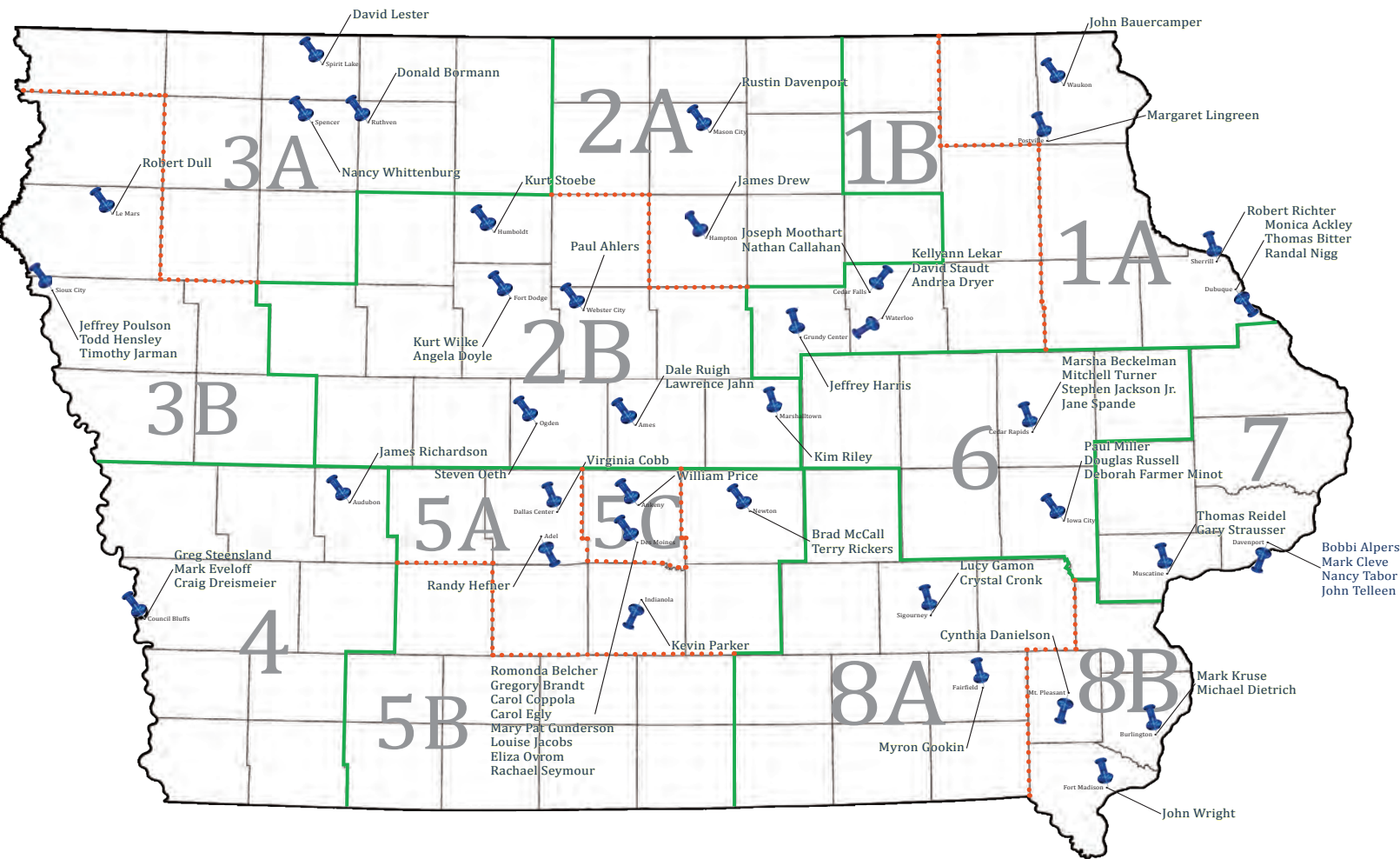




# 2012 Judicial Performance Review

Prepared by The Iowa State Bar Association



## Iowa Supreme Court

## Iowa Court of Appeals



**Edward Mansfield**  
Des Moines



**Thomas Waterman**  
Pleasant Valley



**David Wiggins**  
West Des Moines



**Bruce Zager**  
Waterloo



**Michael Mullins**  
Washington



**Mary Tabor**  
Des Moines



**Anuradha Vaiteswaran**  
Des Moines

# 2012 Judicial Review Results

The 70 judges and four supreme court justices standing for retention in this year's general election on November 6 are well qualified to remain as judges.

All 74 received high marks on the 12 questions (10 for members of the supreme court and court of appeals) for their professionalism and demeanor as determined by the attorneys who voted in the bi-annual Judicial Performance Review, formerly known as the "plebiscite," conducted by The Iowa State Bar Association. Voting in the performance review occurred the first two weeks of June.

This year's survey garnered 1,450 responses, which is comparable to the numbers in most years.

Since Iowa adopted its merit system for selecting judges in 1962, the ISBA has conducted the performance review as a way of giving voters information on which to base their decisions about keeping a judge in office. 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 every few years during the November general elections whether the judges should remain in office.

In order to be eligible to rate a judge or justice, attorneys must have appeared before him or her frequently enough that the judge or justice can evaluate the attorney. Attorneys rate the judges on eight (six for appellate court judges) 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."

They also rate them on four 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; and treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability. The ratings on these questions also range from 1 to 5, with 5 being "strongly agree" and 1 being "strongly disagree."

Thirteen of Iowa's 14 judicial election districts have at least one judge standing for retention in the 2012 general election. Four justices on the supreme court and three judges on the court of appeals are also up for retention this year.

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Black Hawk, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Fayette, Grundy, Howard	
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Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth	
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Crawford, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Sioux, Woodbury	
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Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby	
<b>District 5A</b> .....	<b>pg. 38</b>
Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Warren,	
<b>District 5C</b> .....	<b>pg. 43</b>
Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Wayne	
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Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Tama	
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Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine, Scott	
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Appanoose, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Monroe, Poweshiek, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington	
<b>District 8B</b> .....	<b>pg. 60</b>
Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa	

**The Iowa State Bar Association**  
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**(515) 243-3179**  
**[www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org)**

## What is a judicial retention election?

In a retention election, voters decide whether a judge should be retained or removed from office. If a judge receives a simple majority of “yes” votes, the judge serves another full term. If a judge receives a simple majority of “no” votes, the judge is removed from office at the end of the year.

## Why does Iowa have a retention election?

In 1962, Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment that replaced the election of judges with merit selection and retention elections. Although no judicial selection system is completely free of politics, 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

## What makes a good judge?

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

## 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 law.

A judge has the First Amendment right to free speech, but if a judge announces a position on an issue, the judge’s impartiality may be called into question. If this occurs, 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.

## How are courts 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 in a case, the party may appeal to a higher court to review the judge’s ruling.

If citizens disagree with a judge’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.

## 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 will 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

## Where can I find an attorney survey about judges on the ballot?

Each election year the Iowa State Bar Association surveys its members about judges standing for retention. The results of this opinion survey are available at least one month prior to the general election at: [www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org)

## What about decisions reversed by a higher court?

Sometimes a higher court reverses the decision of a lower court. Reversal by a higher court 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.



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)	Edward Mansfield	Thomas Waterman	David Wiggins	Bruce Zager
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.60	4.49	3.89	4.32
2. Perception of factual issues	4.53	4.47	3.89	4.35
3. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.60	4.58	3.83	4.50
4. Temperament and demeanor	4.59	4.64	3.09	4.59
5. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.61	4.49	3.84	4.37
6. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.53	4.52	3.85	4.40
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree				
7. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.64	4.61	3.36	4.63
8. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.56	4.52	3.53	4.51
9. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.68	4.68	3.24	4.66
10. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.71	4.67	3.88	4.68
Retention	95.6%	94.4%	63.3%	93.9%
Number of respondents	435	444	506	438

# Supreme Court Justices

## Edward Mansfield Supreme Court Justice



**Year of Appointment:** 2011

**Education:** Justice Mansfield grew up and attended public school in Massachusetts. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1978, where he graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He received his law degree from Yale in 1982. After law school, he clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, the federal appellate court based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Career:** Following his clerkship, Justice Mansfield initially practiced law in Phoenix, Arizona, but moved to Iowa and joined a law firm in Des Moines, so his wife could pursue her teaching career. While in private practice, Justice Mansfield handled cases in many areas, including agriculture and farming. Justice Mansfield argued over 40 appeals, and was named to the Best Lawyers in America®.

Justice Mansfield was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in 2009. He served on that court for approximately two years, writing over 220 opinions. Justice Mansfield was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2011.

**Professional Activities:** Justice Mansfield has been an adjunct

professor of law at Drake University since 1997. Justice Mansfield is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, having served as chair of the Trade Regulation Section from 2004 to 2006. Justice Mansfield also belongs to the Polk County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

### **Community Involvement:**

Justice Mansfield has served as a member of the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa, and was the chair of this organization during 2003 and 2004. Justice Mansfield represented the nation's federation of nonprofit community blood centers for over fifteen years and, in 2008, received the President's Award from that organization. He also volunteers in a before-school program in the Des Moines public schools where parents lead elementary school students in discussions of outside readings. He teaches Sunday school weekly at his church. Justice Mansfield is an assistant coach in Little League and volunteers as a YMCA swim official. Justice Mansfield and his family also regularly welcome visiting foreign judges to stay in their home. (Justice Mansfield's mother was born in the former Soviet Union and came to the United States as a refugee in the 1930s.)

**Personal:** Justice Mansfield is married to an Iowa native. He has two daughters in college and a son who attends the Des Moines public schools. He enjoys swimming, reading, and listening to his wife play the harp.

## Thomas D. Waterman Supreme Court Justice



**Year of Appointment:** 2011

### **Background and Education:**

Justice Waterman attended public schools in Bettendorf before obtaining his undergraduate degree in history at Dartmouth College in 1981. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1984, where he graduated Order of the Coif in the top five percent of his class, and served on the Iowa Law Review, which published his case comment.

**Career:** Waterman practiced law for 27 years at Lane & Waterman, LLP, in Davenport, the oldest continuous law partnership west of the Mississippi River. He had a multi-state general civil litigation practice at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts. He represented farmers, consumers, taxpayers, and insurance policyholders in class action litigation. He was named to Best Lawyers in America® and received a top tier ranking in the Chambers Guide to Leading Business Lawyers for commercial litigation.

**Professional Activities:** Waterman is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, a member of the

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# Supreme Court Justices

## Justice Waterman

*Continued from previous page*

American Law Institute, the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, Scott County Bar Association, American Bar Association, Dartmouth Lawyers Association, and Dillon Inns of Court. He is the resident Justice for the Seventh Judicial District and Liaison Justice for the Eighth Judicial District. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court, Waterman was a member of the ISBA Jury Instruction Committee and served as a co-editor of *Defense Update*, a publication of the Iowa Defense Counsel Association. He was a member of the State Judicial Nominating Commission from 1999–2003. He was also inducted into the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel and the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys. He has authored numerous articles on legal subjects and is a frequent lecturer.

**Community Involvement:** Before his judicial appointment, Waterman served as Chair (Chief Volunteer Officer) for the multi-branch Scott County Family Y corporate board of directors and received its Partner with Youth Outstanding Campaign Leadership Award in 2008. He also served as President of the Board of Trustees of Rivermont Collegiate, formerly St. Katherine's St. Mark's School.

**Family Background:** A lifelong Iowan and fourth-generation lawyer, Waterman was born in Davenport in 1959. He grew up in Bettendorf with two brothers and three sisters. He celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary this year with Maria Mihalakis Waterman, a family law

attorney and Dubuque native. They have four daughters, one attending college and triplets attending public school in the Quad Cities. His great-grandfather, Charles M. Waterman, was a justice on the Iowa Supreme Court from 1898-1902.

**Personal interests:** Before his appointment, Waterman was an avid endurance sport enthusiast competing in ultramarathons and ironman triathlons.

## David Wiggins Supreme Court Justice



**Year of Appointment:** 2003

Justice Wiggins was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 2003. The chief justice appointed him assistant chief in January 2011. While on the court, Justice Wiggins has participated in more than 1000 published cases and has authored more than 200 published opinions.

**Background and Education:** Justice Wiggins was born in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Niles East Township High School in 1969. After graduating from high school, he was the first member of his family to attend college. He

received his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1973. In 1973, he enrolled in the Drake University Law School, earning his law degree with honors as a member of the Order of the Coif, an honorary scholastic society. While at Drake, he served as Associate Editor of the *Drake Law Review* and worked as a law clerk at the West Des Moines law firm of Williams, Hart, Lavorato, and Kirtley.

**Career:** Upon graduating from law school in 1976, he joined the law firm of Williams, Hart, Lavorato, and Kirtley, becoming a partner in the firm in 1979. He practiced with the firm, later known as Wiggins, Anderson, and Tully, P.C., continuously for 27 years before his appointment to the supreme court. Justice Wiggins' private practice had a primary emphasis in civil litigation. He has tried cases in numerous state and federal courts. In addition to being admitted to practice in the state courts of Iowa, Justice Wiggins has also been admitted to practice before the following courts:

- The United States Supreme Court
- The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals
- The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- The United States Court of Federal Claims
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

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# Supreme Court Justices

## Justice Wiggins

*Continued from previous page*

### Professional and Community

**Activities:** As a private practice attorney, Justice Wiggins served the court as chairperson of the Iowa Commission on Judicial Qualifications. He also served the court as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Judicial Redistricting, the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Supreme Court Committee on the Cost of Litigation.

