



# Judicial Biographies - Districts 7 & 8A

## District 7

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### District Judge Paul L. Macek



Judge Macek was appointed to the bench in 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1973. He is a member of the Scott County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

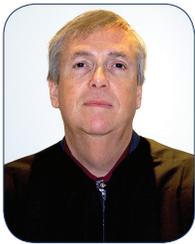
He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

### District Judge Mark J. Smith



Judge Smith, LeClaire, was appointed to the bench in 1997. Born in Davenport, Iowa, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose University in 1972 and his law degree from St. Louis University in 1975. He has experience with real estate and personal injury cases, as well as trial work as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney.

### District Judge Stuart Werling



Judge Werling, Tipton, was appointed to serve Cedar County as a magistrate in 1986 before being appointed to the district court bench in 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1980. Stuart Werling is a member of the Cedar County and Iowa State Bar Associations and has served as president of the Cedar County Bar and as a member of the Board of Governors of The Iowa State Bar Association. He is the recipient of the first Meritorious Service Award from the Iowa Judicial Branch presented in 2004.

Judge Werling is married with two children.

### District Associate Judge Phillip J. Tabor



Judge Tabor was appointed to the bench in 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Iowa in 1981. He then received his law degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1984. Judge Tabor served as an Assistant County Attorney, an Assistant Public Defender, and an Assistant Attorney General in Wyoming. In Iowa, he was elected Jackson County Attorney in 1990. He was re-elected in 1994, 1998, and 2006.

Judge Tabor is married with two children.

## District 8A

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### District Judge Joel D. Yates



Judge Yates, Sigourney, was appointed to the bench in December 2007. He received his bachelor's degree from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1986 and his law degree from the Drake University Law School in 1994. Judge Yates spent 12 years in private practice with Clements Law Firm in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Keokuk County Bar Association.

He is married with three children.



## District 7

	Paul Macek	Mark Smith	Phillip Tabor	Stuart Werling
<b>5</b> - Excellent (performance is outstanding) <b>4</b> - Good (performance is above average) <b>3</b> - Satisfactory (performance is adequate) <b>2</b> - Deficient (performance is below average) <b>1</b> - Very Poor (performance is well below average and unacceptable)				
Knowledge and application of the law	3.99	4.08	4.33	3.91
Perception of factual issues	3.99	4.08	4.40	3.98
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.38	4.29	4.40	4.27
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.25	4.12	4.32	4.17
Management and control of the courtroom	4.27	4.29	4.42	4.20
Temperament and demeanor	4.31	4.17	4.38	4.28
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.00	4.08	4.32	4.05
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.19	4.23	4.44	4.17
<b>5</b> - Strongly Agree <b>4</b> - Agree <b>3</b> - Neither <b>2</b> - Disagree <b>1</b> - Strongly Disagree				
Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.25	4.28	4.43	4.21
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.13	4.19	4.31	4.20
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.43	4.25	4.46	4.37
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.41	4.40	4.54	4.38
Retention percentage	87	87	91	88
Number of respondents	121	121	109	122