steven Guiter

Judge Guiter was appointed to the bench in January 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1978 and law degree from Drake University in 1982. Judge Guiter practiced law with the same firm following graduation from law school in 1982 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the American, Iowa State, and Marion County Bar Associations. He also served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. Judge Guiter is married and has five children.



Steven J. Holwerda

Judge Holwerda, Newton, was appointed in 2010 to serve as Jasper County Magistrate and in 2013 to serve as District Associate Judge. He received his bachelor's degree from Dordt College in 1979 and his law degree from Valparaiso University in 1983. Judge Holwerda was in private practice in Newton until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State and Jasper County Bar Associations. Judge Holwerda is married and has three children.



Mark F. Schlenker

Judge Schlenker, Indianola, was appointed to the bench as District Associate Judge in 2012. He was born in Des Moines, graduated from Indianola Community High School in 1972, received a B.S. in Economics from Iowa State University in 1975, and his J.D. from Creighton University in 1978. Prior to appointment to the bench he served as an Assistant Iowa Attorney General, an Assistant Warren County Attorney, and was in private practice in Indianola for 31 years. He is a member of the American and Iowa State Bar Associations, having served in many leadership roles, and belongs to the Iowa Judges Association. He is married with two children and two grandchildren.

District 5B



Elisabeth S. Reynoldson

Judge Reynoldson was appointed to the bench in July 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1989, graduating with honors, and her JD with Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law. Her past experience includes a private practice in Osceola from 1992-2002 and 2013-2019. She was the Clarke County Magistrate from 2001-2002, Clarke County Attorney from 2002-2006, and Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division, from 2007-2012. Judge Reynoldson is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Blackstone Inn of Court, District 5B Bar Association. She received The Iowa State Bar Association President's Award in 2018 and The Iowa State Bar Association YLD Award of Merit in 2004.



Judicial Biographies

District 5B



Monty W. Franklin

Judge Franklin was appointed to the bench in 2007. He earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa. Judge Franklin served as a Wayne County Attorney from 1982 to 1986 and has also been in private practice since 1979. Judge Franklin is a member of the Wayne County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He also received the Angels in Adoption Award from U.S. Congressional Coalition On Adoption Institute in March 2005.

District 5C



Michael D. Huppert

Chief Judge Michael D. Huppert was appointed to the bench in December of 1999. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1979 from Drake University and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1982, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Chief Judge Huppert was a partner with the Patterson Law Firm in Des Moines. He is a member of the Iowa State and Polk County Bar Associations. He is a member and former director of the Iowa Judges Association. He is also a Master of the Bench (Emeritus) and former president of the C. Edwin Moore American Inns of Court.



Scott J. Beattie

Judge Scott J. Beattie was appointed to the bench in 2018. He received his bachelor's degree from Cedarville College in 1989 and his law degree with honors from Drake University in 1992. Before taking the bench, Judge Beattie served on active duty with the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Des Moines, and as a partner with the law firm of Peddicord Wharton LLP. Judge Beattie 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 sons.



Sarah E. Crane

Judge Sarah E. Crane was appointed as a District Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District, based in Des Moines, Iowa, in June 2018. Judge Crane was also appointed as a member of the Iowa Business Specialty Court in November 2019. She grew up in Mason City, Iowa. She received her bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2004 and her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 2007. After starting out in private practice at a firm in Chicago, she returned to Iowa and served as a law clerk for the Iowa Supreme Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Crane was in private practice at the Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, and Polk County Women Attorneys. Judge Crane is married and has four children.



Judicial Biographies

District 5C



Celene Gogerty

Judge Gogerty was appointed to the bench in November 2018. She received her Bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1992, and her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1995 with Distinction. Her past experience includes working as the Assistant Linn County Attorney from 1995-2000, and the Assistant Polk County Attorney from 2000-2018. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Polk County Women Attorneys, Iowa Judges Association, National Association of Women Judges, and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.



Samantha J. Gronewald

Judge Gronewald was appointed to the bench in December 2017. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2000 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2003. Judge Gronewald was in private practice before her appointment.



Coleman J. McAllister

Judge McAllister was appointed to the bench in April 2019. He received his undergraduate degree in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1990 and his J.D. from the University of Missouri Law School in 1993. Before his appointment to the bench he worked as the Judicial Law Clerk Fifth Judicial District of Iowa from 1993-1995, then working for four years in private practice, and 20 years as a prosecutor including serving as Sioux County Attorney from 2007-2014, and as Area Prosecutor with the Iowa Attorney General's Office from 2014 until his appointment. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association.



Lawrence Paul McLellan

Judge McLellan was appointed to the bench in 2012. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 from Drake University. He received his law degree from Drake University in 1983. In 2006 he earned a masters in law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in dispute resolution. Upon graduation from law school in 1983 he clerked for the Honorable Ronald E. Longstaff, United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. He was with the law firm of Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C. from 1984-2000 engaged in a general civil litigation practice. From 2000 until 2012 he was with the law firm of Sullivan & Ward, P.C. also engaged in general civil litigation and mediation. He is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations. He is an Honorary Member of the Order of the Barristers. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 5C



David W. Nelmark

Judge Nelmark was appointed to the bench in 2019. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Drake University in 1999 and his law degree from Stanford Law School in 2005. His past experience includes working for Gislason & Hunter LLP and Belin McCormick, PC. He is a past president of the American Mock Trial Association and a past president of the Polk County Bar Association.