Justice Wiggins' professional associations have included the following: fellow of the Iowa Association for Justice; member and past president of the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association; master emeritus of the C. Edwin Moore American Inn of Court; advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates; sustaining member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; member of the American Bar Association; member and governor of The Iowa State Bar Association; member and board member of the Polk County Bar Association; founding sponsor of the Civil Justice Foundation; and senior counsel in the American College of Barristers.

While a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, Justice Wiggins served on the Uniform Jury Instruction Committee and the Committee on Tort litigation. As a member of the Polk County Bar Association, he served as Chairperson of the Polk County Grievance Committee and as a member of the Fee Arbitration Committee.

While in private practice, Justice Wiggins received the Key Person Award and the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Iowa Trial Lawyers. His peers also selected him as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He also presented lectures at numerous seminars dealing with trial practice.

As a member of the court, Justice Wiggins continues to present lectures in the areas of appellate advocacy, attorney ethics, and judicial ethics at numerous seminars. He speaks regularly to various service organizations and school groups. He has served as co-chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics and chair of the Supreme Court Committee to Study Lawyer Advertising Rules. He is Chair of the State Judicial Nominating Commission.

**Family and Hobbies:** Justice Wiggins currently resides in West Des Moines with his wife of 38 years. He has three daughters and one grandson. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He recently has worked on a building project with Habitat for Humanity in its effort to provide affordable housing. Prior to joining the court, he coached youth sports and high school mock trial.

## Bruce B. Zager Supreme Court Justice



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

Justice Zager was appointed to the Iowa District Court bench in District 1-B in 1999.

### Background and Education:

Justice Zager was born and raised in Waterloo, Iowa, where he continues to reside with his wife of 40 years. Justice Zager graduated from Waterloo West High School in 1971. After attending the University of Colorado for a year, he transferred to the University of Iowa where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1975. In 1977, Justice Zager received his Master of Science degree in Industrial Relations from Loyola University of Chicago, Institute of Industrial Relations. He received his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1980. While at Drake, he was a member of the Drake Law Review, and his student note was published in the Drake Law Review. He was admitted to practice law in the State of Iowa in 1981.

**Career:** Before attending law school, Justice Zager was an employee relations associate with the Illinois Hospital Association in Oak Brook, Illinois. He was later a division personnel specialist

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# Supreme Court Justices

## Justice Zager

*Continued from previous page*

with the Gould Corporation in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. He then decided to return to Iowa to attend Drake University Law School. Before becoming a district court judge, Justice Zager was in the private practice of law, first with McCrindle, Bergstrom & Sindlinger in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and with Charles W. Hinton in Waterloo, before opening his own law office in 1989. While in private practice, Justice Zager specialized in family law and probate matters. Public service law was also a critical part of his private practice through a grant from the IOLTA Commission. Beginning in 1987, he was also an attorney with the Black Hawk County attorney's office, first in the juvenile division and then in the civil division.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Justice Zager has been a lifetime member of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Waterloo, where he has held all major offices, has been a member of two pastoral search committees, and was chairman of the futures committee of the church board. He also taught Sunday School to high school students. Justice Zager was a member of the Optimist Club of Waterloo from 1981 until 2011, where he also served as vice president, president, and lieutenant governor for eight clubs. He was awarded a Life Membership by the club for his work. Justice Zager was also on the board of directors of Family Service League, which was an agency providing service and counseling to women and children who were

the victims of domestic violence. Justice Zager was vice president and president of the board, receiving the Hall of Fame award in 1998. He was also a member of the Allen Memorial Hospital ethics committee from 1997-2004.

**Professional Activities:** Justice Zager has been a member of both the Black Hawk County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association since 1981. He has been a presenter at The Iowa State Bar Association's annual meeting. Justice Zager served on the grievance committee of the Black Hawk County Bar Association, and also served as secretary from 1987 to 1988 and as president from 1998 to 1999. He has been a member of the Iowa Judges Association since 1999, and has served on the nominating committee, judicial ethics and conduct committee, and the specialty courts committee. Justice Zager was the United Way Legal Professional Section Chairperson in 1991. He is on the Iowa Supreme Court's Public Outreach Steering Committee. Since he was first appointed to the bench in 1999, Justice Zager has spoken to various civic and community organizations, with an emphasis on education about the judicial branch and its role in our society.

**Family and Hobbies:** Justice Zager and his wife have three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with family and friends. Justice Zager also enjoys traveling and camping with his wife, DiAnn, golfing, biking, kayaking, and reading.



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)	Michael Mullins	Mary Tabor	Anuradha Vaitheswaran
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.44	4.34	4.38
2. Perception of factual issues	4.43	4.36	4.34
3. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.55	4.54	4.60
4. Temperament and demeanor	4.50	4.51	4.65
5. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.43	4.40	4.41
6. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.54	4.51	4.56
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree			
7. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.61	4.60	4.60
8. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.60	4.45	4.49
9. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.63	4.66	4.66
10. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.70	4.65	4.67
Retention	95.7%	91.9%	92.3%
Number of respondents	291	292	322

# Court of Appeals Judges

## Michael R. Mullins Court of Appeals Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Mullins received his bachelor's degree from Southwest Baptist University in 1974 and his M.S.W. from the University of Iowa in 1976. In 1982, he received his law degree, with honors, Order of the Coif, from Drake University, where he was editor-in-chief of the Drake Law Review.

**Career:** For 19 years, Judge Mullins worked in the private practice of law in Washington, Iowa. Typical of county seat law firms, he represented factory workers, farmers, and other individuals, as well as professionals, small businesses, banks, and the Washington County Hospital. Judge Mullins' general practice focused on representing clients in court proceedings. He was appointed to the district court bench for the Eighth Judicial District in 2002.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Mullins served on the board of directors and as an officer of the Washington Community YMCA, the Washington Community Theater, the Y's Men's Club, and the noon Kiwanis Club. For many years, he coached youth soccer and was

involved in various community activities, including school facilities study committees. Judge Mullins is a long-time active member of Faith Baptist Church, having served as a member and chair of the trustees, building committee member, chair of constitution and by-laws revision committee, song leader, and moderator.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Mullins has received advanced national training in trial management, domestic violence cases, search and seizure issues, appellate judging, corrections policy development, and related issues. He has participated in the national Cross Governmental Sentencing and Corrections Policy Forum. Judge Mullins is a former member of the Jury Instructions Committee of The Iowa State Bar Association, and was the only judge member of the interim legislative Criminal Code Reorganization Committee. He currently serves as a member and chair of the Judicial Technology Committee and as a member of the Business Advisory Committee for Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). Judge Mullins has been a member of numerous other management and administrative committees. He is also a faculty member for new judge orientation and for trial management, and is a frequent presenter for continuing legal education on the topic of sentencing issues. Judge Mullins developed and periodically updates the Iowa Criminal Statutes Summary Chart used by judges

and lawyers throughout Iowa. He is a member of the Washington County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Mullins has been married for 38 years year, and has two adult, married children who live in southeast Iowa, and two grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, golfing, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

## Mary Ellen Tabor Court of Appeals Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Born in Maquoketa, Iowa, Judge Tabor was raised on her family's century farm in Jackson County. She was a ten-year member of the Baldwin 4-H Club and played six-on-six girls' basketball for Maquoketa High School. Judge Tabor received her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1985, where she was also editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, The Daily Iowan. She received her law degree, with high distinction, Order of the Coif, from the University of Iowa in 1991. While in law school, Judge Tabor served as managing editor of the Iowa Law Review.

# Court of Appeals Judges

## Judge Tabor

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**Career:** Judge Tabor began her legal career handling campaign finance cases as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. She returned to Iowa in 1993 to work as an appellate prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office. From 1999 to 2010, Judge Tabor served as director of the Criminal Appeals Division, representing the State in criminal cases before the Iowa Court of Appeals and Iowa Supreme Court.

### **Community Activities Prior to Appointment:**

Judge Tabor has been a volunteer tutor in the Des Moines public schools and frequently helps judge mock trial and moot court competitions.

### **Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities):**

As an assistant attorney general, Judge Tabor served on several statewide task forces and commissions addressing public safety, domestic violence, and court technology. She is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, and the Blackstone Inn of Court.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Tabor is married and has two sons and one daughter. She belongs to Plymouth Congregational Church.

## Anuradha Vaitheswaran Court of Appeals Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Vaitheswaran attended high school in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She received her undergraduate degree from Grinnell College and earned her law degree and a master's degree in political science from the University of Iowa.

**Career:** Judge Vaitheswaran was a law clerk to the Honorable Charles R. Wolle, Iowa Supreme Court, before his appointment to the federal district court. She worked as an attorney with Legal Services Corporation of Iowa and with the Attorney General's Office before her appointment to the appellate court.

### **Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)**

Judge Vaitheswaran is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Women Attorneys, the Iowa Judges Association, and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

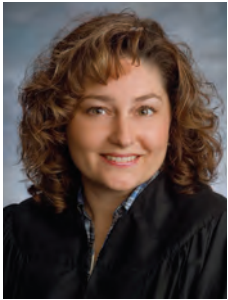


District 1A

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)	Monica Ackley	John Bauercamp	Thomas Bitter	Margaret Lingreen	Robert Richter	Randal Nigg
1. Knowledge and application of the law	3.34	3.94	4.18	4.43	4.11	4.52
2. Perception of factual issues	3.33	3.89	4.34	4.41	4.27	4.53
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	3.61	4.40	4.56	4.64	4.30	4.52
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	3.59	3.96	4.56	4.59	4.23	4.59
5. Management and control of the courtroom	3.67	4.27	4.43	4.55	4.22	4.54
6. Temperament and demeanor	3.79	3.90	4.77	4.43	4.19	4.63
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	3.32	3.84	4.23	4.56	4.26	4.52
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	3.63	4.15	4.31	4.49	4.33	4.52
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree						
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	3.40	4.16	4.63	4.58	4.15	4.62
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	3.24	4.09	4.48	4.59	3.89	4.40
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.05	4.04	4.77	4.47	4.15	4.72
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	3.89	4.32	4.70	4.59	4.04	4.69
Retention	71.8%	86.2%	98.5%	95.6%	83.3%	93.2%
Number of respondents	108	106	92	100	90	97

# District 1A

## Monica Ackley District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2003

**Background and Education:** Judge Ackley attended the University of San Diego for both her undergraduate and law degree, receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1986 and completing law school in 1990. She attended the University of Salzburg, Austria for one term, where she received instruction from United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy.

**Career:** Judge Ackley began her legal career as a law clerk and research assistant before going into private practice at the law firm of Fuerste, Carew, Coyle, Juergens and Sudmeier, P.C. She became a sole proprietor in 1996 and focused her practice on family, juvenile, and criminal law. Judge Ackley was appointed to serve Dubuque County as a judicial magistrate in 1997, and was appointed to the bench in 2003.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** For many years, Judge Ackley was an active member of the Jaycees.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Ackley was an active member of the Young Lawyers' Division of The Iowa

State Bar Association prior to her appointment. Since her appointment, she has been selected to serve on the DART Committee, the Civil Justice Reform Task Committee, and the Civil Rules and Procedure Committee. Judge Ackley is a member of the Dubuque County, Iowa State, California State, and American Bar Associations.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Ackley met her husband in San Diego, where he was serving in the United States Navy, and they moved to Dubuque in 1992.

## John J. Bauercamper District Judge (Asst. Chief)



**Date of Appointment:** 1986

**Background and Education:** Born in Cresco, Iowa, Judge Bauercamper received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1973.

**Career:** Judge Bauercamper practiced law privately, as well as serving as Allamakee County attorney and juvenile court referee. He currently serves as assistant chief judge for the First Judicial District.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Bauercamper belongs to the Iowa Judges Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Minnesota State Bar Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Bauercamper is married and has four children.

## Thomas Bitter District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Bitter was born in Dubuque, Iowa, the fifth of six children. He graduated with a liberal arts degree from Loras College in 1993. He received his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1996.

**Career:** From 1996 to 2011, Judge Bitter was in the private practice of law with Bitter Law Office in Dubuque.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Bitter was a volunteer mock trial coach for Dubuque Schools for three years.

*Continued on next page*

# District 1A

## Judge Bitter

*Continued from previous page*

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Bitter has been a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and Dubuque County Bar Association since 1996, serving as secretary of the Dubuque County Bar Association for seven years. He currently serves as a drug court judge and a member of the Iowa Child Support Guidelines Committee.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Bitter is married with three children, and spends most of his free time doing anything active, such as walking and playing basketball, or watching his children play sports.

## Margaret L. Lingreen District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1991

**Background and Education:** Judge Lingreen was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She received her bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1974, and in 1977 she earned her law degree from the same institution.

**Career:** From 1979 to 1991, Judge Lingreen practiced law with a private firm and served as assistant Allamakee County attorney.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Lingreen is a member of the Allamakee County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. She served on the Iowa Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Iowa Rules of Evidence and on the Iowa Supreme Court's Study Committee of the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Lingreen is currently chairperson of both the Howard County and Winneshiek County Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commissions. She has served on the Education Committee of the IJA, as well as the Family Law Committee of the IJA.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Lingreen is married with two children.

## Randal J. Nigg District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1989

**Background and Education:** Born in Ames, Iowa, Judge Nigg received his bachelor's degree in political science from Loras College in 1971. He received his law degree from the University of San Diego in 1974.

