

2006

# Judicial ✓oter Guide

## Iowa Retention Elections

### **Voter Information:**

- ✓ **Answers to Questions about Retention Elections**
- ✓ **Biographies of Judges on the 2006 Iowa Ballot**

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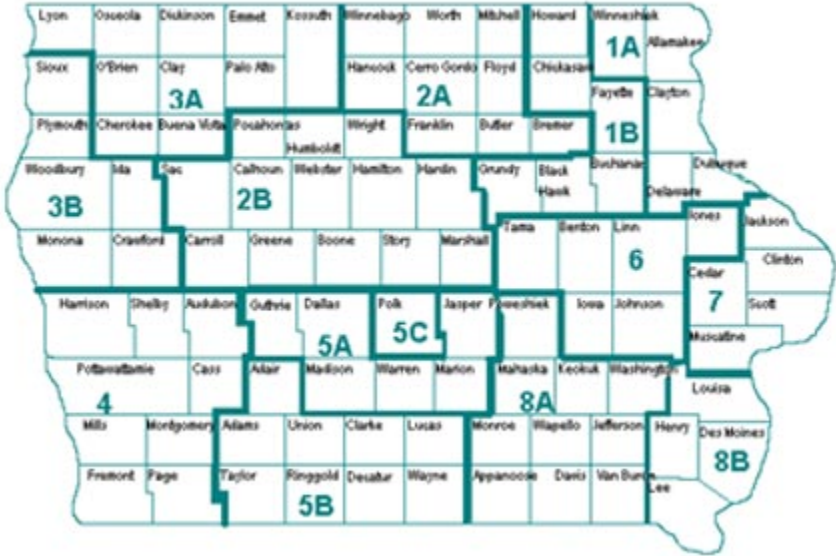
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# Retention Election Q & A

## *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?*

It is appropriate for legislators and the governor to consider public opinion and the views of special interest groups when passing laws and adopting public policy. But judges have different considerations.

- √ It is not appropriate for a judge to consider his or her personal views or public opinion when deciding cases. Judges must be neutral and follow the rule of law.
- √ A judge has a 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 and the judge may have to decline handling cases involving that issue.
- √ Judicial ethics prohibit judges from commenting about cases pending in court. This ensures that litigants receive a fair trial.

## *Is there a judicial performance evaluation?*

Yes. The Iowa State Bar Association "Judicial Plebiscite" evaluates each judge on the ballot on a wide range of attributes. The results of this evaluation are available online one month prior to the general election at [www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org)

## *How do I find a decision or ruling?*

The published decisions of the Iowa Supreme Court and Iowa Court of Appeals are readily available online at [www.judicial.state.ia.us](http://www.judicial.state.ia.us) and in libraries in books called the Northwestern Reporter 2nd. These decisions usually represent the view of the majority of judges on the court, not solely the view of the judge writing for the majority. A judge who disagrees with the majority view will indicate his or her disagreement by a written dissent.

Locating a ruling of a trial court judge is a more difficult task because of the high volume of cases. But if you know the name of the case or the case number you can ask the local clerk of court for a copy of a ruling.

# Retention Election Q & A

## *What about an unpopular court decision?*

For the following reasons, a voter may want to consider more than the outcome of one case when assessing a judge's performance.

✓ Judges must follow the rule of law and sometimes this leads to unpopular results. Under the rule of law, judicial decisions are based strictly upon the evidence presented to the court and the applicable laws set out in our statutes and constitution.

✓ If citizens disagree with a law or a judge's interpretation of a law, they can petition the legislature to change the law.

✓ 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.

✓ 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.

✓ 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. Reversal could be for any number of reasons. For instance, the higher court could be ruling on an issue for the first time or the higher court could be clarifying its earlier opinions that served as precedents for lower court.

## *What is a judicial retention election?*

Judges stand for retention election near the end of their term of office. In a retention election, judges do not have opponents. Instead, voters decide whether or not to retain a judge in office. If a judge receives a simple majority of "yes" votes, the judge may serve another full term. The regular term of office for a supreme court justice is eight years; the term for all other judges is six years.

## *Why does Iowa use judicial retention?*

In 1962, Iowa voters approved a constitutional reform that replaced the process of selecting judges by popular vote with a merit selection and retention election process. This process promotes selection of the best qualified applicants and ensures an impartial judiciary while retaining judicial accountability.



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*"Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court*

## Iowa Court of Appeals

### ***Van D. Zimmer, Vinton***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1969; JD, University of Iowa, 1972

***Career***

Following graduation from law school, Judge Zimmer served as an officer in the United States Army. After completing his tour of duty in 1973, he served as an assistant county attorney for Linn County and an adjunct college instructor. Judge Zimmer later served as an area prosecutor for the Iowa Attorney General's Office and as assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. He was also a member of a private law firm in Vinton before serving as a district court judge in the Sixth Judicial District for 13 years.

***Professional Activities***

Judge Zimmer currently serves as chair of the Iowa Judges Association's Court and Community Committee. Since 1992, he has served as assistant for the State of Iowa's Annual New Judge Orientation Program.

