



Judges Standing for Retention

General Election

November 3, 2026

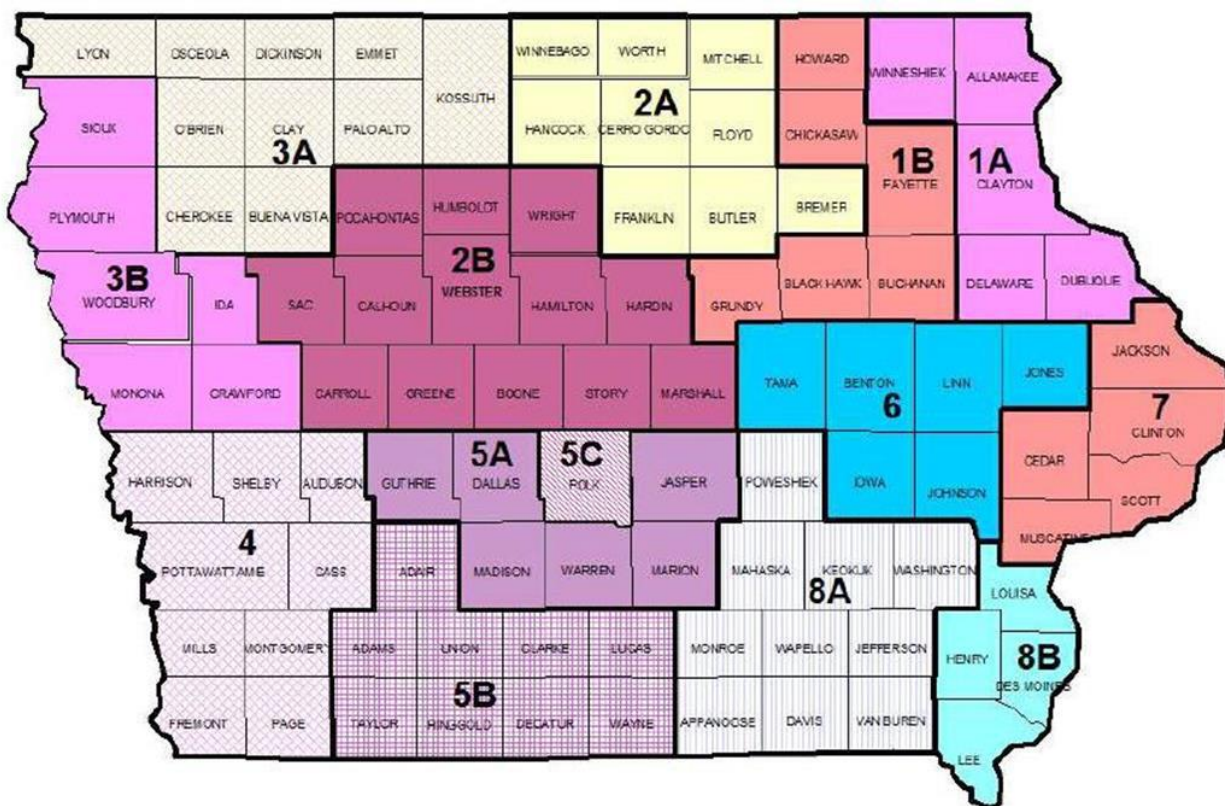
Introduction

There are 87 judges statewide that will appear on the 2026 general election ballot for a retention vote. This document provides information about these judges.

Iowa Code Section 46.20, Declaration of candidacy, states that a judge who is required to stand for retention may file a declaration of candidacy with the state commissioner of elections at least 104 days before the general election preceding expiration of the term of office. If a judge fails to file the declaration, the office shall be vacant at the end of the term.¹

The Office of Iowa Secretary of State provided a report with the final list of judges on the general election ballot this November.

Iowa is divided into eight judicial districts. A chief judge, who is selected by the Iowa Supreme Court, heads each district.



Included in this information is the political party affiliation for each judge. Also included is the primary election history, since it identifies the ballot type: (D)emocratic or (R)epublican. The two major political parties have very different views on abortion, as documented in their respective state party platforms.