**Career:** Judge Nigg is admitted to the Iowa Bar and Federal Bar, both Northern and Southern. From 1974-1989, Judge Nigg was in the general practice of law with Reynolds & Kenline, practicing in all areas of law. Since being named district associate judge, he served as a trial judge with primary responsibility for criminal proceedings in Dubuque County and within the jurisdiction of the First Judicial District. Judge Nigg has dealt with cases ranging from simple misdemeanors to Class D felonies. His work also encompasses hearings on juvenile proceedings, hospitalization cases, and small claims proceedings.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Nigg served as a board member and second vice-president for the Dubuque Racing Association, LTD. He was a board member and served as president for a year of the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program. He was a State board member of the Legal Services



# District 1A

## Judge Nigg

*Continued from previous page*

Corporation of Iowa and served as president for three years of its Northeast Iowa Regional Office Advisory. He was vice president of exploring for the Northeast Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and co-chaired both the Dubuque Jaycees Washington Square Restoration Project, Washington Park Restoration Project, and the Five Flags Center Referendum Task Force, as well as the building committee. Judge Nigg was also the Dubuque Jaycees Outstanding Jaycee of the Year in 1976. He was president of the Dubuque Five Flags Theatre Company, and served as a chair person of the St. Anthony Parish Council. For seven years, Judge Nigg was a member of the Dubuque Archdiocese and Dubuque Deanery Advisory Council, serving as secretary and as chairperson, and acting as a Deanery representative and vice-chair to Dubuque Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. He received the Volunteer Lawyers Project Award for Extraordinary Service in 1989, and was honored with the State of Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award in 1986 and 1994.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities):** As a district associate judge, Judge Nigg has served on the Judicial Council Subcommittee to update the Judicial Workload Assessment Formula, an EDMS Project Judges' Workflow and Judges' Screen Task Force, and the District 1 Community Outreach Committee. He chaired a committee to conduct a "Meet Your Judges" public forum, and was judicial liaison to a local group developing

community protocols to deal with domestic violence. Judge Nigg was appointed judicial liaison to Dubuque/Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Dubuque County Criminal Justice Agencies Coordinating Group, which he also helped develop. Judge Nigg also served on the Batterer's Education Program pilot. He was on the executive committee of the Court Technology Infrastructure Project. Judge Nigg helped develop the local jail-based substance abuse assessment program, and chaired the Dubuque Task Force. Judge Nigg developed and coordinated the Dubuque County Small Claims Mediation Program. A member of the Dubuque County Bar Association, Judge Nigg served as secretary and chair of the ethics committee. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and served on the American Citizenship Committee. Judge Nigg served as the District 1 representative to the board of directors of the Iowa Judges Association, chairperson of the Criminal Law and Rules Committee, and is currently a member of the District Associate Judge Committee, Courts & Community Committee, and Criminal Law and Rules Review Committee. He is a member of the American Judicature Society and formerly a member of the Iowa Association for Justice and American Bar Association.

## Robert J. Richter District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Richter received his undergraduate degree from St. Ambrose University in 2000 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 2003.

**Career:** Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Richter was an assistant county attorney in Dubuque from 2004 to 2001.



**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)	Andrea Dryer	Kellyann Lekar	David Staudt	Nathan Callahan	Jeffrey Harris	Joseph Moothart
1. Knowledge and application of the law	3.92	4.26	3.83	4.22	3.60	4.41
2. Perception of factual issues	3.98	4.27	4.06	4.33	3.58	4.38
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.66	4.11	4.31	4.35	4.41	4.45
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.41	4.35	4.29	4.33	3.77	4.54
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.26	4.40	4.25	4.28	3.87	4.38
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.31	4.44	4.39	3.82	3.03	4.67
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.00	4.29	3.95	4.37	3.80	4.48
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	3.67	4.19	4.06	4.34	4.14	4.43
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree						
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.49	4.47	4.42	4.04	3.16	4.63
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.35	4.38	4.38	4.33	3.70	4.50
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.40	4.47	4.58	3.89	2.89	4.81
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.49	4.55	4.63	4.40	3.98	4.81
Retention	86.3%	92.8%	97.1%	87.9%	74.6%	100%
Number of respondents	63	93	82	80	85	84

## District 1B

### Nathan A. Callahan District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** Judge Callahan was born in Des Moines, Iowa and grew up in Carlisle, Iowa, the youngest of five children. He worked on farms, at a grocery store, and at a gas station while in high school. Judge Callahan was active in high school activities and was a State of Iowa Scholar. He was also a recipient of a Des Moines Register and Tribune Scholarship. Judge Callahan graduated from Carlisle Community Schools in 1971. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1979. Judge Callahan obtained his law degree from Lewis & Clark in 1984, while working full time during the day and attending evening classes.

**Career:** From 1972 through 1976, Judge Callahan was enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. After graduating from law school, he worked as a legal assistant/clerk for the City of Kenai, Alaska in municipal law until 1984. From 1985 to 1992, he was a prosecutor in the Alaska Attorney General's Office. Judge Callahan worked in the private practice of law in Waterloo from 1992 to 1996, and with the State Public Defender's Office from 1996 until his appointment. Judge Callahan has been involved in

litigation throughout his entire legal career.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Callahan has participated as a judge in the American Mock Trial Association national collegiate competition and is a member of the Judges Hall of Fame for his participation. He has also served as a judge in mock trial presentations at the Iowa State Fair.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Callahan is a member of the Black Hawk County, Iowa State, and Alaska State Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association. He has given presentations at the State Public Defender's Annual Conference and the State of Iowa Judicial Conference. Since becoming a judge, Judge Callahan has attended several training conferences at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev., as well as attending ASTAR judicial training. He has also taken judicial training sponsored by the Iowa Supreme Court

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Callahan has two daughters. His hobbies and interests include music, singing, bicycle riding, and gardening.

### Andrea J. Dryer District Judge

**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Dryer is a University of Iowa graduate, where she received both her undergraduate degree and law degree.

**Career:** Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Dryer worked in the Waterloo public defender's office since 2004. Prior to that, she was an assistant county attorney, prosecuting cases in Winneshiek and Buchanan counties.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Dryer is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association.

# District 1B

## Jeffrey L. Harris District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1997

**Background and Education:**

Judge Harris earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1974 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1977.

**Career:** Judge Harris began his legal career with the United States Army and served until 1989. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Harris worked as a U.S. Army Judge Advocate. He also worked in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Legal Corporation of Iowa, and the Black Hawk County attorney's office.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)**

Judge Harris is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa National Bar Association.

## Kellyann Lekar Chief Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:**

Judge Lekar was born and raised in Waterloo. She received her bachelor's degree, with honors and distinction, from Iowa State University in 1990, and her law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1993.

**Career:** For 12 years, Judge Lekar was in the private practice of law in Black Hawk County until she was appointed to the bench in 2005. She was appointed Chief Judge of the First District in January 2012.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Lekar is a frequent speaker at schools and community organizations. She is an active member of her church, a past Girl Scout leader, and also volunteers as a soccer and volleyball coach. Prior to her appointment on the bench, Judge Lekar served on a variety of community committees and organizations, including Family Service League and Girl Scouts of America.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)**

Judge Lekar is a member of the Black Hawk County, Iowa State, and American Bar

Associations. She is a past member of the board of directors of the Iowa Judges Association and served on its Courts and Community Committee. Judge Lekar serves on the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure. She is a past member of various professional committees directed at the relationship of courts and community, judicial education, and legal history. Judge Lekar is a member and past chair of The Iowa State Bar Association's Jury Instructions Committee. She has served as a faculty presenter for The Iowa State Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, the State Public Defender Conference, the Iowa Judicial Branch New Judges School, and the Black Hawk County Bar Association. Judge Lekar co-chairs the First Judicial District's Family Law Mediation Study Committee, and she serves on the outreach committee for her district. During her tenure as judge, she has served a two-year rotation in juvenile court and has been a frequent advocate and speaker on the topic of representing the rights of parents in juvenile court. Judge Lekar was a core team member on Iowa's Breakthrough Collaborative Series for reducing disproportionate and disparate outcomes for families and children of color in juvenile court.

## District 1B

### Joseph Moothart District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1985

**Background and Education:** Born in Cresco, Judge Moothart received his undergraduate degree from Creighton University in 1972 and his law degree from University of Nebraska in 1977.

**Career:** Judge Moothart was in private practice in Cedar Falls from 1977 until 1985.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Moothart is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the American Judicature Society. He is a member of the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Fine Collection Procedures, Practices, and Rules.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Moothart is married with two children.

### David F. Staudt District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Staudt received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1990 and his law degree from Drake University in 1993.

**Career:** Judge Staudt was in private practice until joining the Waterloo Public Defender's Office in 1997, where he was appointed chief public defender in 2006.



**District 2A**

	Rustin Davenport	James Drew
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)		
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.40	4.71
2. Perception of factual issues	4.40	4.78
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.58	4.86
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.64	4.73
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.32	4.90
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.61	4.84
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.41	4.74
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.27	4.83
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree		
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.70	4.75
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.64	4.82
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.59	4.82
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.71	4.90
Retention	94.8%	98.7%
Number of respondents	73	83

## District 2A

### Rustin Davenport District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Davenport earned his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1982 and his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1985.

**Career:** From 1985 to 1986, Judge Davenport was a law clerk for the Second Judicial District. From 1986 to 1988, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Judge David R. Hansen, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Iowa. From 1988 to 2010, Judge Davenport was in the private practice of law.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Davenport is a member of the Cerro Gordo County, Judicial District 2A, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

### James M. Drew District Judge (Asst. Chief)



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Drew earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Arizona State University in 1982. He received his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1985.

**Career:** From 1986 to 1999, Judge Drew was in the private practice of law, also serving as the Franklin County attorney from 1988 to 1994.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Drew is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and has served on the board of directors since 2010. He is also a member of The Iowa State Bar Association.



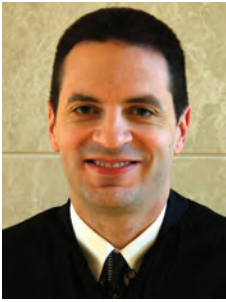
District 2B

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)	Steven Oeth	Dale Ruigh	Kurt John Stoebe	Kurt Wilke	Paul Ahlers	Angela Doyle	Lawrence Jahn	Kim Riley
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.30	4.52	3.97	4.20	4.27	4.39	4.47	4.74
2. Perception of factual issues	4.41	4.39	4.01	4.19	4.14	4.52	4.52	4.69
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.59	4.38	4.36	4.45	4.08	4.57	4.63	4.81
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.52	4.48	4.26	4.25	4.00	4.57	4.65	4.86
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.55	4.52	4.25	4.40	3.94	4.45	4.59	4.79
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.40	4.57	4.25	3.94	3.62	4.62	4.71	4.88
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.31	4.49	4.07	4.12	4.06	4.43	4.61	4.78
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.56	2.85	4.25	4.34	4.06	4.52	4.64	4.87
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree								
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.58	4.59	4.37	4.24	3.92	4.52	4.65	4.85
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.57	4.57	4.22	4.26	4.08	4.48	4.68	4.83
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.52	4.63	4.40	4.08	3.79	4.70	4.76	4.83
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.65	4.68	4.47	4.47	4.10	4.71	4.82	4.86
Retention	97.7%	93%	87.2%	90.8%	82.1%	93.8%	98.3%	98%
Number of respondents	122	141	126	124	109	106	110	106



## District 2B

### Paul B. Ahlers District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Ahlers was born and raised on a small town Iowa farm. He received his bachelor's degree in finance, first in his class, curriculum, and major, from Iowa State University in 1991. Judge Ahlers earned his law degree, with high distinction, Order of the Coif, and in the top 3.4% of his class, from the University of Iowa in 1994. While at Iowa, he served as assistant director of the Trial Advocacy Board, helping organize classes for and teach trial skills to fellow law school classmates. Judge Ahlers was also a member of and two-time published author in the Iowa Law Review.

**Career:** For nearly 14 years, Judge Ahlers worked in the private practice of law, primarily in civil and criminal trial and litigation work. Following the private practice of law, he worked for three years in-house as claim counsel in the Bond and Financial Products Claim Group for the Travelers Companies, a multinational insurance company. Judge Ahlers managed, handled, adjusted, and resolved complex financial institution bond, errors, and omissions, securities, and class action claims and litigation involving banks, credit unions, investment companies, insurance companies, and other

private and public companies on a nationwide and international basis.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Ahlers has served as a judge at numerous junior high and high school mock trial competitions throughout Iowa, and has spoken at many careers days or similar programs educating children on the legal profession, legal issues, and judicial careers. He was a coach and assistant coach for his local soccer and baseball associations, and officiated youth hockey as an on-ice official. Judge Ahlers has been a lector at his local church and served on the finance council, including the position of president.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities):** Since 1998, Judge Ahlers has spoken at numerous continuing legal education seminars, presenting on Iowa Case Law Update, summarizing nearly all published Iowa Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions, and topics such as ethics, family law, and insurance issues. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, serving on the board of the Iowa State Bar Foundation, Administrative Committee, Board of Governors, Ways and Means Committee, Continuing Legal Education Committee, and as the co-chair and chair for the Annual Meeting Committee. Judge Ahlers also held various positions within the Young Lawyers Division from 1997 through 2003, including executive council, chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, National Conferences Team, and president in 2001 to 2002. He was also a Bar Examination Grader for the Iowa Board of Law

Examiners from 2004-2006.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Ahlers has two children, and he enjoys attending their activities. He also enjoys reading, history, and sports.