Joseph W. Seidlin

Judge Seidlin, Clive, was appointed as a District Court Judge in November, 2018, after serving as a District Associate Judge since August, 2013. Before that, he served as a Polk County Magistrate for 8 years. Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Judge Seidlin attended Drake University where he received his undergraduate degree in 1982, and his law degree in 1985. He was in private practice for 28 years before taking the District Associate bench in 2013. Judge Seidlin is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations, as well as the C. Edwin Moore and Lincoln Inns of Court. He is married and has two adult children.



Kimberly Ayotte

Judge Kimberly Ayotte was appointed to the bench in February 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1993 and her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1996 with Distinction. Prior to her appointment, she worked as a staff attorney for 23 years at the Youth Law Center. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, National Association of Counsel for Children, Child Welfare Law Specialist, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Blackstone American Inn of Court, and the Iowa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Juvenile Procedure. She is married with two children and a licensed USA swim official.



Brendan E. Greiner

Judge Greiner was appointed to the bench in 2018. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 2000 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 2007. Prior to his appointment Judge Greiner was an assistant county attorney in Polk County and Story County. He resides in Des Moines.



Judicial Biographies

District 5C



Christopher R. Kemp

Judge Kemp was appointed to the bench in July 2019. He received his Political Science degree from Carleton College in 2006 and his law degree from Drake University in 2009. He is a member of the Blackstone Inn of Court, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Polk County Bar Association.



Lynn Poschner

Judge Poschner was appointed to the bench in May 2018. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 2003 and her J.D. from Drake Law School in 2007 with High Honors. Her past experience includes private practice law. She is a member of C. Edwin Inn of Court, Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.



Tabitha Turner

Judge Turner was appointed to the bench in August 2019. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Oregon State University in 2005, and her J.D. from Drake University Law School in 2011. Her past experiences include being the sole practitioner of Turner Law Firm P.L.L.C., specializing in criminal defense, family law, and mediation. She is a member of the Polk County Bar Association and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.



Craig Block

Judge Block, Ankeny, was appointed to the bench in 2013. Born in Centerville, IA, he received his associate arts degree from IHCC in 1977, his bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1979, and his law degree, with honors from Drake University in 1981. Judge Block was in private practice for thirty-one years in Ankeny, Iowa until his appointment. He has taught at Grand View University and served two terms on the Ankeny School Board, and four terms on the Ankeny City Council. Two years prior to his appointment to the bench, he was the COO/General Counsel for the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Judge Block is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has four daughters.



Judicial Biographies

District 6



Jason D. Besler

Judge Besler, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench on June 21, 2018. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Luther College in 1996 and his law degree with Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1999. In law school he served as Student Legal Services Co-Director from 1998-1999, where he was awarded the University of Iowa Faculty Award for Client Service. After law school, and prior to appointment, Judge Besler was an Assistant Linn County Attorney from 2000-2018, and was in private practice from 1999-2000. While serving as an Assistant Linn County Attorney, he served on the Child Protection Center Case Review Committee and Elder Abuse Task Force. He was also awarded the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Outstanding Service Award in 2018. Judge Besler was recently assigned to the Jury Trial Logistics Committee for the 6th District. Judge Besler is a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association, Linn County Bar Association, American Judges Association, and Iowa Judges Association. Judge Besler was appointed in 2020 to the Domestic Violence, Access to Justice, and Elder Abuse Committees for the American Judges Association. Judge Besler is a graduate of the course on General Jurisdiction offered by the National Judicial College. Judge Besler is married and has one child.



Mary Elizabeth Chicchelly

Judge Chicchelly, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench in March 2013. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1989 and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992. Prior to being appointed, Judge Chicchelly was a judicial clerk for District 2A. She worked in private practice in Fort Dodge from 1993-1995, in Waterloo from 1995-1997, and in Cedar Rapids from 1997 until her appointment to the bench. Judge Chicchelly is a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Linn County Bar Association, LCBA Board of Governors (2008-2010 and president-elect 2012-2013), and Dean Mason Ladd Inn of Court (Master). She is a past president of the Iowa Judges Association and current member of the Iowa Judges Association Board. Judge Chicchelly is also a member of the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges and has previously served as a delegate to that Conference. She is married and has two children.



