



## Judicial Biographies - District 6

### District 6

#### District Judge Lars G. Anderson



Judge Anderson, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench in July 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree from Luther College in 1992 and his law degree, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1995. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he was in private practice in Iowa City from 1995–2014 and was an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa College of Law in 2014. Judge Anderson served as an alternate Judicial Hospitalization Referee for Johnson County from 1997 to 2001 and as a Judicial Hospitalization Referee from 2003 to 2014. Judge Anderson is a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, and Dean Mason Ladd American Inn of Court.

#### District Judge Christopher L. Bruns



Judge Bruns, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench on December 17, 2014. He earned his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Drake University in 1988 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1991, Order of the Coif. After graduation from law school, Judge Bruns was in private practice with Cedar Rapids law firms until his appointment to the bench. He is a Fellow in the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and a member of ABOTA, the Linn County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judge's Association.

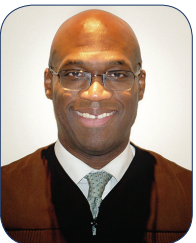
He is married and has one child.

#### District Judge Chad A. Kepros



Judge Kepros, North Liberty, was appointed to the district court bench in February 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1993 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996, with high honors. He worked as a private attorney and mediator in Iowa City beginning in 1996 and also served as a Johnson County magistrate from June 2013 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association (past Chair of the Family & Juvenile Law Section) and the Johnson County Bar Association, and previously served as Sixth District Representative in the Iowa Association of Magistrate Judges. Judge Kepros also serves on the Iowa Supreme Court Family Law Case Processing Reform Task Force and the Iowa Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Review Committee.

#### District Judge Kevin McKeever



Judge McKeever, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench on September 30, 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1991 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2001. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he was an Officer with the United States Navy (1991–1998), an Assistant Ramsey County Attorney (2001–2007), a staff attorney with ACT Inc. (2007–2011), and an Assistant Muscatine County Attorney (2011–2015). Judge McKeever serves as a board member of the African American Museum of Iowa, and he enjoys bicycle riding and reading books about history.



### District Judge Sean W. McPartland



Judge McPartland was appointed to the district court bench in 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1981, with distinction, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Tau Alpha honor societies. Judge McPartland received his law degree in 1984, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge McPartland practiced in general civil litigation with law firms in Kansas City, Missouri (1984–1989), and in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1989–2008). Judge McPartland served on the Iowa Civil Justice Reform Task Force Steering Committee from 2009–2012 and contributed to the report entitled Reforming the Iowa Justice System, Report of the Iowa Civil Justice Reform Task Force, January 30, 2012. Judge McPartland also served as a member of the Advisory Committee Concerning Certain Civil Justice Reform Task Force Recommendations beginning in 2012, with the work of the Committee leading to the adoption of 2015 amendments to the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure related to areas including required initial disclosures, discovery, and expedited civil actions. Judge McPartland also has served as a frequent speaker, including in follow-up to the work of the Task Force and Advisory Committee, and has served as a faculty member in New Judge Orientation programs presented by the Iowa Judicial Branch in years 2012–2015. Judge McPartland currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Iowa Judicial Branch New Judge Orientation program. Judge McPartland is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, The Iowa State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

### District Judge Ian K. Thornhill



Judge Thornhill, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the district court bench September 25, 2009, and began his career as a district judge October 23, 2009. He received his B.B.A., from the University of Iowa in 1989. In 1991 he received his M.B.A. from the University of Iowa, and in 1998, received his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law with high distinction. Previous professional experiences have included Assistant United States Attorney (August 2002 to October 2009), United States Navy Reserve Attorney (August 2002 to present), and United States Navy Active Duty Attorney (October 1998 to August 2002). From November 2007 to May 2008, Judge Thornhill was recalled to active duty and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Judge Thornhill is a member of The Iowa State Bar Association, the Linn County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

### District Associate Judge Jason A. Burns



Judge Burns, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench on August 18, 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree in Justice Systems from Truman State University in 1999 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2002. He was an Assistant Linn County Attorney from 2002 until his appointment to the bench. Judge Burns is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, The Iowa Bar Association, and is also on the Judicial Administration Committee of The Iowa State Bar Association.

He is married and has one child.

### Associate Juvenile Judge Susan Flaherty

Judge Flaherty, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench in 1995. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she earned her bachelor's degree from Loras College in 1980. She then went to the University of Iowa College of Law, where she received her law degree in 1983. From 1984 to 1995, Judge Flaherty served at the Linn County Attorney's Office.



# Judicial Performance Review Results

## District 6

	Lars Anderson	Christopher Bruns	Jason Burns	Susan Flaherty	Chad Kepros	Kevin McKeever	Sean McPartland	Ian Thornhill
5 - Excellent (performance is outstanding)								
4 - Good (performance is above average)								
3 - Satisfactory (performance is adequate)								
2 - Deficient (performance is below average)								
1 - Very Poor (performance is well below average and unacceptable)								
Knowledge and application of the law	4.43	4.25	4.60	4.37	4.44	3.90	4.51	4.30
Perception of factual issues	4.42	4.24	4.54	4.26	4.49	4.05	4.50	4.31
Punctuality for court proceedings	4.70	4.58	4.63	4.04	4.65	4.46	4.59	4.62
Attentiveness to arguments and testimony	4.62	4.48	4.65	4.29	4.63	4.47	4.61	4.44
Management and control of the courtroom	4.55	4.45	4.59	4.35	4.55	4.45	4.60	4.61
Temperament and demeanor	4.68	4.26	4.63	4.25	4.57	4.68	4.61	4.25
Clarity and quality of written opinions	4.46	4.28	4.51	4.24	4.55	4.00	4.46	4.26
Promptness of rulings and decisions	4.54	4.45	4.59	3.98	4.59	3.93	4.36	4.39
<p>5 - Strongly Agree</p> <p>4 - Agree</p> <p>3 - Neither</p> <p>2 - Disagree</p> <p>1 - Strongly Disagree</p>								
Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions.	4.68	4.30	4.72	4.29	4.61	4.69	4.62	4.36
Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence.	4.65	4.32	4.65	4.13	4.61	4.61	4.58	4.42
Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel.	4.77	4.35	4.74	4.27	4.66	4.75	4.63	4.32
Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability.	4.82	4.47	4.74	4.42	4.67	4.77	4.69	4.51
Retention percentage	98	89	98	94	96	97	96	95
Number of respondents	144	153	125	129	132	132	163	151