### Angela L. Doyle District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Doyle was born in Hutchinson, Kan., one of seven children. She graduated, summa cum laude, from Creighton University in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In 1984, she earned her law degree, magna cum laude, from Creighton University, where she was on the Creighton Law Review and published two articles: "State v. Bradley: Felony Murder Rule" and "Defining the Outer Boundaries of the 'Drug Courier Profile': Florida v. Royer."

**Career:** Following her law school graduation, Judge Doyle clerked for Norman Krivosha, Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court. From 1985 to 2009, Judge Doyle practiced in private law firms in Omaha, Nebr. and Fort Dodge. She was a sole practitioner from 2009 until her appointment.

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## District 2B

### Judge Doyle

*Continued from previous page*

#### Community Activities Prior to

**Appointment:** Judge Doyle was a board member and former president of the Hospice Foundation. She served as a board member and vice president for the Fort Dodge Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, and was a board member of LifeWorks Community Services. Judge Doyle was a board member for the Young Women's Christian Association, and is a member of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, St. Edmond Catholic School Athletic and Music Booster Clubs, and the Creighton University Alumni Senate. She has been a judge at mock trial tournament.

#### Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community

**Activities)** Judge Doyle is a member of the Webster County, Iowa State, Nebraska State, and North Carolina State Bar Associations. She is admitted to practice of law in Nebraska, Iowa and North Carolina. Judge Doyle is a member of the Iowa Judges Association. She served on the Advisory Committee on the Study of the Iowa Attorney Disciplinary System. Judge Doyle was on the Iowa State District 2B Judicial Nomination Commission. She served on the Grievance Commission of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Webster County Grievance Commission.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Doyle is married with four children.

### Lawrence E. Jahn District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:** A graduate of the University of Illinois, Judge Jahn earned his bachelor's degree in 1972 and his master's degree in 1976. In 1982, he received his law degree from the University of Iowa, where he was editor of the Iowa Law Review.

**Career:** After completing his master's degree, Judge Jahn taught and coached at the high school level until joining the faculty at Iowa State University in 1976. After graduating from law school, Judge Jahn engaged in the general practice of law with a private firm in Ames. From 1994 through 2005, he served as a Story County magistrate.

#### Community Activities Prior to

**Appointment:** Judge Jahn has served on the Ames Public Library Foundation Board of Directors, Homeward Board of Directors, and the Ames Noon Rotary. He has volunteered as a mock trial coach and judge.

#### Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community

**Activities)** Judge Jahn is a member of the Story County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He is a member of the Iowa Judges

Association and has served on various committees. Judge Jahn has been a member of the Story County Legal Aid Society Board of Directors. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and workshops.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Jahn is a married and is a member of the Northminster Presbyterian Church.

### Steven J. Oeth District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1997

**Background and Education:** Born in Dubuque, Iowa Judge Oeth attended Drake University, earning his bachelor's degree in 1978 and his law degree in 1982.

**Career:** From 1984 to 1997, Judge Oeth worked as the Boone County attorney. He also practiced law privately from 1986 to 1997. He was appointed to the associate court bench in 1997, and appointed to district court judge in 2010.

#### Community Activities Prior to

**Appointment:** Judge Oeth has been active in his church, as well as his children's academic, athletic, and religious activities, including coaching baseball, football, and basketball teams, instructing religious education classes, and being on numerous school-related

## District 2B

### Judge Oeth

*Continued from previous page*

committees. Judge Oeth coached the Boone mock trial team for a number of years.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Oeth is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He is past president of the Boone County Bar Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Oeth is married with two children, and became a first-time grandfather in January 2012. He has been enjoying visiting his grandson as frequently as time permits.

### Kim M. Riley District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** Judge Riley earned her undergraduate degree from Sioux Falls College in 1985 and her law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1988.

**Career:** After receiving her law degree, Judge Riley served as a law clerk for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in South Dakota. She worked for the Iowa Department of Commerce, Banking Division, before

she served as an assistant county attorney for the Child Support Recovery Division in Carroll County. At the time of her appointment to the bench, Judge Riley was the supervising attorney for the Marshalltown Public Defender's Office.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Riley has volunteered for moot court judging.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Riley is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and has served on the Juvenile Rules Committee. She has volunteered for participation in the Adoption Saturday program and guest speaking at a number of area colleges and organizations. Judge Riley particularly enjoys mentoring young people interested in the law through job shadowing programs in her community.

### Dale E. Ruigh District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1981

**Background and Education:** Judge Ruigh was born in Mason City, Iowa, and received his undergraduate degree, with honors, from Iowa State University in 1971. He received his law degree, with high distinction,

Order of the Coif, from the University Iowa in 1974.

**Career:** After completing law school, Judge Ruigh engaged in the private practice of law with a firm in Ames and served a term as a judicial magistrate until his appointment to the district court bench.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Ruigh is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and Blackstone Inn of Court. He received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association in 1998.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Ruigh is married.

### Kurt John Stoebe District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2006

**Background and Education:** Judge Stoebe received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota in 1977 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1980.

**Career:** Judge Stoebe has previously been a law clerk for Judge Roy Stephenson with the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Humboldt County attorney, and was

*Continued on next page*

## District 2B

### Judge Stoebe

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in private practice with Stoebe Law Office. He served as Humboldt County magistrate from 2001 through 2006. Judge Stoebe was appointed district associate judge in 2006 and, in 2011, was appointed to the district court bench.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Stoebe is a member of the Humboldt County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Magistrates Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Stoebe is married and has two children.

### Kurt L. Wilke Chief Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1992

**Background and Education:** Born in Rochester, Minn. in 1949, Judge Wilke received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1970. He earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota in 1974.

**Career:** Admitted to the practice of law in Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota, Judge Wilke chose to work

in a private practice law firm in Fort Dodge, Iowa from 1974 to 1992, working primarily in trial litigation. He was appointed part-time judicial magistrate for Webster County in 1977, and served until 1992. For several years, Judge Wilke served as an adjunct faculty member teaching labor law at Iowa Central Community College. He was appointed to district court judge in 1992, and was appointed Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District in 2007.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Wilke was appointed by the Iowa Supreme Court to three commissions that involved clerk of court dealings with pro se litigants, forms for use by pro se litigants in family law litigation, and court debt collection. He was previously a board member of the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Wilke is married and has three sons.



**District 3A**

	David Lester	Nancy Whittenburg	Donald Borman
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)			
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.46	4.04	3.91
2. Perception of factual issues	4.49	4.07	4.06
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.65	3.86	4.32
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.68	4.30	4.06
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.66	4.21	4.15
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.72	3.80	4.53
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.45	4.23	3.91
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	3.67	4.71	4.09
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree			
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.60	4.13	4.40
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.36	4.18	4.31
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.74	3.90	4.51
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.69	4.45	4.54
Retention	96.3%	84.9%	89.5%
Number of respondents	85	83	71

## District 3A

### Donald J. Bormann District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** Judge Bormann was born and raised in Emmetsburg, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in 1964, and also his law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1966. He was editor-in-chief of the South Dakota Law Review from 1965 through 1966.

**Career:** After graduation from law school, Judge Bormann clerked for Federal Judge Axel J. Beck in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He then worked in Legal Aid on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota. Judge Bormann returned to Emmetsburg and entered general private practice with Joseph Hanson, Les Pritchard, and John F. Doran. Judge Bormann remained in private practice for the next 32 years until being appointed to the bench.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** During his general private practice years, Judge Bormann was involved in Kiwanis, St. Pat's Association, Emmetsburg Jaycees, Emmetsburg Little E-Hawk Wrestling Club, and Emmetsburg E-Hawk Booster Club. Judge Bormann was in charge of the presentations of the American Bar Citizenship Awards in Palo

Alto County until his appointment. For approximately 25 years, Judge Bormann was on the board of directors of Horizons Unlimited.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** He is a member of the Palo Alto County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Bormann is married and has three children.

### David A. Lester District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1998

**Background and Education:** Judge Lester received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in 1978, his doctor of dental surgery from the University of Iowa in 1982, and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1990.

**Career:** Judge Lester was a practicing dentist from 1982 to 1988 in Estherville, Iowa. He was a practicing attorney in Estherville from 1991 until his appointment to the bench in 1998. Judge Lester served as Emmet County Judicial Hospitalization Referee from 1991 to his appointment and as assistant city attorney for Armstrong, Iowa from 1991 until his appointment.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Lester serves as the judicial consultant to the Integrated Services Pathways Program administrative board in his sub-district.

### Nancy L. Whittenburg District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2004

**Background and Education:** Judge Whittenburg attended Drake University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1980 and her law degree in 1986.

**Career:** Prior to her appointment, Judge Whittenburg served as Clay County magistrate from 1989 to 2004. She was engaged in the private practice of law from 1988 to her appointment.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Whittenburg is a member of the Clay County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Whittenburg is married and has one child.



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)	Jeffrey Poulson	Robert Dull	Todd Hensley	Timothy Jarman
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.20	3.68	4.33	4.53
2. Perception of factual issues	4.22	3.78	4.32	4.53
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.51	3.87	4.55	4.48
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.45	3.53	4.48	4.49
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.46	3.89	4.50	4.45
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.56	3.27	4.30	3.89
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.26	3.71	4.33	4.49
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.38	3.84	4.48	3.88
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree				
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.62	3.87	4.45	4.29
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.50	3.85	4.58	4.54
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.67	3.41	4.42	4.04
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.70	4.05	4.58	4.57
Retention	94.3%	72%	100%	97.9%
Number of respondents	86	81	80	81

## District 3B

### Robert J. Dull District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1993

**Background and Education:** Born in LeMars, Iowa, Judge Dull earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1969. From 1969 to 1976, he served in the United States Army, spending six of those years with the Judge Advocate General Corps. In 1973, Judge Dull earned his law degree from Drake University.

**Career:** Judge Dull's professional experience includes working as the Plymouth County Attorney, General Courts-Marital Prosecutor, legal instructor at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, and in the private practice of law.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Dull is a member of the Iowa Judges Association Legislative Committee.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Dull is married with three daughters and eleven grandchildren.

### Todd A. Hensley District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** Judge Hensley was born and raised in Atlantic. He has three brothers, and his parents owned a clothing store in town, teaching him a strong work ethic. Judge Hensley attended Atlantic High School, where he participated in basketball, track, and tennis. He was also a member of the school newspaper staff and served as class president. He graduated in 1980, and attended Morningside College, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1984 with a major in history and a minor in physical education. After teaching for a year, he entered law school and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1988.

**Career:** In 1988, Judge Hensley joined the Woodbury County Public Defender's Office and was the first assistant in that office until his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Hensley was involved in different roles with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Evening Optimist Club of Sioux City, holding leadership roles in both organizations. Since his appointment, Judge Hensley has volunteered as a coach for various youth sports in which his children have participated.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Hensley is a member of the Woodbury County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. He has served on the board of directors and as the co-chair for the District Associate Judges Committee for the Iowa Judges Association, and is a member of the Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee of the Juvenile Advisory Council. Judge Hensley serves on the local Reality Education Alcohol Program Advisory Board and as a member of the Woodbury County Jail Review Committee.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Hensley is married with two sons and a daughter. He enjoys golf, tennis, running, and attending University of Iowa sporting events. He is a loyal, long-suffering Cubs fan.

### Timothy T. Jarman District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1997

**Background and Education:** Judge Jarman was born in Sioux City, Iowa, the eldest of four children. He spent part of his childhood in Norfolk, Nebr., but graduated from Heelan High School in Sioux City in 1973. Judge Jarman attended Loras College



## District 3B

### Judge Jarman

*Continued from previous page*

and graduated, magna cum laude, in 1977. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1980.

**Career:** For three years, Judge Jarman worked as assistant Woodbury County attorney. He spent seven years in the private practice of law as an associate and then a partner in a Sioux City law firm. Judge Jarman was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for six years.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Jarman was a volunteer counsel through the American Radio Relay League. He assisted in the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults program in his parish for several years and still remains active. He is a regular volunteer at the Sioux City Soup Kitchen, where he began working shortly after the program began many years ago.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Jarman is a member of the Woodbury County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. He is a former officer of the Sioux City Lawyers' Club, and provided legal training to federal, state, and local law enforcement officers at various conferences while he was a federal prosecutor. While in private practice, Judge Jarman participated in the Volunteer Lawyers Project. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and a member of the trial judges committee involved in preparing for the implementation of

E.D.M.S., the court's new electronic filing system.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Jarman is married and has three adult children. He has been a licensed amateur radio operator for more than 40 years, and presently holds the Amateur Extra Class license issued by the FCC. As a part of being a "ham" radio operator, he assisted in providing volunteer communication services in emergency situations and for events such as RAGBRAI, Art Splash, and Saturday in the Park. Judge Jarman is a Volunteer Examiner authorized to assist in conducting the examinations required by the FCC to obtain an amateur radio license.

### Jeffrey L. Poulson District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Born in Storm Lake, Iowa, Judge Poulson was raised on his family's farm, where they operated a cow/calf production. Judge Poulson graduated from the University of Wyoming, with honors, in 1974. He received his law degree from Drake University in 1976.