Fae Ellen Hoover-Grinde

Judge Hoover-Grinde, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench as a district associate judge on December 9, 2003. In 2007 she was appointed to the bench as a district court judge. She was born in St. Ansgar, Iowa, and raised in Marion, Iowa. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell College in 1987 and her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1990. Judge Hoover-Grinde has served as a public defender in Cedar Rapids and a Legal Service Corp. staff attorney. She is a member of the Linn County Bar Association and the National Association of Women Judges. She is a member of the Linn County Bar Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 6



Cynthia Smith Finley

Cynthia S. Finley, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the district associate court bench in December 2018. Judge Finley presides over Juvenile Court proceedings in Linn and Benton Counties, as well as Linn County Family Treatment Court. She earned her undergraduate degree from Clemson University in 1984 and her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1994, with high distinction. She served as a Linn County Magistrate from August 2007 to December 2018 while also maintaining a private practice which focused primarily on juvenile court. She worked with the Iowa State Public Defenders office, the Linn County Advocate and United Fire Group. She is married with four children.



Angeline Johnston

Judge Johnston, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench in 2007. Judge Johnston received her undergraduate degree from Luther College, cum laude, in 1989, and her law degree, with honors, from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992. Judge Johnston started her legal career in private practice in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She became the Assistant Henry County Attorney in 2001. She moved back to Cedar Rapids in 2001 and worked as an Assistant Linn County Attorney until her appointment to the bench. Judge Johnston is a member of the Linn County Bar Association. She is married and has two children and four step-children.



Casey D. Jones

Judge Jones, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench as a district associate judge in 2007. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell College in 1987 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1990. Prior to being appointed, Judge Jones worked as a Federal Public Defender and was managing attorney at the Linn County Advocate for 15 years, after working in private practice. He is a member of the Linn County Bar Association and is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Jones is married with three children.



Russell G. Keast

Judge Keast, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench as a district associate judge in 2006. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1982 and his law degree from Drake University in 1985. He was in private practice after obtaining his law degree and served as Assistant Linn County Attorney from 1986 until 2006. He is married and has two sons.



Judicial Biographies

District 7



Marlita A. Greve

Judge Greve, Davenport, was appointed to the bench in 2006 and named as chief judge in 2013. She received her undergraduate degree from Upper Iowa University Magna Cum Laude and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992 with High Distinction. After graduation from law school, she was in private practice with an emphasis in civil litigation and trial work from 1992-2006. Judge Greve has served on numerous statewide committees involving civil discovery rules, informal family law trial program, jury reform, digital recording, expedited civil actions, mental health reform, case management and several other committees as well. As chief judge, she serves on the Judicial Council. Judge Greve is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. She previously served as a representative in the Iowa Judges Association for the 7th Judicial District. She is married and has one child.



Joel William Barrows

Judge Barrows, Bettendorf, was appointed to the bench in 2012. After being raised in Folletts and Camanche, Iowa, he received a bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1983, a master's degree in history from Southern Illinois University in 1986, a law degree from Drake University in 1989, and a master of laws degree in international and comparative law, with distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1993. Prior to appointment to the bench, Judge Barrows served as a child support recovery attorney for Clinton, Jackson and Cedar Counties, an Assistant Polk County Attorney in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in both Des Moines and Davenport, Iowa. He is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Barrows is married and has two children.



Mark R. Fowler

Judge Fowler, Bettendorf, was appointed to the district court bench in July of 2018. He served as district associate judge from 2012 until his appointment to district court judge. He earned his BA degree from Augustana College in 1990, his MBA degree from Saint Ambrose University in 1997 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in December 1999. From 2000 to 2002 he was in private practice, first at Califf & Harper P.C. in Moline Illinois and then from January 2002 until his appointment to the bench he was in private practice at the Gomez May law firm in Davenport, Iowa. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Dillon Inn of Courts. Judge Fowler resides in Bettendorf, Iowa, is married and has three children.



Henry William Latham II

Judge Latham, Eldridge, was appointed to the bench in 2013. Judge Latham has been a lifetime resident of Scott County. After graduating from West High School he continued his education at St. Ambrose College and ultimately obtained his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge Latham maintained a general law practice prior to being appointed to the bench. Judge Latham is married and has three children.



Judicial Biographies

District 7



Mark R. Lawson

Judge Lawson, Bellevue, was appointed to the bench in 2013. He was born in Davenport, Iowa. He is a 1976 graduate of St. Ambrose College and obtained a law degree from Drake University in 1979. He was in private practice in Maquoketa, Iowa from 1979- 2013. He also served as a Jackson County Magistrate from 2010 until his appointment to the district court bench. He is a past board member of the Jackson County Conservation Board and the Maquoketa Area Community Foundation. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Jackson and Clinton County Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Lawson is married and has four children.



Patrick A. McElyea

Judge McElyea, Davenport, was appointed to the bench in 2017. He received his undergraduate degree from Central College and his law degree from Drake University Law School. He previously served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Iowa.



Tamra J. Roberts

Judge Roberts was appointed to the District Court Bench in 2019. She previously served as a magistrate in Cedar County in 2014-2019. She earned her bachelor's degree from Central College in 2003 and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2009. She is a member of the Cedar County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. Prior to her court appointment, she was in private practice, and she served as Assistant Attorney General and Cedar County Attorney. Roberts is married with two children.



