



Judicial Biographies - Districts 3A & 3B

Associate Juvenile Judge Mary L. McCollum Timko



Judge McCollum Timko was appointed to the bench in 1988. She earned her bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Iowa in 1979. She received a master's degree with honors from the same institution in 1984 and a law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1982. Judge McCollum Timko served as an assistant county attorney for Johnson County from 1982 to 1988 and has served as an adjunct professor at Buena Vista University since 1993. Judge McCollum Timko is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and served on the Iowa Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project. She is a member of the Child Advocacy Committee, the Parents and Children Together Committee, and the CASA Advisory Board, serving as director until 2008. She is a judge for Cherokee/Ida Family Treatment Court and the founder and judge of the Buena Vista County Family Drug Court. She serves on the Drug Endangered Children Committee, the Native American Advisory Committee for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Siouxland, the Faith Hope and Charity Board of Directors (until 1995), the Storm Lake Softball Association Board (until 2003) and the "I Will Not Worry" Foundation.

District 3B

District Judge John D. Ackerman



Judge Ackerman, a lifelong resident of Woodbury County, Iowa, was appointed to the bench in September 1997. He graduated summa cum laude from Morningside College in Sioux City with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1979. Subsequently, he graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1982 with high distinction. Judge Ackerman was in private practice with the Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa, from 1982 until he was appointed to the bench. Judge Ackerman participated in the creation of the Woodbury County Drug Court in 1999, and he continues to be involved in that court and serves as the presiding district court judge. Judge Ackerman has served on the board of directors for the Siouxland Community Soup Kitchen since its inception in 1987 and has also been on the board of directors for the warming shelter since it originated in 2015. Judge Ackerman is a member of the Iowa State and Woodbury County Bar Associations.

District Judge Steven J. Andreasen



Judge Andreasen was appointed as a district judge in January 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1989 and his law degree from the same institution in 1992. Judge Andreasen was in private practice in Sioux City from 1992 until serving as a magistrate in Woodbury County in 2006 and 2007 before his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State and Woodbury County Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association.

He is married with one child.

District Judge Jeffrey A. Neary



Judge Neary was appointed to the bench in 2002. He received his bachelor's degree in German from Westmar College, Le Mars, in 1981, and his law degree from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1987. Judge Neary served as a part-time magistrate for Plymouth County in the mid 1990s and was an assistant federal public defender in the Northern District of Iowa until his appointment to the bench. He also served as an Assistant Woodbury County Attorney, was in private practice with Sioux City and Le Mars law firms, and served with the U.S. Army Reserves as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps until his honorable discharge in 1999. Judge Neary is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, is a past member of the South Dakota Bar Association, and served as President of the Iowa Judges Association from 2015 to 2016. He is currently an adjunct professor at Western Iowa Tech Community College teaching



reserve deputies through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Judge Neary is currently the presiding judge in Plymouth County, which was a pilot county for EDMS (Electronic Data Managing System). Judge Neary also heads up the Plymouth County Drug Court and works with the members of his local Boy Scout Troop.

District Judge Patrick H. Tott



Judge Tott was appointed to the bench in September 2014. He graduated cum laude from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1989 and magna cum laude from Creighton University School of Law in 1991. Judge Tott served as a part-time Associate Juvenile Judge from 1994 to 2001 and as a part-time magistrate for Woodbury County from 1999 until his appointment to the district court. Immediately prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Tott was a member of the firm of Buckmeier & Daane Lawyers P.C. in Sioux City.

Judge Tott is married with seven children.

District 4

District Judge Susan Christensen



Judge Christensen, Harlan, was appointed to the bench November 4, 2015. She graduated from Harlan High School in 1980; American Institute of Business in 1981 (legal secretarial diploma); Judson College in 1988 (bachelor's degree); and Creighton University School of Law in 1991. From 1991 to 2007, she was in private practice in Harlan with an emphasis on family law. She also served as Assistant County Attorney in Shelby County from 1991 to 2007, Harrison County from 1996 to 2007, and Crawford County in 2007. From 2007-2015, she was a District Associate Judge. In November 2015, she was appointed to the District

Court bench. Judge Christensen is serving on, or has served on, the following professional committees: Pro Se Family Law Forms, Child Support Guideline Review, Children's Justice State Council, Parent Representation Standards, Advisory Committee on Rules of Juvenile Procedure, Judicial Excellence Task Force, Guardianship and Conservatorship Reform Task Force and Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Judge Christensen is married with five children and three grandchildren.

District Judge Richard H. Davidson



Judge Davidson, Clarinda, was appointed to the bench in 2009. He attended Drake University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981 and a Juris Doctorate in 1984. He then moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as a trial attorney for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission until May 1986. In June of 1986, he joined the law firm Wright and Talisman. In 1991, he returned to Clarinda and practiced law with Bailey and Davidson, later known as Davidson Law Firm. In addition to his private practice, Judge Davidson served as Page County Attorney from 2001 until his appointment to the bench.

He is a member of The Iowa State Bar and Iowa Judges Associations.

He is married and has three children.

District Judge Kathleen A. Kilnoski



Judge Kilnoski, Council Bluffs, was appointed as District Court Judge in 2009, and served as District Associate Judge since 1996. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and attended Grinnell College, graduating in 1981. She went on to earn her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1985. She worked as assistant city attorney for Council Bluffs until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and a member and past officer of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.



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)	John Ackerman	Steven Andreasen	Jeffrey Neary	Patrick Tott
Knowledge and application of the law	4.78	4.79	4.53	4.41
Perception of factual issues	4.76	4.79	4.58	4.48
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.83	4.81	4.71	4.66
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.78	4.84	4.74	4.55
Management and control of the courtroom	4.74	4.67	4.69	4.50
Temperament and demeanor	4.57	4.88	4.84	4.69
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.70	4.67	4.53	4.50
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.67	3.74	4.53	4.51
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.	4.63	4.82	4.76	4.66
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.65	4.76	4.62	4.51
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.60	4.87	4.81	4.75
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.66	4.85	4.71	4.60
Retention percentage	100	100	98	100
Number of respondents	101	102	103	90