**Career:** For 34 years, Judge Poulson was in general private practice, with an emphasis on agricultural and business law.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Poulson was a founding board member of the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation. He served on the St. Luke's College Board and is a former president.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** As a member of the Iowa, Woodbury, and American Bar Associations, Judge Poulson has done committee work in general practice, agricultural, probate, and bankruptcy law. Since becoming a district court judge, he has focused on developing new skills for his judgeship. Although Judge Poulson has wide-ranging civil practice experience, he has found that a steep learning curve comes with the skills necessary to be a judge. This has lead Judge Poulson to become involved in other professional and community activities other than as a general member and participant in bench and bar activities.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Poulson is married and has two grown children. He enjoys skiing, fishing, and hunting, and is involved in his family's farm operation.

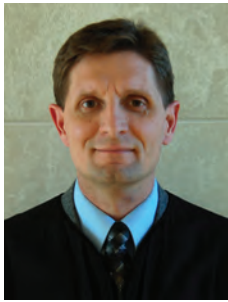


District 4

	Mark Eveloff	James Richardson	Greg Steensland	Carig Dreismeier
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)				
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.57	3.69	4.23	4.37
2. Perception of factual issues	4.58	3.85	4.29	4.48
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.68	3.69	4.53	4.81
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.70	3.65	4.41	4.81
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.58	4.21	4.48	4.54
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.78	3.70	4.10	4.78
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.57	3.64	4.23	4.54
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.60	3.97	4.39	4.63
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree				
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.77	3.79	4.33	4.74
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.71	3.56	4.26	4.63
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.81	3.85	4.20	4.82
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.82	3.76	4.49	4.82
Retention	98.5%	77.8%	95.5%	100%
Number of respondents	74	82	75	66

## District 4

### Craig Michael Dreismeier District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Dreismeier was born in Omaha, Nebr. in 1967. He has two sisters, one older and one younger. Judge Dreismeier graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1989 with a major in criminal justice studies and a minor in political science. He received his law degree from Creighton University in 1992.

**Career:** Prior to his appointment, Judge Dreismeier was in the private practice of law from 1992 through 2010. While in private practice, he specialized in family law cases, bankruptcy cases, juvenile cases, and criminal cases. From 1995 to 1996, he also acted as an assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney, prosecuting primarily misdemeanor and criminal cases. Judge Dreismeier was admitted to practice law in Iowa and Nebraska, both in federal and state court. In 2010, he was appointed to district associate judge and began presiding over adult criminal misdemeanor and juvenile court cases, with juvenile court cases comprising a majority of his caseload.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Dreismeier is a member of the Council Bluffs

Centennial Rotary Club, serving as charter president, board member, and membership chair. Judge Dreismeier has been very actively involved with various committees and projects the club has undertaken, including those promoting literacy, education, community service, foundation, and membership. At the district level, he served as an assistant district governor during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Rotary years, and as an assistant district governor coordinator during the 2008-2009 Rotary year. As an assistant district governor, Judge Dreismeier was the liaison between four local clubs and the district. As the coordinator, all 11 assistant district governors reported to him for guidance, support, and feedback to better their individual clubs and the district as a whole. While he was a practicing attorney, Judge Dreismeier delivered various presentations to different groups. Judge Dreismeier has assisted with the preparation of a local high school mock trial team for competition.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** From July 2010 until his appointment, Judge Dreismeier was president of the Pottawattamie County Bar Association, and also served as its vice president from 2009 to 2010. From 2008 to 2010, he served on the Pottawattamie County Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission. Judge Dreismeier was an Iowa bar examination grader for individuals taking the Iowa bar examination from 2005 to 2010. Since becoming a judge, he is now a member of the Iowa Judges Association,

and has served on the judge's education curriculum committee and the retention committee. He has participated in the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute, sponsored by the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Dreismeier has also taken part in several panel presentations to social workers and family service providers for child abuse and neglect cases.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Dreismeier is married and has a son. When Judge Dreismeier isn't working, family time is important. Together, they enjoy traveling, biking, walking, hiking, playing games, or just enjoying each other's company. Now that his son is getting older, they enjoy golfing together. Judge Dreismeier enjoys being outdoors or working in his yard, which he finds very relaxing. He spends a significant amount of time working with his Rotary club.

### Mark J. Eveloff District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1996

**Background and Education:** Born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Judge Eveloff received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa

*Continued on next page*

## District 4

### Judge Eveloff

*Continued from previous page*

in 1971 and his law degree from Creighton University in 1974.

**Career:** Judge Eveloff served as assistant city attorney for Des Moines and assistant county attorney for Polk County. He worked in a private practice firm from 1983 to 1995. Judge Eveloff was first appointed to district associate judge in 1996, and became a district court judge in 2010

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Eveloff is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the District Associate Judges Committee, and the Juvenile Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Eveloff is married and has two children.

### James M. Richardson District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1986

#### **Background and Education:**

Judge Richardson was born on Independence Day in Jefferson, Iowa in 1950. He spent his childhood in the Scranton area, where his parents operated a small dairy farm and his father was employed as a farm implement mechanic. He graduated

as valedictorian of Scranton Consolidated Schools in 1968. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Iowa in 1972, and graduated from law school, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1975.

**Career:** From 1975 to his appointment to the bench in 1986, Judge Richardson was a law partner with Barron & Richardson, a general private practice involving all aspects of the law, including trial work, probate, real estate, corporate, banking, domestic relations, and income tax. Judge Richardson's clients were primarily individuals and business entities located in the Audubon, Carroll, and Guthrie county areas. He also served as City Attorney for Audubon from 1975 to 1978, Bayard from 1982 to 1986, and Coon Rapids from 1980 to 1986. Judge Richardson served as the Fourth Judicial District Drug Court Judge from 2003 to 2005. Since his appointment to district judge by Governor Terry E. Branstad, the district has handled the largest volume of cases per judge for 20 years. Judge Richardson has continually worked toward his goal of protection and service to the citizens of Iowa, and has attempted at all time to solve problems by the application of the law to the facts. As an attorney and as a judge, he has never been disciplined or cited for breach of professional ethics.

#### **Community Activities Prior to Appointment:**

Judge Richardson served as president of the Audubon Chamber of Commerce in 1978, and was a board member of the Audubon Industrial Development. He has been a volunteer coach and academic

lecturer for Audubon Community Schools since 1975.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Since 1975, Judge Richardson has been a member of Audubon County, Southwest Iowa, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He was president of the Audubon County Bar Association from 1980-1986, and was vice president of the Southwest Iowa Bar Association in 1985 and president in 1986. He served on the Iowa State Bar Review Committee in 1984 through 1986, the Bench Bar Committee from 2002 to 2006, co-chairing the committee from 2003 to 2006. Judge Richardson has been a member of the Iowa Judges Association since 1986, and served on the board of directors from 1998 to 2002, as secretary-treasurer from 2003 to 2004, as president-elect in 2004 through 2005, and as president from 2005 to 2006. From 1998 through 2002, Judge Richardson was on the Client Security and Attorney Disciplinary Committee of the Supreme Court of Iowa, and was chairman from 1996 to 2002.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Richardson is married and has three children. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Audubon.

## District 4

Gregory W. Steensland  
District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:** Judge Steensland earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Iowa in 1973 and his law degree from Drake University in 1976.

**Career:** For 15 years, Judge Steensland was in the private practice of law, and served in the Public Defender's Office for 14 years.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Steensland is a member of the Pottawattamie County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. He was actively involved in establishing a drug court in Pottawattamie County.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Steensland is married and has two grown children.



**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)	Randy Hefner	Brad McCall	Terry Rickers	Virginia Cobb	Kevin Parker
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.61	4.33	4.41	4.12	4.42
2. Perception of factual issues	4.62	4.37	4.48	4.17	4.44
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.72	4.65	4.63	4.18	4.69
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.73	4.59	4.65	4.19	4.53
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.72	4.57	4.62	4.19	4.53
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.74	4.57	4.56	4.34	4.59
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.66	4.45	4.49	4.18	4.50
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.76	4.62	4.58	4.12	4.57
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree					
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.75	4.59	4.66	4.40	4.70
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.68	4.45	4.65	4.20	4.57
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.75	4.66	4.64	4.43	4.75
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.77	4.63	4.71	4.45	4.66
Retention	96%	93.8%	97.9%	90.9%	93.9%
Number of respondents	146	149	132	66	124

## District 5A

### Virginia Cobb District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:**

Judge Cobb was born in Chicago, the middle of three sisters. Her father was a lawyer, and the family relocated to Des Moines, Iowa, when Judge Cobb was an infant. During her pre-teen years, she was involved in the Des Moines Community Playhouse and Drama Workshop. She graduated from Roosevelt High School, with honors. Judge Cobb received her bachelor's degree in theatre in 1978. She earned her law degree, Order of the Barristers, from Drake Law School in 1982, and received the Lewis F. Powell Award for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy.

**Career:** Judge Cobb worked in the private practice law, primarily insurance and criminal defense, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Des Moines, Iowa. She also worked as a prosecutor with the Dallas County Attorney's Office. From 1988 to 1993, Judge Cobb was also a faculty member of Grandview College in business and creative and performing arts. In 1995, she was appointed to Dallas County magistrate, and served until her appointment to district associate judge in 2005.

**Professional Activities:** (Present Professional and Community Activities) Judge Cobb is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

### Randy V. Hefner District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Born in Ida Grove, Iowa, Judge Hefner was raised in Cushing, Iowa. He graduated from Eastwood High School in Correctionville, Iowa in 1971. He received his bachelor's degree, with honors, in history from the University of Northern Iowa in 1975, and his law degree from Drake University in 1978.

**Career:** After graduating law school, Judge Hefner worked in Clinton, Iowa with the private practice firm of Shaff, Farwell & Senneff as an associate. From 1979 to 1982, he worked as an associate with Van Werden & Hulse in Adel, Iowa, and was a partner in the firm in 1982 through 2000. Judge Hefner was a shareholder in Hefner & Bergkamp, P.C. in Adel from 2000 to 2010. Although Judge Hefner's practice was general, it was always weighted toward litigation, particularly personal injury and

property damage, commercial, probate, insurance, and domestic cases. He practiced predominately in the Fifth Judicial District, however, Judge Hefner handled cases in virtually all other judicial districts in Iowa and in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District Iowa. Judge Hefner also argued appellate cases before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Iowa Supreme Court, and the Iowa Court of Appeals. He has also authored numerous outlines and articles for professional organizations, including the Iowa Association for Justice, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Dallas County Bar Association.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Hefner served on the board for Adel Enterprises, Inc. as chair from 2006 to 2008 and as a board member until 2010. He is also a contributing member of Adel Partners, and served as chair of the West Metro Regional Airport Authority Board from 2008 through 2010. Judge Hefner is a past board member and former president of the Dallas County Care Facility. He was the president of the Adel Rotary Club from 1985 to 1986. He was a mock trial coach for Adel-De Soto-Minburn (ADM) Middle School and High School, and a board member of the ADM Scholarship Foundation from 2002 to 2010. Judge Hefner was a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa and served on the Dallas County Compensation Board from 1998 to 2000 and has continued to serve since 2002. He is a member of the University of Northern Iowa's President's Club and the University of Northern Iowa Foundation as

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# District 5A

## Judge Hefner

*Continued from previous page*

the donor for the Randy & Connie Hefner Scholarship for College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and the Connie and Randy Hefner Early Childhood Education Scholarship.

### **Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)**

Judge Hefner is admitted to the Bar in the State of Iowa, the Eighth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. He is a member of the American Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association, serving the Litigation Section and General Practice Section of The Iowa State Bar Association. Judge Hefner is a member of American Association for Justice. He is member of the Iowa Association for Justice, and served on the board of governors from 1991 to 1994, chaired the Amicus Curiae Committee from 1994 to 1996, and received the Key Person Award in 1991. Judge Hefner joined the Dallas County Bar Association in 1979 and is a past president. He received the Extraordinary Service Award in 1992 from the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Judge Hefner has been Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rated for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability, AV rating since 1999.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Hefner is married and has one son. Judge Hefner enjoys traveling with his wife, fishing, golfing, and reading.

## Brad McCall District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

### **Background and Education:**

Judge McCall was born and raised in Newton, Iowa, graduating from Newton High School in 1972. In high school, Judge McCall was involved in a variety of activities, including swimming, which he continued in college as a member of the University of Iowa varsity swimming team. After graduating from the University of Iowa, Judge McCall attended law school at Drake University. He was a member of the law school's first mock trial team, and was honored for his student trial skills by the National Trial Lawyers Association. He was also honored for graduating in the top 10-percent of his class and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

**Career:** Following his graduation from law school, Judge McCall joined what later became Brierly Law Office, where his father was also an attorney, in Newton. Although he initially pursued a general practice, Judge McCall's practice quickly evolved to be exclusively trial-oriented. He represented litigants in personal injury cases, criminal cases, and family law matters. Judge McCall achieved certification in both civil and criminal trial advocacy by the National Board of Legal

Specialty Certification. He was one of fewer than 30 attorneys nationwide to be certified in two areas of specialty. He was appointed as a standby judicial hospitalization referee for Jasper County and assumed all of the responsibilities of the hospitalization referee for the county, serving in that capacity for nearly 20 years

### **Community Activities Prior to Appointment:**

Judge McCall has been actively involved with a variety of community and non-profit organizations, including leadership positions in both the United Way and American Cancer Society fund drives. He served as board member on a number of non-profit agencies, including several devoted to assisting individuals with substance abuse problems and another directed at helping underprivileged youth. Judge McCall also helped tutor students in mock trial activities and coached mock trial students at the junior high and high school levels, serving as the head coach of the Grinnell College mock trial team for five years. He is still heavily involved in swimming, and officiates swimming events of all types, including at the NCAA Division I men's swimming meet annually and at both the men's and women's Big Ten swimming championships.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** During his legal career, Judge McCall has been involved in a variety of legal organizations, including the Jasper County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, The American Board of Trial Attorneys, and the Iowa Judges



## District 5A

### Judge McCall

*Continued from previous page*

Association. He was a member of the board of governors of the Iowa Association for Justice, and served as the president-elect until his appointment.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge McCall is married with three daughters. In addition to swimming and water sports, Judge McCall enjoys spending time with family, traveling, cooking, and home remodeling projects.