Christine Dalton Ploof

Christine Dalton Ploof, Eldridge, was appointed to the bench in November 2006. She received her bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1986, and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1989. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked at the State Public Defender's Muscatine Office; at the Muscatine County Attorney's office; and as a staff attorney at Muscatine Legal Services. She is married with two children.



Korie Talkington

Judge Talkington, Muscatine, was appointed to the bench in 2018. She earned her bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Iowa. After graduating from law school in 1999, she served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial District of Florida. She served as an Assistant Muscatine County Attorney from 2001 to 2011 and was First Assistant from 2011 until her appointment to the bench. Judge Talkington is married and has two daughters.



Judicial Biographies

District 7



Cheryl Eileen Traum

Judge Traum was appointed to the bench in 2012. She earned a BA Degree in 1979 from the University of Northern Iowa, and her law degree from the Northern Illinois College of Law in 1998. She is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Scott County Bar Association. From 2002 until her appointment to the bench, Judge Traum was in the private practice of law in Davenport, Iowa. Judge Traum resides in Bettendorf, and is married with two children.

District 8A



Gregory G. Milani

Judge Milani, Moravia, was appointed district court judge in August of 2018. He graduated from Drake University in 1982 and earned his law degree from Drake University in 1987. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Wapello County Bar Association and the Appanoose County Bar Associate and has been in private practice since 1987. Judge Milani was appointed to serve Appanoose County as magistrate in 2013.



Rose Anne Mefford

Judge Mefford, Oskaloosa, was appointed to the bench in April, 2013. She attended the University of Iowa where she received her Bachelor's Degree in 1991 and received her Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1994. She was an Assistant Wapello County Attorney from 1995-2001. She was a partner in Albers and Mefford, L.L.P., in Albia, Iowa, between 2001 and 2003. On January 1, 2006 She was appointed Mahaska County Attorney; an office she held until her appointment to the bench. She served on the State Board of Directors of Iowa Legal Aid from 2003-2008. Judge Mefford is a member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, the Iowa Judges Association, the National Association of Women Judges, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Mahaska County Bar Association and the Keokuk County Bar Association.

District 8B



Mary Ann Brown

Chief Judge Brown, Burlington, was appointed to the bench in 2001 and as Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial District in 2012. She was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She attended Drake University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1981 and her law degree in 1984. Judge Brown served as a prosecutor in the Des Moines County Attorney's office until 1990. Thereafter she was in a general private practice in Burlington, until her appointment to the bench. She also served as the Middletown City Attorney. In 2000 she was honored by The Iowa State Bar Association with its Community Service Award. She is a past member of the Grievance Commission, Iowa Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters (chair), Iowa Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Committee, the Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the Civil Justice Reform Task Force. She is a current member of the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association and the Des Moines County Bar Association.



Judicial Biographies

District 8B



Wyatt P. Peterson

Judge Peterson was appointed to the bench in August of 2018. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 2000 and his law degree with honors from Drake University Law School in 2003. During his final year at Drake Law School, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law. Judge Peterson was in private practice in Burlington from 2003 through 2006. He served as Assistant Washington County Attorney from 2006 until 2010. In 2010, he established a private practice in Winfield and was also appointed as a part-time Magistrate for Henry County in January of 2017, both of which he continued until his appointment as a District Court Judge.



Michael J. Schilling

Judge Schilling is a District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. Appointed to the bench in 2006, Schilling graduated with honors from the University of Iowa in 1973. In 1976, Schilling graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law with distinction. While in law school, he participated in the Journal of Corporation Law, and the regional and national Client Counseling Competition. Following graduation from law school, Schilling served as a VISTA volunteer lawyer on the three Native American reservations in Nebraska. He then served as an Assistant Public Defender before entering private practice. Schilling enjoyed an active criminal and civil trial practice for almost 30 years. Since his appointment to the bench, Schilling has served on several committees, including the Iowa Supreme Court's Civil Justice Reform Task Force, and the Eighth Judicial District's Mediation Committee. Schilling served as drug court judges for several counties for about 9 years ending in December 2018. He is a member of the Des Moines County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, and the Iowa Judges Association. Schilling serves as a 4th-grade religious education instructor for his church. He enjoys running, writing, reading history, and making memories with his wife of 35 years, their three children, and extended families.



Clinton R. Boddicker

Judge Boddicker was appointed to the bench in 2018. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1993 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996. After graduation, he went into private practice in Keokuk and Cedar Rapids. In 2011, he became full-time Assistant Lee County Attorney. He was elected Lee County Attorney in May of 2017 until his appointment to the bench. Judge Boddicker is a member of the Iowa County Attorneys Association, National District Attorneys Association, American Bar Association, and South Lee County Bar Association.



Emily S. Dean

Judge Dean, Burlington, was appointed to the bench in 2006. She attended the University of Northern Iowa and received her undergraduate degree in 1996 and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1999 from the University of Tulsa. Judge Dean was a partner at Saunders, Humphrey, Johnson and Dean from 1999 to 2006. She is member of The Iowa State Bar Association and serves on the Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program Board and on the Electronic Document Management System Commission.