### ***John C. Miller, Burlington***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1969; JD, University of Iowa, 1975

***Career***

From 1975 to 1980, he was in private practice and then was a trust officer before being appointed to the district court bench. Judge Miller served as a district judge in the Eight Judicial District for eighteen years and held the position of chief judge from July 1998 until his appointment to the appellate court.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Des Moines County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

### ***Anuradha Vaitheswaran, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999.

***Education***

BA, Grinnell College, 1980; JD and MA in political science from 1975 to 1980, University of Iowa, 1984

***Career***

Judge Vaitheswaran was a law clerk to Honorable Charles R. Wolle, Iowa Supreme Court, before Wolle's 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***

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

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*"Although it may be appropriate for politicians to consider public opinion and the views of special interest groups when drafting laws and regulations, it is never appropriate for judges to do so when deciding cases. Judges are accountable to the Constitution and the law, and in this way judges are always accountable to the people."*

*former Chief Justice Louis A. Lavorato, Iowa Supreme Court*

## District 1A --District Court Judges

### ***Monica Ackley, Dubuque***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2003

#### ***Education***

BA, University of San Diego, 1986;  
JD, University of San Diego, 1990.

#### ***Career***

Judge Ackley worked as a law clerk and research assistant before going into private practice. She also served as a magistrate judge beginning in 1997.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Dubuque County, Iowa State, and California Bar Associations.

### ***John J. Bauercamper, Waukon***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1970; JD, University of Minnesota, 1973.

#### ***Career***

Judge Bauercamper practiced law privately, as well as serving as Allamakee County attorney and juvenile court referee.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He belongs to the Iowa Judges Association, the Allamakee County, Iowa State, and Minnesota State Bar Associations.

### ***Margaret Lingreen, Postville***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1991

#### ***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1974; JD, Drake University, 1977.

#### ***Career***

Judge Lingreen practiced law with a private firm and served as assistant Allamakee County attorney from 1979 to 1991.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

*"I think it's vitally important that [judicial] nominees, to use Justice Ginsburg's words, "no hints, no forecasts, no previews."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 1A --District Associate Judges

***Randal J. Nigg, Dubuque***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1989

***Education***

BA, Loras College, 1971; JD, University of San Diego, 1974.

***Career***

Practiced law in Dubuque for 15 years prior to his appointment to the bench. While in private practice he served on numerous civic boards and organizations.

***Professional Activities***

He serves on the Criminal Law and Rules Review Committee, the Courts & Community Committee, and the District Associate Judge Committee of the Iowa Judges Association and is a member of the Iowa State Bar and American Judicature Society.



*"So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case."*

*Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court*

## District 1B --District Court Judges

***K.D. Briner, Cedar Falls***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1993

***Education***

BA, Wartburg College, 1961; MA and Ph.D., University of Nebraska; and JD, University of Iowa, 1978.

***Career***

Judge Briner has worked as a high school teacher, college instructor, in private law practice, and as a public defender.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, the Jury Instruction Committee, and the Judicial Education Committee.

***Jon Fister, Waterloo***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1993

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1967; JD, University of Iowa, 1971; University of Kansas, Law and Organizational Economics Center, Economic Institute for State Judges, 1997.

***Career***

Judge Fister taught criminal procedure in the Police Science Department at Iowa Western Community College and practiced law with a firm in Page County for one year and then practiced with a firm in Black Hawk County for over 20 years. Before his appointment to the bench, he served as Dunkerton city attorney and as an assistant to the Waterloo and Independence city attorneys.

***Professional Activities***

Judge Fister is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Courts and Community Committee of the Judges Association. He serves as assistant chief judge for the First Judicial District, as Black Hawk County administrative judge and chairs the Black Hawk County Magistrate Appointing Commission. He previously chaired the First Judicial District Civil Case Processing Workshop Group.

***Kellyann Lekar, Waterloo***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

***Education***

BA, Iowa State University, 1990; JD, University of Iowa, 1993.

***Career***

Judge Lekar was in private practice prior to her appointment to the bench.

***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Associations.



*"Senator, my answer is that the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court requires that nominees before this committee for a position on that court not forecast, give predictions, give hints about how they might rule in cases . . . ."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 1B --District Court Judges

***Bruce B. Zager, Waterloo***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1975; JD,  
Drake University, 1980.

***Career***

Judge Zager spent 18 years in private  
practice and served part time as a  
Black Hawk Assistant County  
Attorney for 12 years.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges  
Association, the Iowa State and the  
Black Hawk County Bar Associa-  
tions.



*"Judges have to be careful not to inject their own views into the interpretation of the Constitution and, for that matter, into the interpretation of statutes. That's not the job that we are given."*

*Court Justice Samuel Alito, U. S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 1B --District Associate Judges

### ***Nathan A. Callahan, Cedar Falls***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1979; JD, Lewis and Clark, 1984.

#### ***Career***

Judge Callahan served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1972 to 1976. After graduating from law school, he worked as a legal assistant/clerk for the City of Kenai, Alaska, in municipal law from 1983-1984; as a district attorney for the Alaska Attorney General's office from 1985 to 1991 and in private practice from 1992-1996. He worked in the public defender's office from 1996 until his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa State, the Black Hawk County and the Alaska Bar Associations.