### Kevin Parker District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:** Born in Dunkirk, N.Y., Judge Parker has been a resident of Iowa since 1977, after he completed his bachelor's degree at Gannon University. He attended law school at Drake University and graduated in 1979.

**Career:** Admitted to the bar in 1980, Judge Parker was a law clerk to the Honorable James P. Denato for a year. While in private practice, he served as assistant Warren County attorney from 1981 to 1989, then served as Warren County attorney from 1989 to 2002. From 2003 until his appointment to the bench, Judge

Parker was in the private practice of law with the firm of Elgin, Patin & Parker. Since 2010, Judge Parker has been presiding over Family Recovery Court and OWI Court.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Parker has been a member of the Indianola Lions since 1981 and is a past president. He is currently the Flag Day chair and Tail Twister committee chair. A member of the Knights of Columbus Council 5032 since 1986, Judge Parker is a Past Grand Knight. He was the financial council chair of the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and is presently a member of the building committee and vocations committee. Judge Parker has served as a mock trial coach and judge. He is also a Sierra Club member.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Parker is a member of the Warren County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. He was an adjunct professor at Simpson College from 1988 to 2004. Judge Parker was the legislative committee chair and the civil committee chair for the Iowa County Attorneys Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Parker is married and has four children.

### Terry Rickers District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Rickers was born in Denison, Iowa and raised on a family farm near Vail, Iowa with a younger brother and sister. He worked on the farm through the end of college, helping raise cattle and hogs and helping with the row crop grain operation. Judge Rickers was active in 4-H, church activities, athletics, and music through his high school career. He also worked as a part-time announcer at a local radio station during high school and college. In 1978, Judge Rickers graduated with honors, from Ar-We-Va High School and received a National Merit Scholarship. Judge Rickers was active in his college career at Iowa State University, participating in student government, the student radio station, various university activities/committees, and intramural sports. He received his undergraduate degree in political science in 1983. He earned his law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1986.

**Career:** From 1986 until his appointment, Judge Rickers worked in general private practice in Newton. His focus was on general civil and criminal litigation, family law,

*Continued on next page*

## District 5A

### Judge Rickers

*Continued from previous page*

estate planning, probate, real estate transactions, business entities, and tax law. He served as a part-time judicial magistrate from 2005 until appointment to district court judge in 2010.

#### **Community Activities Prior to**

**Appointment:** For 15 years, Judge Rickers coached the Newton Middle School mock trial team, and judged at middle school, high school and college mock trial competitions. He has assisted The Iowa State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division state fair mock trial presentations. He also served as local counsel for the local school board and hospital board. He has served as a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor, and has assisted with local Boy Scout activities. Judge Rickers has been a volunteer speaker at local schools covering various legal issues, and has coached youth basketball for the local YMCA. In 1999, he received the Newton Community Education Association's Friend of Education Award. He volunteered time to set up non-profit corporations for various local civic groups, including Jasper County Empowerment Board, Newton Athletic Booster Club, Newton Music Booster club, and local economic development entities. Judge Rickers has held leadership positions in the Newton Jaycees, Iowa Jaycees, and the Foundation for Iowa Jaycees Charities. In 1997, he was named one of Ten Outstanding Young Iowans by the Iowa Jaycees. Judge Rickers has served as director and president of both the Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Jasper County Alliance

for Economic Development. He was also a board member and legal advisor to the Newton Development Corporation. Judge Rickers has served as director and president of the Newton Rotary Club and has served as director and president, as well as advisor to the Rotary Student Builders Company and a host for the Rotary International Student Exchange. Judge Rickers served two terms as church Elder and has taught Sunday School to middle school and high school students.

#### **Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community**

**Activities)** For over 20 years, Judge Rickers accepted pro bono cases through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. He has been a member of the Jasper County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association since 1986. Judge Rickers served on the ISBA agricultural law section council for two years, and received the ISBA Community Service Award in 2001. From 2001 to 2008, Judge Rickers served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. Since 2009, Judge Rickers has served on a work group that is charged with devising reforms and recommendations to improve the processes associated with the involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill citizens. Judge Rickers has spoken to civic groups and has made presentations to legislative subcommittees regarding mental health law reform. He has been a trainer/speaker at the annual Judicial Magistrate Conference and for the Iowa Association of Sheriffs and Deputies, as well as a training facilitator at the annual conference for The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

He currently serves on an ad hoc committee addressing standards and guidelines for media coverage in the courts.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Rickers is married and has a daughter and a son. Judge Rickers enjoys attending sporting events, music events, and golfing. He is a season ticket holder for Iowa State University football and basketball games. Judge Rickers is a NASCAR fan and enjoys watching races at the Iowa Speedway.



District 5C

	Mary Pat Gunderson	Eliza Ovrom	Romonda Belcher	Gregory Brandt	Carol Coppola	Carol Egly	Louise Jacobs	William Price	Rachael Seymour
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)									
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.41	4.57	3.77	4.23	4.48	4.16	3.92	4.07	3.51
2. Perception of factual issues	4.49	4.57	3.84	4.22	4.43	4.13	3.92	4.11	3.39
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.70	4.70	4.19	4.32	4.56	4.01	4.10	4.13	3.16
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.65	4.68	4.15	4.22	4.54	4.24	3.98	4.09	3.51
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.67	4.63	4.02	4.20	4.53	4.12	4.05	4.16	3.47
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.74	4.69	4.37	3.42	4.46	4.25	4.03	3.64	2.90
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.50	4.59	3.93	4.16	4.55	4.18	3.90	4.15	3.50
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.48	4.66	4.16	4.22	4.57	3.98	4.00	4.17	2.73
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree									
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.72	4.70	4.36	3.65	4.65	4.27	3.98	3.72	2.94
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.60	4.62	4.17	4.14	4.59	4.23	4.00	4.00	3.22
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.81	4.71	4.39	3.46	4.61	4.38	4.20	3.76	2.94
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.78	4.77	4.44	4.12	4.64	4.39	4.22	4.13	3.41
Retention	93.1%	94.7%	85.3%	78.6%	93.6%	89.5%	80%	83.9%	61%
Number of respondents	121	259	184	183	183	179	176	202	168

## District 5C

### Romonda D. Belcher District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** A native of Plymouth, N.C., Judge Belcher's childhood dream was to become a judge because she believed judges were in a position to make a difference. She earned her bachelor's degree, with honors, from Howard University in 1990 and her law degree from Drake University in 1995.

**Career:** Upon her appointment to the bench in 2010, Judge Belcher became the first African American female judge in the state of Iowa. Prior to her appointment, Judge Belcher served as an assistant Polk County attorney for 15 years, prosecuting juvenile, criminal, and civil cases.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Belcher serves as a mentor to law students and is actively involved in youth programming and development at her church. She has given a number of speeches to encourage young people to "believe in themselves, know their purpose, follow their passion, and live their dreams." In 2001, Judge Belcher had the distinct honor of presenting the commencement address at her alma mater, Drake University Law School, entitled

"Having It, Defined." In 2010, Judge Belcher was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. In 2011, Judge Belcher was presented the History Makers Award from the African American Women's Leadership Conference.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Belcher is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association as well as an Iowa State Bar Foundation Fellow. She is a member of the Polk County Bar Association and the Iowa National Bar Association. Judge Belcher is a member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and is a Master in the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court. In June 2008, she received the Gertrude Rush Award from the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and the Iowa National Bar Association. She was recognized by the Polk County Women Attorneys as the first recipient of the Willie Stevenson Glanton Award in March 2011.

**Family and Hobbies:** Away from the bench, Judge Belcher enjoys jewelry design, dramatic acting, poetry and writing, physical fitness, and spending quality time with her family in North Carolina. Judge Belcher is single and resides in Des Moines.

### Gregory Brandt District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1997

**Background and Education:** Born in Ottumwa, Iowa, Judge Brandt graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1980. He attended Drake University, where he graduated with degrees in accounting and corporate finance in 1984. He received his law degree, also from Drake University, in 1987.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Brandt worked as a law clerk for the Eighth Judicial District of the State of Iowa until 1988. From 1988 to 1995, he was an assistant Polk County attorney. After leaving the Polk County Attorney's Office, Judge Brandt became an associate with Hyland, Laden & Pearson, P.C., practicing in the area of general litigation.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Since his appointment to the bench, Judge Brandt has been involved in all aspects concerning the use of technology in the Courts. Judge Brandt has served as a liaison for the Fifth Judicial District on the Court Technology Infra Structure Project's Steering Committee, CJIN Subcommittee, and the ICIS State Steering Committee. He also chaired the Judicial Technology

# District 5C

## Judge Brandt

*Continued from previous page*

Committee. He is a member of the Polk County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, and the American Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Brandt is married with two children. Outside of court, he has participated in various committees, with his church, and with his children's school and sporting activities.

## Carol L. Coppola District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Judge Coppola received her bachelor's degree from Creighton University in 1973. She earned her law degree, with honors, Order of the Coif, from Drake University in 1980.

**Career:** For 21 years, Judge Coppola worked in the private practice of law.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** While in private practice, Judge Coppola served on many

committees, including the Client Security Commission, Polk County Family Law Committee, and the Polk County Grievance Committee. She is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

## Carol S. Egly District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1986

**Background and Education:** Judge Egly received her bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in 1971 and her law degree from Drake University in 1974.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Egly served as assistant attorney general for the State of Iowa until 1977. While in private practice, she was a part-time magistrate and part-time hearing officer for the State of Iowa until her appointment to district associate judge.

## Mary Pat Gunderson District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Raised in Davenport, Iowa, Judge Gunderson attended the University of San Diego, graduating with her bachelor's degree in 1984. She received her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1988.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Gunderson moved to Des Moines, Iowa and served as assistant Polk County attorney from 1989 to 1997. She served as secretary of the Iowa Senate from 1997 to 1998.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Gunderson is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Women Attorneys, and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Gunderson is married with three children.

## District 5C

### Louise M. Jacobs District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Judge Jacobs earned her bachelor's degree, with distinction, from the University of Minnesota and her law degree, with honors, Order of the Coif, from Drake University.

**Career:** Judge Jacobs served as assistant city attorney for Des Moines, Iowa and was also in the private practice of law. In 1997, she was appointed to serve as Polk County magistrate, and in 2001, she was appointed to the bench.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Jacobs is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Judges Association, the National Association of Women Judges, and the C. Edwin Moore-Inns of Court.

### Eliza J. Ovrom District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Ovrom was born and raised in Keosauqua, Iowa in Van Buren County. For Judge Ovrom, it was a great place to grow up in the 1950s and '60s. She graduated from Van Buren Community High School in 1971. Because it was a small school, Judge Ovrom was able to be involved in many activities, including drama, yearbook, and the golf team. Judge Ovrom graduated from Coe College, magna cum laude, in 1975, and spent a semester of her college career studying abroad in Costa Rica. She earned her law degree, with high honors, from the University of Iowa in 1979.

**Career:** Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Ovrom's career was in public service. She served as first assistant Polk County attorney for the civil bureau.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Ovrom was chairperson of the Des Moines Public Library Board of Trustees, and served on the Des Moines Public Library Foundation. She volunteered for activities involving her children, including Boy Scouts and show choir and drama parent groups.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Ovrom has been active in local, state, and national bar associations, including the Polk County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the Polk County Women Attorneys, and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court, and has held several offices and served on several committees of various legal organizations. She served as the district director for the National Association of Women Judges and chaired the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Iowa Judges Association. She currently serves on the state Child Support Advisory Committee and the state Child Support Guideline Review Committee. Judge Ovrom recently served on the Iowa Civil Justice Reform Task Force, and co-chaired the task force's Discovery Subcommittee. She has been a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars. Judge Ovrom has helped train new judges in the area of family law, allowing her to meet with newly-appointed judges and more experienced judges on the faculty. She has learned a great deal from these experiences, and has enjoyed working with newer judges as they begin their careers. Through these experiences, she has worked with interns from Drake University Law School, allowing them to observe and practice courtroom skills that are not available in the classroom, and bringing a fresh perspective to the courthouse. Judge Ovrom is appointed to serve on a judicial branch trial management training team, as part of a group of judges who train other judges in managing their courtrooms to provide fair and efficient trials.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Ovrom is married with two adult sons.

## District 5C

### William Price District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2001

**Background and Education:** Judge Price received his bachelor's degree from Drake University in 1970 and his law degree from the same institution in 1972.

**Career:** Judge Price has worked as a trust officer, an assistant Polk County attorney, and, most recently, in general private practice of law. He served in the Iowa National Guard from 1970 to 1976.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Price is a member of the Polk County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Price is married and has two children.

### Rachael E. Seymour District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Seymour graduated from Madrid High School in Madrid, Iowa. She received her associate of arts degree, with honors, from Iowa Central Community College in 1993, and was a member of the National Honor Society and Who's Who in America Junior Colleges. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Iowa in 1995. Judge Seymour received both a master's degree in public administration and a law degree from Drake University in 1999. She graduated law school with honors, including the CALI Excellence for the Future Award for the top grade in Family Law Seminar.