Judicial Performance Review Results

IOWA SUPREME COURT				
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 Christensen	Edward Mansfield	Christopher McDonald	Thomas Waterman
Knowledge and application of the law	4.23	4.62	4.33	4.41
Perception of factual issues	4.27	4.52	4.27	4.35
Attentiveness to evidence and arguments	4.45	4.56	4.38	4.46
Temperament and demeanor	4.49	4.45	4.16	4.45
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.28	4.56	4.27	4.40
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.46	4.52	4.41	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.	4.44	4.48	4.19	4.38
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.31	4.25	4.00	4.08
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.55	4.58	4.31	4.48
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.52	4.50	4.35	4.30
Retention percentage	92	90	85	84
Number of respondents	290	299	282	296



Judicial Performance Review Results

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS				
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)	Thomas Bower	David May	Julie A. Schumacher	Sharon Soorholtz-Greer
Knowledge and application of the law	4.41	4.36	4.46	4.55
Perception of factual issues	4.36	4.36	4.48	4.52
Attentiveness to evidence and arguments	4.46	4.52	4.55	4.62
Temperament and demeanor	4.55	4.54	4.61	4.57
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.35	4.42	4.44	4.54
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.44	4.51	4.49	4.63
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.	4.57	4.44	4.58	4.59
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.48	4.36	4.54	4.52
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.63	4.59	4.64	4.66
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.59	4.52	4.62	4.63
Retention percentage	96	93	97	95
Number of respondents	212	206	194	210



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 1A				
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)	Alan Heavens	Mark Hostager	Stephanie C. Rattenborg	Thomas J. Straka
Knowledge and application of the law	4.13	4.33	3.98	4.34
Perception of factual issues	4.12	4.28	4.00	4.34
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.50	4.68	4.28	4.36
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.33	4.46	4.08	4.21
Management and control of the courtroom	4.33	4.53	4.23	4.45
Temperament and demeanor	4.46	4.57	4.00	4.48
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.16	4.24	3.89	4.41
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.38	4.12	4.13	4.31
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.40	4.36	4.24	4.40
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.	4.45	4.56	4.15	4.38
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.31	4.24	3.96	4.14
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.53	4.56	4.21	4.41
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.42	4.44	4.33	4.34
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.47	4.48	4.26	4.31
Retention percentage	94	92	88	94
Number of respondents	88	84	86	86



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 1B				
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)	Joel A. Dalrymple	Bradley J. Harris	Patrice Jaye Eichman	Linnea M.N. Nicol
Knowledge and application of the law	3.95	4.49	4.59	4.49
Perception of factual issues	4.04	4.44	4.64	4.43
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.39	4.72	4.68	4.48
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.16	4.56	4.77	4.64
Management and control of the courtroom	4.38	4.59	4.64	4.53
Temperament and demeanor	3.82	4.48	4.87	4.41
Clarity and quality of written opinions	3.86	4.49	4.55	4.41
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.13	4.51	4.75	4.18
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.29	4.55	4.67	4.52
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.	3.81	4.45	4.86	4.31
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.00	4.54	4.77	4.43
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	3.82	4.66	4.91	4.63
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.10	4.79	4.97	4.63
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.05	4.74	4.90	4.67
Retention percentage	87	96	96	92
Number of respondents	83	81	65	73



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 2A						
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)	Christopher Foy	Gregg R. Rosenblatt	DeDra Schroeder	Colleen D. Weiland	Karen Kaufman Salic	Adam D. Sauer
Knowledge and application of the law	3.81	4.28	3.93	4.09	4.10	4.18
Perception of factual issues	3.67	4.37	3.85	4.12	3.98	4.29
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.08	4.58	4.25	4.51	4.42	4.61
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.02	4.49	4.04	4.41	4.16	4.52
Management and control of the courtroom	3.83	4.40	4.19	4.38	4.41	4.46
Temperament and demeanor	4.17	4.59	3.71	4.46	3.84	4.75
Clarity and quality of written opinions	3.81	4.24	3.93	4.16	4.05	4.33
Promptness of rulings and decisions	2.82	4.27	4.22	4.24	4.51	4.52
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	3.81	4.40	4.25	4.53	4.61	4.64
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.	4.26	4.57	4.05	4.41	3.82	4.46
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.01	4.50	3.93	4.34	3.92	4.28
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.36	4.55	3.84	4.51	4.03	4.68
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.41	4.60	4.18	4.57	4.16	4.55
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.24	4.57	4.15	4.66	4.26	4.41
Retention percentage	74	99	84	91	83	91
Number of respondents	94	83	88	88	79	76