### ***Jeffrey L. Harris, Grundy Center***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1997

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Minnesota, 1974; JD, University of Iowa, 1977.

#### ***Career***

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

#### ***Professional Activities***

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

### ***Joseph Moothart, Cedar Falls***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1985

#### ***Education***

BA, Creighton University, 1972; JD, University of Nebraska, 1977.

#### ***Career***

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

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Associations.

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*"We don't turn a matter over to a judge because we want his view about what the best idea is, what the best solution is. It is because we want him or her to apply the law."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 2A --District Court Judges

*Jon Stuart Scoles, Mason City*

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986; chief judge, 2005.

***Education***

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1973; JD, University of Iowa, 1979.

*James M. Drew, Hampton*

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, Arizona State University, 1982; JD, University of Iowa, 1985.

***Career***

Judge Drew was in private practice from 1986-1999, and served as Franklin County attorney from 1988-1994.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa State Bar Association.

*Bryan H. McKinley, St. Ansgar*

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1973; JD, Drake University, 1976.

***Career***

Judge McKinley clerked for the Iowa Court of Appeals, worked in private practice, and served as assistant Mitchell County attorney.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He was awarded the certificate of merit from the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Abuse.

*"The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises."*

*Alfred Carlton, Jr., President, 2002-2003 American Bar Association*

## District 2B --District Court Judges

### ***Carl D. Baker, Marshalltown***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1981

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1968; JD, University of Iowa, 1971.

#### ***Career***

Judge Baker was in private practice from 1971 to 1978 and served as Marshall County attorney from 1975 to 1976. In 1979, he became a district associate judge.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He belongs to the Iowa Judges Association and was a member of the Judicial Conduct Committee.

### ***Dale E. Ruigh, Ames***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1981

#### ***Education***

BA, Iowa State University, 1971; JD, University of Iowa, 1974.

#### ***Career***

Judge Ruigh was in private practice in Ames and served as a judicial magistrate prior to his appointment.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Blackstone Inn of Court, the Iowa Judges Association, and the American Judicature Society. Judge Ruigh received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Judges Association in 1998.

*"Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action."*

*Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court*

## District 2B --District Court Judges

### ***Joel E. Swanson, Carroll***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992

#### ***Education***

L.L.B., University of Iowa, 1967.

#### ***Career***

Judge Swanson served in the Iowa National Guard from 1964 to 1969. Judge Swanson practiced law in Lake City and served as Calhoun County attorney before his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

### ***Kurt L. Wilke, Fort Dodge***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Minnesota, 1970;  
JD, University of North Dakota,  
1974.

#### ***Career***

Judge Wilke practiced law with a private firm and served as Webster County magistrate.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a board member on the Iowa Judges Association and a member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

*"The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises."*

*Alfred Carlton, Jr., President, 2002-2003 American Bar Association*

## District 2B --District Associate Judges

***Lawrence E. Jahn, Ames***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

***Education***

BA, University of Illinois, 1972; MA, University of Illinois, 1976; JD, University of Iowa, 1982.

***Career***

Judge Jahn practiced law with a private firm and served as Story County magistrate from 1994 through 2005.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Story County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

***Steven J. Oeth, Ogden***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1997

***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1978; JD, Drake University, 1982.

***Career***

Judge Oeth worked as the Boone County attorney from 1984 to 1997. He also practiced law privately from 1986 to 1997.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

***Kim M. Riley, Marshalltown***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

***Education***

BA, Sioux Falls College, 1985; JD, University of South Dakota, 1988.

***Career***

Judge Riley served as a law clerk for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in South Dakota. Later, she worked for the Iowa Department of Commerce, Banking Division, and she served as Assistant County Attorney, Child Support Recovery Division in Carroll County. She was also supervising attorney of the Marshalltown Public Defender's Office.

***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

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*"We don't turn a matter over to a judge because we want his view about what the best idea is, what the best solution is. It is because we want him or her to apply the law."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 3A --District Court Judges

### ***David A. Lester, Spirit Lake***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1998

#### ***Education***

BA, Augustana College, 1978; DDS, University of Iowa College Of Dentistry, 1982; JD, University of Iowa, 1990.

#### ***Career***

Judge Lester was a practicing dentist from 1982 to 1988 in Estherville. He was a practicing attorney in Estherville from 1991 until appointed to the bench in 1998. He served as Emmet County judicial hospitalization referee from February 1991 and as assistant city attorney for Armstrong, Iowa, from 1991 until his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He serves as the judicial consultant to the Integrated Services Pathways Program administrative board in his sub-district.

### ***Nancy L. Whittenburg, Spencer***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2004

#### ***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1980; JD, Drake University, 1986.

#### ***Career***

Judge Whittenburg had been in private practice of law since 1988. Prior to her appointment, she served as Clay County magistrate since 1989.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Clay County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations.

*"Results-oriented jurisprudence is never justified because it is not our job to try to produce particular results. We are not policy-makers and we shouldn't be implementing any sort of policy agenda or policy preferences that we have."*

*Justice Samuel Alito, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 3A --District Associate Judges

***Donald J. Bormann, Ruthven***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

***Education***

BA, University of South Dakota, 1964; JD, University of South Dakota, 1966.