**Career:** In 1997, Judge Seymour was a judicial intern for Fifth Judicial District Judge Artis Reis and worked at the Youth Law Center in Des Moines, Iowa. From 1999 until her appointment to the bench, she worked for the Juvenile Public Defender's Office. She represented juveniles in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) and delinquency cases, adults in criminal cases ranging from simple misdemeanors to first-degree murder, wrote appellate briefs for CINA cases involving termination of parent rights and

placement issues, and participated in numerous mediations, staffings, and home visits.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Seymour has volunteered as a guest speaker for high school career fairs, government classes, and sociology classes.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** While at the Juvenile Public Defender's Office, Judge Seymour volunteered to work on a technology committee to design a new client database, and was invited to serve as teaching staff for Trial Advocacy Training for new attorneys.



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)	Marsha Beckelman	Stephen Jackson Jr.	Paul Miller	Douglas Russell	Mitchell Turner	Deborah Farmer Minot	Jane Spande
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.00	4.24	4.22	4.53	4.45	3.87	4.34
2. Perception of factual issues	3.95	4.26	4.31	4.46	4.50	3.76	4.25
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.01	4.48	4.60	4.65	4.59	3.77	4.48
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.15	4.43	4.42	4.57	4.66	3.50	4.32
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.14	4.39	4.54	4.55	4.67	3.80	4.40
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.14	4.54	4.53	4.59	4.69	3.00	3.93
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	3.92	4.37	4.28	4.47	4.52	3.93	4.24
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	3.08	4.42	4.37	4.42	4.51	4.21	4.41
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree							
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.24	4.58	4.50	4.56	4.61	3.02	4.28
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.24	4.48	4.52	4.60	4.62	3.36	4.31
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.34	4.62	4.56	4.60	4.71	3.09	4.15
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.51	4.64	4.65	4.73	4.76	3.73	4.42
Retention	84.3%	96.4%	97%	95.8%	97%	65.5%	95.2%
Number of respondents	188	178	171	178	180	151	157



## District 6

### Marsha M. Beckelman District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2003

**Background and Education:** Judge Beckelman earned her bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in 1979 and her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1988.

**Career:** Judge Beckelman served as assistant city attorney for Hiawatha and Lisbon and was in private practice from 1988 until her appointment.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Beckelman is a member of the Linn County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, and has served on several judicial committees.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Beckelman is married with one child.

### Stephen B. Jackson, Jr. District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Jackson, Jr. was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, graduating from Regis High School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1988, and was a Dockweiler Medal recipient for his senior philosophy thesis. Judge Jackson, Jr. earned his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1991.

**Career:** Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Jackson, Jr. worked in private practice with a law firm in Chicago from 1991 to 1994. He returned to Iowa to work in the private practice of law in Cedar Rapids for the next 16 years, until he was appointed to district judge in 2010.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Before joining the court, Judge Jackson, Jr. served on the boards of various organizations, including Young Parents Network, the Linn County Community Empowerment Board, and Foundation 2, as well as volunteering for United Way. Judge Jackson, Jr. has participated as a judge of mock trial and moot court competitions, and assisted coaching

a local mock trial team. He was a member of the board of directors of Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa and served on the Linn County Magistrate Appointing Commission from 2009 to 2010. Judge Jackson, Jr., with his law firm, received the 2000 Iowa State Bar Association Pro Bono Award.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Jackson, Jr. has presented at various continuing education seminars. He is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the Dean Mason Ladd Inn of Court.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Jackson, Jr. is married and has one child.

### Paul D. Miller District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Miller was born in West Union, Iowa. In 1973, he received his undergraduate degree, with the highest distinction, from the University of Northern Iowa, and was awarded the Purple and Old Gold Award for Meritorious Scholarship in Political Science. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa, with distinction, in 1976.

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## District 6

### Judge Miller

*Continued from previous page*

**Career:** For 34 years, Judge Miller was engaged in criminal and civil trial practice of law. From 1976 to 1978, he was the assistant Woodbury County attorney, and from 1978 to 1980, he was the Woodbury County public defender. Judge Miller was the assistant Iowa Attorney General with the Area Prosecutions Division from 1980 to 1984. He entered the private practice of law in 1984, and worked until his appointment in 2010.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Miller was a member of the Rotary, Northwest Iowa Domestic Abuse Council, and his church council.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** A past member of the Iowa Association for Justice, Judge Miller served on the board of governors from 1998 until 2009. He was chairperson of the Iowa Association for Justice's Criminal Law Core Group. Judge Miller frequently speaks on the topic of criminal law at continuing legal education seminars.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Miller is married with two daughters.

### Deborah Farmer Minot District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Minot was born in the small Virginia town of Rustburg. Her father, a factory worker, and her mother sacrificed to send her to Wake Forest University, where she graduated, with honors, in 1980. Judge Minot then put herself through law school and graduated in 1983 from the University of Virginia, receiving the Faculty and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association Awards.

**Career:** After being admitted to the Maryland Bar, Judge Minot began her legal career as a prosecutor for the City of Baltimore. In 1986, she entered private practice with a small business and civil litigation firm, trying cases in state and federal court and becoming active in bar association, civic, and political activities. In 1991, she was hired by the Maryland Attorney General and appointed as deputy counsel for the Department of Juvenile Services. When Judge Minot and her husband moved to Iowa City in 1991, she became an assistant Johnson County attorney, handling juvenile cases. She transferred to the criminal division in 2005, where she prosecuted domestic violence, drug, and other violent crimes.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** In 1988, Judge Minot was appointed the youngest-ever member of the Baltimore Civil Service Commission, and in 1990, she was appointed to the City Charter Revision Commission. She continued her civil service in Iowa, graduating from the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Program in 1991 and serving on local boards related to juvenile issues. In 2003, Judge Minot received the Systems Unlimited Professional of the Year Award. Judge Minot has been an active member of the First Presbyterian Church as an Elder, Chair of the Endowment Committee, and member of the Columbarium Task Force. She has taught adult education classes, Sunday school classes to all ages, and has served as a Confirmation sponsor for four young women.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Throughout her career as a prosecutor, Judge Minot conducted training for lawyers, law enforcement officers, social workers, teachers, and medical professionals, including presenting at state and national conferences. Judge Minot served on the Supreme Court Juvenile Rules Committee and the Iowa County Attorney's Association Juvenile Committee for several years. In 2002, she was honored for her service by the Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program. Judge Minot has taught continuing education classes for local juvenile lawyers and social workers, served on the Sixth Judicial District Scheduling Committee, and presented the

## District 6

### Judge Minot

*Continued from previous page*

“Juvenile Law Update” at the State Public Defender’s Conference this year. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Minot is married and has two sons. She enjoys spending time reading, gardening, doing scrapbooking and needlework, keeping in touch with extended family and friends who live all over the country, traveling, and watching sports. She especially enjoys watching baseball, college basketball, and anything Hawkeye. She is a lifelong Baltimore Orioles fan and, for better or worse, has become a Cubs fan.

### Douglas S. Russell District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Russell was educated at Grinnell College and attended law school at the University of Iowa.

**Career:** Judge Russell is a U.S. Army veteran. From 1978 through 1980, he served as an assistant Johnson County attorney. From 1980 until his appointment to the bench,

Judge Russell was in the private practice of law. He served as the first counsel to the Iowa City Police Citizens Review Board. Judge Russell was appointed to the district court bench in 1999 and is the Assistant Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Russell was active as a volunteer in his community, including serving nine years as chair of the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission. He served on the board of governors of the Churchill Center in Washington, D.C.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Russell is a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, the Dean Mason Ladd Inn of Court, and the Iowa Judges Association. Since his appointment, Judge Russell has become active in committee work with the bar association, chairing the Johnson County Security Committee and the Johnson County Magistrate Selection Commission. He is a member of the Johnson County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Russell is married and has four step-children. He is a historian and has published two books about Sir Winston Churchill, most recently *Winston Churchill Soldier, The Military Life of a Gentleman at War*.

### Jane F. Spande District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1985

**Background and Education:** Judge Spande was born in Caledonia, Minn. and grew up in Mabel, Minn., where she graduated from Mabel-Canton High School in 1968. She received a bachelor’s degree in social studies with a history core from Mankato State University in 1972. Judge Spande then taught high school social studies and was an elementary and secondary school librarian in Ayrshire, Iowa from 1972 to 1975. She received her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1977.

**Career:** From 1977 through 1985 she was employed as an assistant Linn County attorney, prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases, and during her last year with that office was assigned to the civil division. Her employment by Linn County was part-time between 1979 and 1985, as she also maintained a part-time private law practice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, handling predominately family law and real estate matters.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Spande is active in her church’s functions, including outreach and various activities of the Boys and Girls Club site located at that church.

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## District 6

### Judge Spande

*Continued from previous page*

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Since her appointment to the bench, Judge Spande has attended numerous state and national conferences on child welfare, domestic violence, and drunk/drugged driving, and presented on the same issues at state and local professional training conferences. She also assists in the preparation of training materials and the training of new judges in the areas of traffic court and small claims. Judge Spande has participated in the work of various ad hoc committees established by the Iowa Supreme Court to improve the court process and outcomes for litigants. That involvement included planning and vendor recommendations toward implementation of the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS), task force recommendations with regard to implementation of family court case processing and legal representation of indigents, and agency attorney standard recommendations in juvenile cases. Judge Spande is currently a member of the Children's Justice Summit team for the Sixth Judicial District and has been actively involved with the Cedar Rapids Partnership for Safe Families for more than ten years. She has attended national conferences on behalf of the Partnership, participated on a panel to educate state partnership members on the judicial process, and presented at the Iowa Judges Conference on the work of local family partnerships and family team meeting process. Judge Spande is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa Bar

Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Spande is married with two adult daughters and one grandchild.

### Mitchell E. Turner District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:** Judge Turner attended the University of Minnesota and received his bachelor's degree in 1976. He earned his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1979.

**Career:** For 26 years, Judge Turner worked in the private practice of law.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Turner is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Association for Justice.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Turner is married and has two children and two step-children.



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)	Bobbi Alpers	Mark Cleve	Thomas Reidel	Nancy Tabor	John Telleen	Gary Strausser
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.38	4.27	4.41	3.67	3.92	4.20
2. Perception of factual issues	4.41	4.20	4.42	3.64	4.05	4.20
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.61	4.52	4.49	4.16	4.31	4.09
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.54	4.47	4.47	3.90	4.22	4.21
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.53	4.39	4.49	4.01	4.24	4.26
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.63	4.45	4.48	3.56	4.32	4.28
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.37	4.24	4.45	3.73	4.17	4.03
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.37	4.25	4.49	4.01	3.97	3.90
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree						
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.64	4.58	4.56	3.87	4.40	4.26
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.46	4.48	4.49	3.93	4.28	4.15
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.73	4.53	4.61	3.76	4.50	4.28
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.71	4.68	4.67	4.34	4.48	4.46
Retention	95.1%	95.2%	97.5%	82.9%	92.9%	91.5%
Number of respondents	123	103	80	111	84	47

## District 7

### Bobbi M. Alpers Chief Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1992

**Background and Education:**

Born in Vinton, Iowa, Judge Alpers received her bachelor's degree from the University of Dubuque in 1973. She earned her master's degree in 1975 and her law degree in 1983 from the University of Iowa.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Alpers clerked for the Seventh Judicial District, served as assistant Scott County attorney, and practiced law as a sole practitioner. From 1987 to 1992, she served as a Scott County magistrate. She was appointed to the bench in 1992 and named as chief judge in 2006.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Alpers is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, National Association for Women Judges, the American Judicature Society and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

### Mark D. Cleve District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1998

**Background and Education:**

Judge Cleve was born in Davenport, Iowa. He received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from the University of Iowa. He graduated from law school, with distinction, in 1981.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Cleve served as an assistant county attorney for Black Hawk County. He was in private practice in Davenport from 1984 to 1998. Judge Cleve is an instructor and group facilitator at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Cleve coaches a Davenport Central High School mock trial team.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Cleve serves on the Iowa Judicial Branch Trial Management Committee and the Judicial Technology Committee, and is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association's Jury Instruction Committee. Judge Cleve is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and the Dillon Inn of Court.

### Thomas Reidel District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:**

Judge Reidel received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1989 and his law degree, with high distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1992.

**Career:** From 1992 to 2001, Judge Reidel was in the private practice of law in Muscatine, Iowa, with a primary focus on family law matters. He served as Muscatine County magistrate from 2009 until his appointment to the bench.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Reidel has a long history of being active in his community and is a past board member of multiple non-profit organizations and the past chairman of the Muscatine County Civil Service Commission. He currently serves on the board of directors for Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County. Judge Reidel is a past recipient of the Iowa Golden Seal Award for his dedication to ending domestic violence.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Reidel is a member of the Muscatine County Bar Association and The Iowa State

# District 7

## Judge Reidel

*Continued from previous page*

Bar Association. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and serves on the board of directors. Judge Reidel is on the Iowa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Probate Procedures.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Reidel and his wife have four children.

## Gary P. Strausser District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2005

**Background and Education:** Judge Strausser earned his bachelor's degree from Towson State University and his law degree from Drake University. He also earned his master's degree from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Drake University.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Strausser served as an assistant Clinton County attorney until 2005, and was first assistant from 1999 to 2005.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Strausser is married and has one son.