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 2B									
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)	Gina Badding	Bethany Currie	Angela L. Doyle	James C. Ellefson	Amy M. Moore	Christopher C. Polking	James B. Malloy	Stephen A. Owen	Joseph L. Tofilon
Knowledge and application of the law	4.75	4.60	4.76	4.60	4.45	4.44	4.62	4.59	4.27
Perception of factual issues	4.70	4.62	4.76	4.49	4.48	4.33	4.64	4.59	4.18
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.79	4.84	4.78	4.63	4.62	4.62	4.58	4.78	4.50
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.75	4.80	4.76	4.64	4.66	4.48	4.66	4.71	4.52
Management and control of the courtroom	4.71	4.63	4.76	4.62	4.60	4.42	4.64	4.71	4.35
Temperament and demeanor	4.71	4.67	4.73	4.36	4.49	4.49	4.64	4.78	4.17
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.71	4.68	4.71	4.51	4.54	4.45	4.57	4.61	4.20
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.67	4.70	4.73	4.58	4.72	4.54	4.61	4.69	4.43
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.73	4.69	4.79	4.27	4.65	4.47	4.63	4.80	4.59
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.	4.73	4.65	4.76	4.50	4.58	4.51	4.64	4.69	4.38
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.69	4.65	4.69	4.62	4.59	4.48	4.58	4.61	4.57
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.78	4.66	4.75	4.56	4.53	4.60	4.66	4.86	4.62
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.80	4.80	4.78	4.65	4.69	4.55	4.71	4.72	4.67
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.80	4.64	4.83	4.71	4.64	4.60	4.64	4.79	4.76
Retention percentage	100	97	100	96	92	95	97	96	89
Number of respondents	106	106	100	106	103	98	101	98	91



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 3A			
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)	Charles K. Borth	Carl J. Petersen	Andrew Justin Smith
Knowledge and application of the law	4.53	4.36	4.33
Perception of factual issues	4.59	4.36	4.42
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.79	4.64	4.53
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.68	4.46	4.38
Management and control of the courtroom	4.63	4.58	4.54
Temperament and demeanor	4.80	4.49	4.39
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.56	4.28	4.36
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.61	4.34	4.53
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.57	4.57	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.	4.76	4.46	4.40
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.57	4.40	4.43
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.72	4.54	4.41
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.76	4.56	4.52
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.72	4.51	4.61
Retention percentage	97	96	91
Number of respondents	79	84	76



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 3B						
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)	Tod J. Deck	Zachary S. Hindman	Duane E. Hoffmeyer	Mark C. Cord III	John C. Nelson	Daniel P. Vakulskas
Knowledge and application of the law	3.94	4.60	4.30	4.03	4.50	4.41
Perception of factual issues	4.03	4.48	4.16	4.11	4.50	4.49
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.34	4.59	4.50	4.26	4.47	4.61
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.17	4.63	4.25	4.25	4.50	4.56
Management and control of the courtroom	4.27	4.55	4.40	4.26	4.44	4.54
Temperament and demeanor	4.30	4.55	3.74	4.17	4.32	4.61
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.03	4.65	4.18	4.30	4.42	4.34
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.11	4.43	4.28	3.92	4.55	4.62
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.25	4.52	4.48	4.41	4.53	4.64
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.	4.15	4.54	3.85	4.36	4.33	4.68
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.06	4.53	4.13	4.30	4.42	4.68
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.31	4.59	3.74	4.30	4.24	4.73
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.42	4.53	4.36	4.42	4.52	4.74
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.30	4.60	4.37	4.47	4.52	4.72
Retention percentage	86	95	84	83	97	98
Number of respondents	94	97	106	86	86	89



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)	Craig M. Dreismeier	James S. Heckerman	Michael Donn Hooper	Margaret J. Reyes	Amy L. Zacharias	Jennifer Benson Bahr	Eric John Nelson	Scott D. Strait
Knowledge and application of the law	4.76	4.27	4.61	4.03	4.29	4.42	4.35	4.70
Perception of factual issues	4.75	4.37	4.71	4.15	4.33	4.39	4.43	4.59
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.97	4.46	4.80	4.51	4.65	4.39	4.68	4.69
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.86	4.08	4.64	4.38	4.45	4.43	4.48	4.56
Management and control of the courtroom	4.74	4.54	4.71	4.21	4.39	4.57	4.41	4.67
Temperament and demeanor	4.91	4.33	4.76	4.61	4.45	4.67	4.35	4.48
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.70	3.97	4.65	4.22	4.43	4.48	4.45	4.54
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.77	4.37	4.62	4.05	4.50	4.09	4.41	4.40
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.85	4.24	4.78	4.50	4.52	4.62	4.48	4.77
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.	4.79	4.40	4.69	4.58	4.60	4.78	4.57	4.59
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.81	4.24	4.73	4.41	4.47	4.52	4.57	4.62
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.87	4.35	4.75	4.78	4.60	4.83	4.61	4.48
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.86	4.62	4.79	4.70	4.63	4.82	4.70	4.69
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.88	4.55	4.86	4.60	4.66	4.75	4.67	4.60
Retention percentage	100	91	98	86	98	96	100	100
Number of respondents	76	79	72	77	76	68	62	61