***Career***

Judge Bormann served as a clerk to Axel J. Beck, Federal Judge; worked as a legal aid on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota; and was in general private practice in Emmetsburg, Iowa, for 32 years.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the American Bar, the Iowa State and the Palo Alto County Bar Associations.

***Donavon D. Schaefer, Aurelia***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1989

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1975; JD, University of Iowa, 1979.

***Career***

Judge Schaefer served in the United States Army. He practiced law in Cherokee and Aurelia, Iowa, before serving as Cherokee County judicial magistrate.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the District Associate Judges Committee



*"Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action."*

*Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court*

## District 3B --District Associate Judges

***Robert J. Dull, LeMars***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1993

***Education***

BA, Yale University, 1969; JD, Drake University, 1973.

***Career***

Judge Dull served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1976, spending six of those years with the Judge Advocate General Corps. He also worked as Plymouth County Attorney, General Courts-Martial Prosecutor, legal instructor at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and in private practice.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association Legislative Committee.

***Todd Hensley, Sioux City***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

***Education***

BS, Morningside College, 1984; JD, University of Iowa, 1988.

***Career***

Judge Hensley previously served as first assistant public defender for Woodbury County.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Woodbury County and the Iowa State Bar Associations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors and is co-chair of the District Associate Judges Committee of the Iowa Judges Association.

***Timothy T. Jarman, Sioux City***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1997

***Education***

BA, Loras College, 1977; JD, University of Iowa, 1980.

***Career***

Judge Jarman served as assistant Woodbury County attorney, assistant U.S. attorney, and worked in private practice for seven years.

***Professional Activities***

Judge Jarman is a member of the Woodbury County and the Iowa State Bar Associations.

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*"Pleasing the crowds has never been what this [court] system strives for. Within our own individual abilities, we first aim to do right and by doing right we strive to serve the law-be it our constitution, the statutes enacted by the other two branches of government, or our own case precedent. We strive to serve the law whether we agree with it or not. . . ."*

*former Chief Justice Blatz, Minnesota Supreme Court*

## District 4 --District Court Judges

### ***J. C. Irvin, Shenandoah***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1980

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1964; JD, University of Kansas, 1967.

#### ***Career***

Judge Irvin practiced law in Des Moines and Shenandoah prior to his appointment to the bench. He served as Page County attorney prior to his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State and the American Bar Associations. He is a past president of the Iowa Judges Association.

### ***James M. Richardson, Audubon***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1972; JD, University of Iowa, 1975.

#### ***Career***

Judge Richardson was in private practice from 1975 to his appointment to the bench. He also served as city attorney for Audubon (1975-1978), Bayard (1982-1986), and Coon Rapids (1980-1986).

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is president of the Iowa Judges Association for 2005-2006 and is involved with the Iowa State Bar Association as Bench Bar Co-Chair for 2003-2006. He is past president of the Southwest Iowa Bar Association. He was Fourth Judicial District Drug Court Judge from 2003 to 2005.

### ***Gregory W. Steensland, Council Bluffs***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1973; JD, Drake University, 1976.

#### ***Career***

Judge Steensland was in private practice for fifteen years and served in the public defender's office for fourteen years.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State and the Pottawattamie County Bar Associations. He was actively involved in establishing a Drug Court in Pottawattamie County.

*"[I]n this country we accept decisions of judges, even when we disagree on the merits, because the process itself is vastly more important than any individual decision. . . . Americans understand that no system is perfect and no judge immune from error, but also that our society would crumble if we did not respect the judicial process and the judges who make it work."*

*Theodore Olson, journalist*

## District 4 --District Associate Judges

**Mark Eveloff, Council Bluffs**

**Date of Appointment:** 1996

**Education**

BA, University of Iowa, 1971; JD, Creighton University, 1974.

**Career**

Judge Eveloff has served as assistant city attorney for Des Moines, assistant county attorney for Polk county and practiced law at a firm from 1983 to 1995.

**Professional Activities**

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the District Associate Judges Committee and the Juvenile Judges Association.

**Kathleen A. Kilnoski, Council Bluffs**

**Date of Appointment:** 1996

**Education**

BA, Grinnell College, 1981; JD, University of Iowa, 1985.

**Career**

Judge Kilnoski worked as assistant city attorney for Council Bluffs until her appointment to the bench.

**Professional Activities**

She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa Bar Association, Juvenile Court Committee of the Iowa Judges Association, committee leader and member of several work groups of the Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project, and member and past officer of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.

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*"The foundation of a constitutional democracy is impartial courts-courts adjudicating civil and criminal cases free from political and other influences. Consistent standards and principles guide the decisions of impartial courts."*

*Chief Justice Thomas Stover, Ohio Supreme Court*

## District 5A --District Court Judges

***Darrell Goodhue, Carlisle***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

***Education***

BA, Simpson College, 1962, summa cum laude; JD, Drake University, 1964, Order of the Coif.

***Career***

Judge Goodhue served in the United States Army Reserves and the United States Navy Reserves. He went into general practice and worked as Warren County attorney and Indianola city attorney.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa and American Bar Associations and he served on the Iowa Judges Association Nominating Committee.