## Nancy S. Tabor District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Born in Morristown, N.J., Judge Tabor was the fourth of five children. She received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Somerset County College in 1978. In 1982, Judge Tabor graduated from Wm. Patterson University with a degree in criminal justice administration. She attended law school at the University of Wyoming, graduating in 1986.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Tabor worked as an assistant city attorney for the City of Cheyenne, Wyo. for a year. She then entered private practice in Douglas, Wyo., where she worked until 1989. During that time, she also worked as a treatment coordinator/therapist at Converse County Group Home. Judge Tabor began working in Iowa as the assistant Clinton County attorney until 1992. From 1992 to 1999, Judge Tabor worked in the private practice of law with Baty and Tabor Attorneys in Maquoketa, Iowa. She was appointed to associate juvenile judge in 1994, and served until she was appointed to district court judge in 1999.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Tabor was involved in PEO and the General

Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), serving as president of the Baldwin Woman's Club and as the Jackson County Chair for two terms. She has been active in GFWC since 1990, and remains a member of the Baldwin Woman's Club and participates in various community service and volunteer projects throughout the year. Judge Tabor has served as the Iowa State Chair of International Outreach Programs since 2010. She was the chair of the board of trustees of the United Methodist Church, and was a certified lay speaker. Judge Tabor was a troop leader and is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts USA. She was a board member for the Women's Health Services in Clinton, Iowa until 1994. Judge Tabor is also a regular donor to the Mississippi Valley Blood Bank.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Tabor is a member of the Wyoming Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association, and is admitted to practice in Iowa, Wyoming, Federal Court for Wyoming, 10th Circuit Federal Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She was a presenter at the CLE on ethics, juvenile law, and family law. From 1999 to 2010, Judge Tabor served as a designated juvenile court judge, in addition to handling regular district court duties. As a member of the Iowa Judges Association, she served on various committees and held the positions of officer, president, liaison to The Iowa State Bar Association from 2008 to 2012, and liaison to the University

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## District 7

### Judge Tabor

*Continued from previous page*

of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication/Iowa Judges Association collaboration for Courts and Media Judicial Panels since 2002. Judge Tabor has been co-chair of the Supreme Court Community Outreach Committee since 2004.

**Family and Hobbies:** Married with two children, Judge Tabor enjoys family events, Iowa wrestling, catering, walking, sewing, reading, and yard work.

### John D. Telleen District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Judge Telleen was born in Moline, Ill., in 1958, one of four children. Judge Telleen's father was also a judge. He attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., receiving his bachelor's degree, cum laude, in political science in 1980. Judge Telleen graduated from law school in 1984, with distinction, from the University of Iowa.

**Career:** Prior to his appointment, Judge Telleen was a lawyer in practice with Lane & Waterman, LLP, in Davenport, Iowa. He served as an associate from 1984 through

1989, and as a partner from 1990 until his appointment to the bench. In 1988, Judge Telleen became a certified civil mediator and was regularly asked to mediate tort, contract, and other disputes. Judge Telleen's legal career began with a broad variety of legal matters, corresponding with the duties of a new associate. These legal matters included real estate closings, drafting wills, preparing title opinions, and contract review and drafting, but the focus of Judge Telleen's work soon became civil litigation. His civil litigation practice included auto/truck accidents, medical negligence, products liability, asbestos exposure, business litigation, wrongful death, and stock broker/dealer litigation. Judge Telleen worked with a broad client base, including a number of general business and corporate clients, individuals who had been injured, individuals who sought advice concerning employment or contract matters, and companies and insurers, in Iowa and throughout the U.S., involved in large and complex environmental insurance coverage matters. Judge Telleen went on to try approximately 25 jury trials in Iowa and Illinois and argued appeals to the Iowa Supreme Court and Illinois Court of Appeals on a number of occasions.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Telleen served on the Augustana College Alumni Board of Directors from 1985 to 1987. From 1987 to 2006, he was a board member—and served as chairman—of Bethany for Children and Families, Inc., a

social service agency for children and families in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. Judge Telleen served as co-chair of the LeClaire Downtown Revitalization and Redevelopment Committee, even purchasing an historic building in downtown LeClaire that he and his wife restored, receiving the Scott County Historic Preservation Society's Award for Adaptive Reuse in 2005. In 2005, he was also named the Grand Marshall of the LeClaire Tug Fest Parade. Judge Telleen was a board member for the Blackhawk College Foundation in Moline from 2009 to 2011.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Telleen is married with one daughter, and is a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Princeton. He enjoys regular exercise, including local road races, triathlons, skiing, boating, kayaking, swimming, gardening, and fishing.





District 8A			
5 - Excellent (performance is outstanding) 4 - Good (performance is above average) 3 - Satisfactory (performance is adequate) 2 - Deficient (performance is below average) 1 - Very Poor (performance is well below average and unacceptable)	Lucy Gamon	Myron Gookin	Crystal Cronk
1. Knowledge and application of the law	4.50	4.48	4.44
2. Perception of factual issues	4.49	4.55	4.54
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.79	4.83	4.67
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.70	4.78	4.62
5. Management and control of the courtroom	4.59	4.79	4.63
6. Temperament and demeanor	4.72	4.86	4.60
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.59	4.40	4.50
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.70	4.44	4.64
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree			
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.81	4.73	4.72
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.72	4.63	4.59
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.77	4.74	4.70
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.83	4.74	4.71
Retention	97.6%	97.9%	95.4%
Number of respondents	84	47	43

## District 8A

### Crystal S. Cronk District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Cronk attended Northeast Missouri State University and received her law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1996.

**Career:** While in the private practice of law from 1996 to 2010, Judge Cronk served as assistant Van Buren County attorney from 1996 through 1999, and Van Buren County attorney from 1999 to 20006. She was appointed Van Buren County judicial magistrate from 2006 until her appointment.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Cronk is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, the District Eight Public Outreach Committee, and was a prior commission member of the Grievance Commission of the Supreme Court of Iowa. She also served as a member of the committee to study the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Cronk is currently a member of the Judicial Technology Committee.

### Lucy J. Gamon District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1993

**Background and Education:** Judge Gamon was born in Washington, Iowa and raised on a family farm with two siblings. As a high school student, she was active in 4-H, school choir, Honor Society, and the Big Brother/Big Sister program. She graduated from Washington High School in 1975 and was a National Merit scholar. Judge Gamon graduated, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Cornell College in 1979, where she wrote for the college newspaper. She received her law degree, with high distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1983. While in law school, she was a notes and comments editor for the Journal of Corporation Law.

**Career:** Judge Gamon worked for three private law firms before becoming a Bremer County magistrate in 1991. She was appointed district associate judge in 1993, serving Keokuk, Jefferson, and Washington counties. In 2010, she became a district court judge for District 8A.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** While working for a private practice law firm, Judge Gamon was President of the Waverly Chamber of Commerce. She was a

member of the American Association of University Women, and received their Young Leader Award. Judge Gamon has judged mock trial competitions at the high school, college, and law school level.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Gamon is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. She has taught for several years at the New Judges' School in Des Moines, Iowa. Judge Gamon is a member of the Eighth Judicial District Public Outreach Committee, regularly speaking to groups of students and providing courthouse tours. She has served on several committees of the Iowa Supreme Court, including the Limited Jurisdiction Committee, the Judicial Formula Assessment Committee, the Digital Audio Recording Committee, and the Small Claims Forms Committee. She has mentored three law students through the University of Iowa summer extern program, and is a regular contributor to the "Court Calls" column published in the Ottumwa Courier.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Gamon is married with three children. She enjoys reading, biking, kayaking, attending fine arts performances, and was recently appointed to the Ottumwa Community Theater Board.

# District 8A

## Myron L. Gookin District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2011

**Background and Education:** Born and raised in Fairfield, Iowa, Judge Gookin graduated from Fairfield High School, with honors, in 1976. He received his bachelor's degree, with distinction, from Iowa State University in 1980. In 1983, he received his law degree from Drake University, with honors, including Order of the Coif; Order of Barristers; Midwest & National Moot Court teams with individual honors; Moot Court Board; Rodney L. Hudson Senior Advocacy Award; Drake Law Review; and multiple American Jurisprudence Awards.

**Career:** While in law school, Judge Gookin worked as a law clerk for Davis, Hockenberg, Wine, Brown and Koehn in Des Moines, Iowa, and for Foss & Kuiken in Fairfield. From 1983 to 2011, Judge Gookin worked in general private practice, with an emphasis in trial practice, with Foss, Kuiken, Gookin & Cochran P.C. in Fairfield.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** When Judge Gookin returned to practice law in his hometown, he became very involved in community activities. At the time of his appointment to the bench, he was in his fourth term

as an at-large councilperson and serving as mayor pro tem on the Fairfield City Council. Judge Gookin chaired numerous boards and commissions at the state and local level and served in many volunteer capacities, including mentoring elementary age students and community clean-up and betterment. He has been active in his church, serving in numerous state leadership positions, and still serving as a local church lay speaker. Judge Gookin has spoken on law and justice topics to numerous local organizations and schools, and is a proponent of the judiciary's active participation in helping educate young people in the workings of government, in particular, the judicial branch.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Gookin is a member of the Jefferson County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. He serves on the Iowa Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education, the 8A Judicial District Magistrate Nominating Commission, and is a past member of the Iowa Supreme Court Limited Jurisdiction Task Force.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Gookin is married and has three children.



**District 8B**

	Cynthia Danielson	John Wright	Michael Dieterich	Mark Kruse
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)				
1. Knowledge and application of the law	3.43	3.70	3.83	4.53
2. Perception of factual issues	3.51	3.83	3.80	4.39
3. Punctuality for court proceedings	4.06	4.25	3.72	4.38
4. Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	3.74	4.22	3.76	4.42
5. Management and control of the courtroom	3.80	4.33	4.00	4.33
6. Temperament and demeanor	3.43	4.05	3.84	4.39
7. Clarity and quality of written opinions	3.46	3.75	3.83	4.48
8. Promptness of rulings and decisions	3.57	4.00	3.68	4.40
5 - Strongly Agree 4 - Agree 3 - Neither 2 - Disagree 1 - Strongly Disagree				
9. Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	3.73	4.10	4.00	4.47
10. Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	3.79	4.11	3.90	4.44
11. Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	3.64	4.15	4.00	4.44
12. Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.09	4.51	4.26	4.58
Retention	65.5%	86.8%	81.8%	97.3%
Number of respondents	58	38	33	37

## District 8B

### Cynthia H. Danielson District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1999

**Background and Education:** Judge Danielson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1972 and her law degree from the same institution in 1976.

**Career:** Judge Danielson worked in the private practice of law from 1976 until her appointment in 1999. In that time, she served in many positions, including Henry County judicial magistrate from 1981 to 1985, Henry County judicial hospital referee from 1985 to 1997, and city attorney for the cities of Mt. Pleasant, New London, and Olds.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Danielson has served on the Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Commission, the Supreme Court Task Force on Involuntary Hospitalization, and the Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Commission. She served as the Iowa delegate to the American Bar Association's National Conference of State Trial Judges from 2005 to 2008. Judge Danielson is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the National Association of Women Judges.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Danielson is married and has one child.

### Michael G. Dieterich District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2000

**Background and Education:** A proud farm kid, Judge Dieterich was born in Mason City, Iowa, one of three boys in the family. In high school, he was student body president and received the Bar Association Award. He received his bachelor's degree, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Eta Sigma, from the University of Iowa in 1973. He received his law degree from the same institution in 1976.

**Career:** From 1972 to 2000, Judge Dieterich was in the private practice of law in Burlington, Iowa, working in family law and trial work.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Dieterich has been involved in his church's council and has provided children's sermons.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Dieterich is a member of the Des Moines County Bar Association and The Iowa State

Bar Association, and presides over the Juvenile Drug Court in Judicial District 8B.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Dieterich and his wife have two sons. Judge Dieterich enjoys traveling, visiting the elderly, reading, and sports.

### Mark Kruse District Associate Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 1997

**Background and Education:** Born in Little Rock, Iowa, Judge Kruse attended Morningside College, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1980. He attended law school at the University of Iowa and graduated in 1983.

**Career:** Judge Kruse served as Appanoose County attorney and assistant Wapello County attorney. He also worked with Child Support Recovery from 1984 to 1987.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Kruse is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Kruse is married and has one child.

## District 8B

### John Wright District Judge



**Date of Appointment:** 2010

**Background and Education:** Judge Wright grew up in Fort Madison, Iowa, where he graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1982. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Iowa in 1986. After working for a year, Judge Wright attended law school at Drake University and graduated in 1990.

**Career:** After graduating from law school, Judge Wright entered the private practice of law in Fort Madison. In his private practice, Judge Wright represented people in the areas of family law, personal injury, and criminal defense. For two years, he served as an assistant Lee County attorney. Judge Wright has worked for the Executive Office of the United States Trustee. In 1997, Judge Wright and his father, George Wright, established Wright Law Firm. From 2009 until his selection as a judge, he was a partner in a Burlington law firm.

**Community Activities Prior to Appointment:** Judge Wright served as mayor of Fort Madison for five years, has served on several boards and commissions, and has spoken to many classes at the elementary and high school levels. He enjoys area

high school sporting events, and, with his coaching certificate, has coached at the high school level.

**Professional Activities: (Present Professional and Community Activities)** Judge Wright has been a member of the Lee County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. He is a member of the Public Outreach Committee for the Eighth Judicial District. Judge Wright welcomes the opportunity to speak to organizations.

**Family and Hobbies:** Judge Wright and his wife have four children.





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