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 5A

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)	Richard Clogg	Michael K. Jacobsen	Thomas P. Murphy	Steven Guiter	Steven J. Holwerda	Mark F. Schlenker
Knowledge and application of the law	4.25	4.47	4.53	4.54	4.63	4.29
Perception of factual issues	4.27	4.50	4.55	4.57	4.63	4.22
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.61	4.60	4.67	4.58	4.65	4.26
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.30	4.50	4.62	4.47	4.65	4.20
Management and control of the courtroom	4.53	4.52	4.62	4.58	4.64	4.25
Temperament and demeanor	4.69	4.62	4.66	4.49	4.70	3.73
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.22	4.48	4.52	4.44	4.63	4.13
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.35	4.51	4.58	4.57	4.69	4.22
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.19	4.54	4.59	4.41	4.50	4.21
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	4.60	4.65	4.54	4.77	4.00
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.47	4.61	4.57	4.58	4.54	4.13
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.63	4.67	4.68	4.63	4.72	3.80
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.62	4.68	4.66	4.60	4.64	4.18
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.56	4.69	4.66	4.61	4.67	4.00
Retention percentage	96	99	96	98	100	90
Number of respondents	117	108	114	100	93	100



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 5B		
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)	Elisabeth S. Reynoldson	Monty W. Franklin
Knowledge and application of the law	4.52	4.29
Perception of factual issues	4.48	4.16
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.67	4.08
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.61	3.97
Management and control of the courtroom	4.54	3.97
Temperament and demeanor	4.52	3.21
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.58	4.18
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.53	4.14
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.56	3.79
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.	4.65	3.70
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.58	3.87
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.58	3.15
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.69	4.03
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.67	4.13
Retention percentage	99	77
Number of respondents	85	74



Judicial Performance Review Results

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)	Scott J. Beattie	Sarah E. Crane	Celene Gogerty	Samantha J. Gronewald	Michael D. Huppert	Coleman J. McAllister	Lawrence Paul McLellan	David W. Nelmark
Knowledge and application of the law	4.48	4.62	4.36	4.45	4.73	4.60	4.66	4.64
Perception of factual issues	4.50	4.64	4.34	4.48	4.68	4.68	4.66	4.64
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.72	4.74	4.53	4.64	4.74	4.76	4.72	4.75
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.70	4.72	4.50	4.64	4.70	4.78	4.72	4.75
Management and control of the courtroom	4.65	4.64	4.49	4.65	4.71	4.78	4.71	4.62
Temperament and demeanor	4.73	4.72	4.33	4.65	4.52	4.80	4.74	4.62
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.47	4.69	4.29	4.50	4.64	4.59	4.66	4.60
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.41	4.64	4.46	4.55	4.61	4.73	4.65	4.66
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.61	4.76	4.55	4.61	4.71	4.73	4.71	4.71
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.	4.77	4.74	4.47	4.70	4.58	4.81	4.74	4.62
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.70	4.71	4.37	4.61	4.55	4.76	4.64	4.65
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.76	4.75	4.46	4.72	4.52	4.80	4.78	4.69
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.77	4.76	4.63	4.72	4.66	4.80	4.80	4.69
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.69	4.76	4.51	4.76	4.66	4.81	4.81	4.73
Retention percentage	100	95	95	97	93	98	99	96
Number of respondents	191	194	184	185	217	179	199	185



Judicial Performance Review Results

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)	Joseph Seidlin	Kimberly Ayotte	Brendan E. Greiner	Christopher R. Kemp	Lynn Poschner	Tabitha Turner	Craig Block
Knowledge and application of the law	4.58	4.47	4.45	4.66	4.66	4.54	4.77
Perception of factual issues	4.60	4.45	4.44	4.66	4.58	4.60	4.81
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.69	4.54	4.66	4.74	4.72	4.71	4.79
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.64	4.52	4.53	4.74	4.70	4.69	4.82
Management and control of the courtroom	4.65	4.50	4.56	4.68	4.67	4.63	4.84
Temperament and demeanor	4.62	4.50	4.33	4.76	4.70	4.73	4.80
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.55	4.43	4.43	4.61	4.58	4.59	4.78
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.61	4.40	4.56	4.70	4.63	4.66	4.80
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.61	4.50	4.64	4.74	4.68	4.67	4.80
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.	4.67	4.56	4.44	4.76	4.70	4.71	4.79
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.62	4.50	4.39	4.77	4.63	4.71	4.76
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.69	4.56	4.42	4.76	4.67	4.77	4.84
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.77	4.65	4.56	4.80	4.73	4.78	4.86
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.72	4.70	4.65	4.82	4.72	4.76	4.82
Retention percentage	95	98	94	97	98	100	99
Number of respondents	179	164	171	172	169	166	196