***Peter A. Keller, Ackworth***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

***Education***

Prelaw, Iowa State University and the University of Utah; JD, Drake University, 1963.

***Career***

Judge Keller served with the United States Air Force Reserve, as judge advocate, and practiced law in Orlando, Florida, and Dallas Center, Iowa, before his appointment. He remained in the Air Force Reserve and retired in 1994 after thirty years of service.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Upon his retirement from the Air Force Reserve he was awarded the Legion of Merit by the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1994.

*"The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises."*

*Alfred Carlton, Jr., President, 2002-2003 American Bar Association*

## District 5A --District Associate Judges

***Virginia Cobb, Dallas Center***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1978; JD, Drake University, 1982.

***Career***

Judge Cobb has served as assistant county attorney, instructed at Grand View College and was in the private practice of law. In 1995 she was appointed Dallas County Magistrate.

***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the bar and achieved Order of the Barristers.

***Richard Clogg, Indianola***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, Simpson College, 1971; JD, Drake University, 1974.

***Career***

Judge Clogg was in private practice for 25 years prior to his appointment.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

*"Judges have to be careful not to inject their own views into the interpretation of the Constitution and, for that matter, into the interpretation of statutes. That's not the job that we are given."*

*Court Justice Samuel Alito, U. S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 5A --District Associate Judges

### ***Thomas Mott, Newton***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1980

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa 1972; JD, University of Iowa, 1975.

#### ***Career***

Judge Mott has served in the United States Navy. After graduation from law school he entered the private practice of law in Newton.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association and the American Judicature Society.

### ***Kevin A. Parker, Indianola***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

#### ***Education***

BA, Gannon University, 1977; JD, Drake University, 1979.

#### ***Career***

Judge Parker served as law clerk to the Honorable James P. Denato in 1980. 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. He practiced law with a firm from 2003 until his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State and Warren County Bar Associations.

*"We don't turn a matter over to a judge because we want his view about what the best idea is, what the best solution is. It is because we want him or her to apply the law."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 5C --District Court Judges

### ***Eliza J. Ovrom, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

#### ***Education***

BA, Coe College, 1975, magna cum laude; JD, University of Iowa, 1979.

#### ***Career***

Judge Ovrom previously worked as the first assistant Polk County attorney.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the American Bar, Iowa State, and Polk County Bar Associations, the Polk County Women Attorneys Association, C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court, Child Support Advisory Committee, district director for the National Association of Women Judges, and is chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Iowa Judges Association.

### ***Donna L. Paulsen, West Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1970, with distinction; JD, University of Iowa, 1975, with distinction.

#### ***Career***

Judge Paulsen maintained a private practice for seventeen years and was a partner in the firm of Lynch, Dallas, Smith & Harman and later Grefe & Sidney.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She served as President of the Iowa Judges Association and on the Board of Governors of the: Iowa State Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of Iowa, and National Association of Women Judges. She was a member of the Iowa Attorney General's Task Force on ADR and the Iowa Supreme Court Commission on Planning for the 21st Century. She is a fellow in the American Bar Foundation and an emeritus member of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

### ***Artis Reis, West Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1995

#### ***Education***

BS, University of Iowa, 1969; M.S.W., University of Iowa, 1976; and J.D. with distinction, University of Iowa, 1976.

#### ***Career***

Judge Reis worked in state government, taught at Drake Law School, and was in private practice for nine years prior to her appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

Judge Reis was named an Honorary Barrister by the Order of Barristers, and she received the Iowa State Bar Association Community Service Award in 2001. In 2000, she received the Friend of Children Award from the Iowa School Social Workers Association. Judge Reis was formerly the presiding Judge for Peer Review Court and the Truancy Court Judge for Polk County.

*"So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case."*

*Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court*

## District 5C --District Associate Judges

### ***Gregory D. Brandt, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1997

#### ***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1984; JD, Drake University, 1987.

#### ***Career***

Judge Brandt worked as a law clerk for the Eighth Judicial District until 1988. He also was Polk County assistant attorney from 1988 to 1995, at which time he worked as an associate at a law firm until his appointment.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Polk County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. Other professional organizations that he is involved with include the Iowa Judges Association and the American Judges Association.

### ***Carol L. Coppola, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2001

#### ***Education***

BA, Creighton University, 1973; JD, Drake University, 1980, graduated with honors, Order of Coif.

#### ***Career***

Judge Coppola had been in private practice for twenty-one years. She served on many committees including the Client Security Commission, Polk County Family Law Committee, and the Polk County Grievance Committee.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa State and Polk County Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association.

### ***Carol S. Egly, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

#### ***Education***

BA, St. Olaf College, 1971; JD, Drake University, 1974.

#### ***Career***

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 prior to her appointment.



*"Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action."*

*Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court*

## District 5C --District Associate Judges

***Louise M. Jacobs, Des Moines***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2001

***Education***

BS, University of Minnesota, 1972, with distinction; JD, Drake University, 1981, Order of the Coif.

***Career***

Judge Jacobs has served as assistant city attorney for Des Moines and was also in private practice. She also served as a magistrate in Polk County.

***Professional Activities***

Judge Jacobs is a member of the Polk County and Iowa Bar Associations, the Polk County Women Attorney Association, and the National Association of Women Judges.

***William A. Price, Ankeny***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2001

***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1970; JD, Drake University, 1972.

***Career***

Judge Price has worked as a trust officer, an assistant Polk County attorney and most currently in general private practice. He served in the Iowa National Guard from 1970-1976.

***Professional Activities***

Judge Price is a member of the Iowa State and the Polk County Bar Associations.

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*"I think it's vitally important that [judicial] nominees, to use Justice Ginsburg's words, "no hints, no forecasts, no previews."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 6 --District Court Judges

### **David M. Remley, Anamosa**

**Date of Appointment:** 1993; chief judge since 2001.

#### **Education**

BA, Lawrence University, 1966; JD, University of Iowa, 1969.

#### **Career**

In addition to private practice, Judge Remley has served as assistant Jones County attorney and Jones County attorney.

#### **Professional Activities**

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and a charter member of the Dean Mason Ladd Chapter of American Inn of Court, Master of the Bench. He served on the Grievance Commission and the Probate Rules Committee of the Iowa Supreme Court. He was co-chair of the Iowa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Branch Redistricting.

### **David L. Baker, Cedar Rapids**

**Date of Appointment:** 2004

#### **Education**

BA, University of Iowa, 1975; JD, University of Iowa, 1979.

#### **Career**

Judge Baker was in private practice for twenty-five years before his appointment to the bench.

#### **Professional Activities**

He is a member of the Linn County and the Iowa State Bar Associations, American Inns of Court, Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association.

### **Marsha M. Beckelman, Cedar Rapids**

**Date of Appointment:** 2003

#### **Education**

BA, Illinois State University, 1979; JD, University of Iowa, 1988.

#### **Career**

Judge Beckelman served as assistant city attorney for Hiawatha and Lisbon and was in private practice from 1999 until her appointment.

#### **Professional Activities**

She is a member of the American, the Iowa State, and the Linn County Bar Associations and has served on several judicial committees.

*"Judges must not test the winds of public opinion before entering a decision. They are bound by their oath of office to render decisions based on the constitution and statutory law. When there is dispute about the meaning or application of a law, judges turn to well-established legal principles to guide their decisions. This is the rule of law."*

*former Chief Justice Arthur McGiverin, Iowa Supreme Court*

## District 6 --District Court Judges

### ***Kristin L. Hibbs, Iowa City***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1987

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Northern Iowa, 1969; JD, University of Iowa, 1977.

#### ***Career***

Judge Hibbs was an assistant Johnson County attorney from 1978 to 1980. From 1980 to 1987 she was in private practice and was also an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa College of Law teaching Trial Advocacy during this time. She served as a magistrate from 1981 to 1983 and conducted the annual training for Iowa county attorney legal interns from 1981 to 1987.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Johnson County Bar Association, the American Judicature Society and the National Association of Women Judges.

### ***Douglas S. Russell, Iowa City***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

#### ***Education***

BA, Grinnell College, 1971; JD, University of Iowa, 1978.

#### ***Career***

Judge Russell served in the United States Army. He was an assistant Johnson County attorney from 1978 to 1980 and in private practice from 1980 to his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

### ***Mitchell E. Turner, Cedar Rapids***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005.

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Minnesota, 1976; JD, University of Iowa, 1979.

#### ***Career***

Judge Turner was in private practice for twenty-six years before being appointed to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Linn County and the Iowa State Bar Associations, and the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association.

*"Judges, as other citizens, have personal beliefs. When citizens come to courts to serve as jurors, we instruct them to set aside their personal beliefs and decide cases based on the law and the facts. The same is true for judges, who take an oath to do just that."*

*Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court*

## District 6 --District Associate Judges

### ***Fae Hoover-Grinde, Cedar Rapids***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2003

#### ***Education***

BA, Cornell College, 1987; JD, University of Iowa, 1990.

#### ***Career***

Judge Hoover-Grinde has served as a public defender in Cedar Rapids and a Legal Service Corp. staff attorney.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Linn County Bar Association and the National Association of Women Judges.

### ***Sylvia Lewis, North Liberty***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1982

#### ***Education***

BA, Coe College, 1971; JD, University of Iowa, 1974.

#### ***Career***

Judge Lewis was in private practice with Legal Services of Iowa from 1974 until her appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She has chaired the Supreme Court Committee of Juvenile Rules of Procedure and has served on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, the Council on Chemically Exposed Infants and Children, and the Juvenile Laws Committee. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the National Association of Women Judges, and the Johnson County Bar.

### ***Jane F. Spande, Cedar Rapids***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1985

#### ***Education***

BS, Mankato State University, 1972; JD, University of Iowa, 1977.

#### ***Career***

Judge Spande was an assistant Linn County attorney from 1977 to 1985. From 1979 to 1985 she also maintained a private law practice.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. She remains actively involved in the Partnership for Safe Families in Cedar Rapids.

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*"So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case."*

*Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court*

## District 7 --District Court Judges

### ***Bobbi M. Alpers, Davenport***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992; chief judge in 2006.

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Dubuque, 1973; MA, University of Iowa, 1975; JD, University of Iowa, 1983.