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 6

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)	Jason D. Besler	Mary Elizabeth Chicchelly	Fae Ellen Hoover-Grinde	Cynthia Smith Finley	Angeline Johnston	Casey D. Jones	Russell G. Keast
Knowledge and application of the law	4.06	4.40	4.39	4.27	4.57	4.69	4.57
Perception of factual issues	4.13	4.44	4.44	4.20	4.60	4.66	4.54
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.64	4.50	4.48	4.37	4.66	4.73	4.41
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.53	4.53	4.53	4.27	4.63	4.71	4.54
Management and control of the courtroom	4.45	4.64	4.63	4.37	4.71	4.71	4.67
Temperament and demeanor	4.65	4.53	4.75	4.53	4.63	4.77	4.49
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.18	4.37	4.21	4.11	4.48	4.63	4.53
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.36	4.37	3.79	4.34	4.60	4.70	4.53
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.39	4.57	4.48	4.54	4.73	4.69	4.48
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.	4.65	4.58	4.69	4.53	4.56	4.75	4.48
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.46	4.47	4.60	4.33	4.64	4.72	4.57
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.74	4.59	4.77	4.66	4.72	4.79	4.70
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.63	4.73	4.76	4.80	4.86	4.77	4.74
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.67	4.70	4.72	4.77	4.82	4.78	4.73
Retention percentage	95	94	94	94	98	97	100
Number of respondents	141	160	148	127	131	134	133



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 7					
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)	Joel William Barrows	Mark R. Fowler	Marlita A. Greve	Henry William Latham II	Mark R. Lawson
Knowledge and application of the law	4.43	4.34	4.50	4.34	3.76
Perception of factual issues	4.39	4.33	4.53	4.35	3.67
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.38	4.55	4.65	4.59	4.08
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.49	4.48	4.59	4.53	3.71
Management and control of the courtroom	4.57	4.52	4.68	4.52	3.89
Temperament and demeanor	4.57	4.68	4.43	4.47	3.19
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.46	4.37	4.57	4.47	3.73
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.36	4.32	4.58	4.47	3.96
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.45	4.48	4.62	4.62	3.87
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	4.70	4.51	4.43	3.49
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.52	4.57	4.53	4.51	3.78
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.56	4.74	4.48	4.47	3.27
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.64	4.69	4.64	4.57	3.89
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.39	4.68	4.52	4.66	3.97
Retention percentage	96	97	91	96	71
Number of respondents	129	120	135	127	129



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 7

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)	Patrick A. McElyea	Tamra J. Roberts	Christine Dalton Ploof	Korie Talkington	Cheryl Eileen Traum
Knowledge and application of the law	4.64	4.34	4.19	4.46	4.29
Perception of factual issues	4.68	4.46	4.19	4.56	4.37
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.77	4.56	4.44	4.72	4.52
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.72	4.54	4.21	4.69	4.53
Management and control of the courtroom	4.70	4.53	4.22	4.66	4.53
Temperament and demeanor	4.81	4.53	3.78	4.55	4.51
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.61	4.50	4.08	4.57	4.46
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.70	4.56	4.24	4.51	4.45
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.76	4.63	4.40	4.53	4.48
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.	4.77	4.67	3.91	4.68	4.62
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.74	4.66	4.28	4.67	4.54
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.81	4.60	3.87	4.58	4.49
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.78	4.69	4.45	4.74	4.69
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.81	4.74	4.58	4.70	4.68
Retention percentage	97	96	86	95	93
Number of respondents	124	118	112	106	112



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 8A		
	George G. Milani	Rose Anne Mefford
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	4.48	4.35
Perception of factual issues	4.55	4.33
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.61	4.23
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.53	4.32
Management and control of the courtroom	4.59	4.33
Temperament and demeanor	4.46	4.42
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.24	4.17
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.51	3.58
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.44	4.18
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.	4.44	4.35
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.50	4.32
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.44	4.45
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.57	4.50
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.63	4.53
Retention percentage	96	95
Number of respondents	70	67



Judicial Performance Review Results

DISTRICT 8B					
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)	Mary Ann Brown	Wyatt P. Peterson	Michael J. Schilling	Clinton R. Boddicker	Emily S. Dean
Knowledge and application of the law	4.61	4.59	4.78	4.52	4.50
Perception of factual issues	4.51	4.64	4.73	4.41	4.50
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.74	4.69	4.79	4.52	4.39
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.67	4.75	4.85	4.59	4.45
Management and control of the courtroom	4.67	4.56	4.78	4.52	4.50
Temperament and demeanor	4.43	4.80	4.78	4.61	4.42
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.58	4.56	4.79	4.41	4.45
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.53	3.89	4.40	4.45	4.55
Demonstrates appropriate innovation in using technology to improve the administration of justice	4.54	4.50	4.78	4.47	4.52
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.	4.33	4.83	4.76	4.50	4.57
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.54	4.79	4.72	4.50	4.59
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.37	4.87	4.76	4.70	4.52
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability and demonstrates an awareness of the influence of implicit bias.	4.62	4.83	4.83	4.64	4.61
Deals with pro se litigants and pro se litigation fairly and effectively.	4.69	4.82	4.78	4.59	4.55
Retention percentage	95	100	98	92	93
Number of respondents	58	45	56	43	46



The Iowa State Bar Association

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