#### ***Career***

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.

#### ***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, 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, Davenport***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1998

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1977; JD, University of Iowa, 1981.

#### ***Career***

Judge Cleve served as assistant county attorney for Black Hawk County. He was in private practice in Davenport, from 1984 to 1998.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, the Iowa Judges Association, and the Dillon Inn of Court.

### ***James E. Kelley, Bettendorf***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1981

#### ***Education***

BA, University of Notre Dame, 1963; JD, University of Iowa, 1966, Order of the Coif; Masters in Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada-Reno and National Judicial College in 1993.

#### ***Career***

James Kelley went into private practice with a law firm in Davenport for 15 years prior to his appointment to the bench.

#### ***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association (President 1996-97; Judicial Education Committee, 1987 to present); the American Bar Association, Judicial Division; the Conference of State Trial Court Judges (Jury Standards Committee and Jury Management Committee, 1994-97); and the Iowa Judicial Council Subcommittee on Records Management and Retention (chair).

*"Senator, my answer is that the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court requires that nominees before this committee for a position on that court not forecast, give predictions, give hints about how they might rule in cases . . . ."*

*Chief Justice John Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 7 --District Court Judges

***\*John A. Nahra, Bettendorf***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1985

***Education***

BA, DePaul University, 1975; JD, Creighton University, 1978.

***Career***

In 1978 Judge Nahra began serving as assistant Scott County attorney and then went into private practice from 1979 to 1985 and served as substitute hospitalization referee. He served as chief judge of the 7th District from 1997 through 2003.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member and past president of the Iowa Judges Association; serving on Juvenile Law, Board of Directors, Criminal Laws, Judicial Administration and Technology, and Legislative Policy/Pension Committees. He belongs to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; American Judicature Society; American, Iowa State, and Scott County Bar Associations. In 1992 he received the Friend to Children Award of the Iowa Coalition for Children and Family Services in Iowa; in 1997, Award of Merit of the Iowa Judges Association; in 2006 the Children's Voice Award of the Iowa Foster Care Review Board and the Iowa Court-appointed Advocate Association.

\* retired October 2006

***Charles H. Pelton, Clinton***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1974

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1962; JD, University of Iowa, 1966.

***Career***

In addition to practicing law, Judge Pelton served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1966 to 1972 and chaired the OSHA Review Commission for one year.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, and sat on the board of directors at the National Center for State Courts.

*"Judges have to be careful not to inject their own views into the interpretation of the Constitution and, for that matter, into the interpretation of statutes. That's not the job that we are given."*

*Court Justice Samuel Alito, U. S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 7 --District Court Judges

***David H. Sivright, Jr., Clinton***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1992

***Education***

BA, University of Kansas, 1966; JD, University of Kansas, 1969.

***Career***

Judge Sivright practiced law with a private firm in Clinton before being appointed to the bench.

***Professional Activities***

He belongs to the Clinton County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He serves on the Judicial Ethics and Courts and Community Committees of the Iowa Judges Association. He was awarded the key to the City of Clinton in 1989 and the Reeves Gold Key Award from the Clinton Community School District in 1990.

***Nancy S. Tabor, Maquoketa.***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, William Paterson College of New Jersey, 1982; JD, University of Wyoming, 1986.

***Career***

Judge Tabor served as assistant city attorney in Cheyenne, Wyoming, (1986-1987) and in private practice in Wyoming (1987-1989). She served as assistant Clinton County attorney (1989-1992). She was in private practice from 1992 to 1999 in Iowa. She was appointed as associate juvenile judge in 1994.

***Professional Activities***

She served on the Supreme Court Task Force for Juvenile Court Improvement Project. She serves on the Iowa Judges Association Courts and Community Committee and is currently the co-chair of the Judicial Branch Public Outreach Steering Committee. She is a member of the Iowa and the Wyoming Bar Associations and an ISBA mediator.

*"The politician is beholden to the people, but the judge is beholden to the law. Qualities of a good judge reside not in constituent service, but in intellect, character and sound judgment. A judge is valued for a capacity to discern, not on politics or promises."*

*Alfred Carlton, Jr., President,  
2002-2003 American Bar Association*

## District 7 --District Associate Judges

***Mary E. Howes, Davenport***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

***Education***

BA, Drake University, 1979; JD, University of Iowa, 1982.

***Career***

Judge Howe has worked as assistant Scott County attorney, and Scott County magistrate.

***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Scott County Bar Association and the Dillon Inn of Court.

***Douglas C. McDonald,  
Bettendorf***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1988

***Education***

BA, University of Colorado; JD, Drake University, 1963.

***Career***

Judge McDonald was the Labor Relations Representative in Hawaii and California and a practicing attorney in Davenport six years prior to his appointment.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State and the Scott County Bar Associations.

***John G. Mullen, Davenport***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1986

***Education***

BA, University of Illinois, 1971; JD, Drake University, 1974.

***Career***

Judge Mullen worked for the Iowa Attorney General's Office until 1978. He then went into private practice from 1978 to 1986.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



*"Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action."*

*Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court*

## District 7 -- District Associate Judges

***Gary P. Strausser, Wilton***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2005

***Education***

BA, Towson State University, 1988;  
MA, Drake University, 1992; JD,  
Drake University, 1992.

***Career***

Judge Strausser was an assistant  
Clinton County attorney from 1992  
until his appointment to the bench.  
He was the First Assistant from 1999  
to 2005.

***Arlen J. Van Zee, Camanche***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1975

***Education***

BA, Central College, 1970; JD,  
University of Iowa, 1973, graduating  
with distinction.

***Career***

After graduation, Judge VanZee  
worked in the law firm of Pelton and  
VanZee.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Clinton  
County and the Iowa State Bar  
Associations, and Iowa Judges  
Association. He serves on the  
Juvenile Laws Committee in the  
Judges Association and also the  
Supreme Court Advisory Committee  
on Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

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*"So be wary of judicial candidates who take positions on issues, because they cannot deliver on their promises. Answers to issues questionnaires or any campaign promises are not likely to tell you anything useful about how a judge will decide a case, or whether a judge will be able to sit on a case."*

*Chief Justice Michael Wolff, Missouri Supreme Court*

## District 8A --District Court Judges

### **James Q. Blomgren, Oskaloosa**

**Date of Appointment:** 1998; chief judge in 2001.

#### **Education**

BA, University of Iowa 1969; JD, University of Virginia, 1972.

#### **Career**

After graduation, Judge Blomgren was an attorney for the United States Department of Agriculture for two years and then in private practice from 1973 until 1998.

#### **Professional Activities**

He serves on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure, and is a member of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Iowa Defense Council Association.

### **E. Richard Meadows, Jr., Ottumwa**

**Date of Appointment:** 1998

#### **Education**

BA, James Madison University, 1974; M.Ed. and certification, James Madison University, 1976; JD, Drake University, 1985.

#### **Career**

Judge Meadows served in the United States Coast Guard from 1968 to 1972. After law school he worked as assistant county attorney for Wapello County and was in private practice with a firm. He was appointed to be a district associate judge in 1989.

#### **Professional Activities**

He is a member of the Wapello County, District 8A, and Iowa State Bar Associations as well as the Iowa Judges Association.

*"Results-oriented jurisprudence is never justified because it is not our job to try to produce particular results. We are not policy-makers and we shouldn't be implementing any sort of policy agenda or policy preferences that we have."*

*Justice Samuel Alito, U.S. Supreme Court,  
speaking at his confirmation hearing*

## District 8A --District Associate Judges

***Lucy J. Gamon, Sigourney***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1993

***Education***

BA, Cornell College, 1979, graduated Phi Beta Kappa; JD, University of Iowa, 1983, with high distinction.

***Career***

Judge Gamon worked for several law firms from 1983 until 1993 as well as serving as a Bremer County magistrate for two years.

***Professional Activities***

She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa State and Keokuk County Bar Associations. She has served as a member of the Iowa Court Improvement Project, and on the faculty of the school for new judges.

***Michael R. Stewart, Grinnell***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1989

***Education***

BA, Grinnell College, 1966; JD, University of Texas, 1973.

***Career***

Judge Stewart served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1969. He was in private practice from 1973 to 1989.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

*"Pleasing the crowds has never been what this [court] system strives for. Within our own individual abilities, we first aim to do right and by doing right we strive to serve the law-be it our constitution, the statutes enacted by the other two branches of government, or our own case precedent. We strive to serve the law whether we agree with it or not. . . ."*

*former Chief Justice Blatz, Minnesota Supreme Court*

## District 8B --District Court Judges

***Cynthia H. Danielson, Mount Pleasant***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1999

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1972; JD, University of Iowa, 1976.

***Career***

Judge Danielson worked in private practice from 1976 until her appointment in 1999. In that time she served many positions, Henry County Judicial Magistrate (1981 - 1985), Henry County Judicial Hospital Referee (1985 - 1997), and City Attorney for the cities of Mt. Pleasant, New London, and Olds.

***Professional Activities***

She has served on the Supreme Court Grievance Commission, the Supreme Court Task Force on Involuntary Hospitalization, and the Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Commission. Iowa delegate to the ABA's National Conference of State Trial Judges (2005 - 2008). She is a member of the American and Iowa State Bar Associations, Iowa Judges Association and the National Association of Women Judges.

*"Judicial independence, as it relates to judges and courts, envisions decisions based only on the legal merits, not on the most popular or politically expedient course of action."*

*Chief Justice Bell, Maryland Supreme Court*

## District 8B --District Associate Judges

***Michael G. Dieterich,  
Burlington***

***Date of Appointment:*** 2000

***Education***

BA, University of Iowa, 1973; JD,  
University of Iowa, 1976.

***Career***

Judge Dieterich practiced law in  
Burlington before his appointment  
to the bench.

***Professional Activities***

He is a member of the Des Moines  
County and Iowa Bar Associations.

***Mark Kruse, Burlington***

***Date of Appointment:*** 1997

***Education***

BA, Morningside College, 1980; JD,  
University of Iowa, 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***

He is a member of the Iowa Judges  
Association and the Iowa State Bar  
Association.

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