¹ <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code//46.pdf>

The 2026 Iowa Democratic Party platform has not been published online.² The 2024 Democratic Party platform states under “Reproductive Rights & Family Planning”, “We support:” “Codifying Roe v. Wade” (line 761), and “Full-funding for comprehensive-family-planning-programs/providers/PP” (line 763). Under “Acronyms Used in This Section”, “PP - Planned Parenthood”. The 2024 Democratic platform is available at:

<https://iowademocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Final-State-Platform-Report-2024.pdf>

The 2026 Iowa Republican Party platform states under the “Life” section, “1. We believe that life begins at conception and must be protected to natural death.”, and “2. We oppose using public revenues for abortion or funding organizations which advocate it.” The 2026 Republican platform is available at:

https://iowagop.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2026/06/2026_State_Platform_FINAL.pdf

Additionally, political contributions made from a judge are summarized, since these contributions may indicate support for Democratic or Republican candidates or organizations. This contribution information is recorded in the:

- Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (IECDB) website at <https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicReports/searchable-database>
- Federal Election Commission (FEC) website at <https://www.fec.gov/data>

Finally, court opinions written or joined by a judge that are related to protecting the unborn are identified. These opinions are found on the Iowa Courts website at:

<https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts>

² <https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/iowa-democrats-unsupported-claims-hide-205530027.html>

Judges Standing for Retention

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

None

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

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JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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District 2B

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District 3A

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District 3B

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District 4

Craig M. Dreismeier	Council Bluffs	29
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District 5A

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District 5B

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Samantha J. Gronewald	Des Moines	40
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Celene M. Gogerty	Des Moines	43
Joseph W. Seidlin	Des Moines	44
Coleman J. McAllister	Des Moines	45
Christopher R. Kemp	Des Moines	46

District 6

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Michael J. Harris	Iowa City	48
Mark D. Fisher	Cedar Rapids	49

District 7

Joel W. Barrows	Davenport	50
Mark R. Lawson	Maquoketa	51
Henry W. Latham, II	Davenport	52
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District 8A

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District 8B

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Mark T. Hostager	Dubuque	60
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District 2A

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District 2B

Stephen A. Owen	Nevada	68
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District 3A

Kristi J. Busse	Spencer	70
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District 3B

John C. Nelson	Sioux City	72
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Daniel P. Vakulskas	LeMars	74
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District 4

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District 5A

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District 6

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District 7

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District 8A

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District 8B

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Thomas J. Straka	Dubuque	95
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ASSOCIATE PROBATE JUDGES

None

Iowa Court of Appeals Judges



Sharon Soorholtz Greer

Judge Soorholtz Greer, Marshalltown, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in April 2019. She received double undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Child Development from Iowa State University and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Before her appointment, Judge Soorholtz Greer practiced law with Cartwright, Druker & Ryden in Marshalltown. Judge Soorholtz Greer is co-chair of the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure Task Force and serves on the Iowa State Bar Association Jury Instruction Committee. She is co-chair of the Iowa Children's Justice Advisory Committee and serves on several workgroups examining child representation and data. Judge Soorholtz Greer is also a member of the Iowa Adult Criminal Drug Treatment Court Standards Revision Committee. Previously, she co-chaired the Iowa Rules of Evidence Task Force.

Judge Soorholtz Greer is a fellow in the American College of Trial Attorneys, a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and a member of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. She also holds membership in the Iowa Judges Association, the Marshall County Bar Association, and the Iowa State Bar Association. She is a recipient of the University of Iowa Law Review Distinguished Alumni Award.

Judge Soorholtz Greer was born in 1955 and grew up on the family farm in Marshall County, Iowa. She is married, with two daughters and three granddaughters. Her current term expires December 31, 2026.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2018 (D), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate, 2 to Republican candidates, 1 to No Party (NP) candidate & 5 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 2 to Democratic candidates & 2 to Republican candidates

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

Iowa Court of Appeals Judges



Julie A. Schumacher

Judge Schumacher, Schleswig, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in August 2019. She was raised in rural Sioux County, Iowa. Judge Schumacher earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in 1990, with a double major in communications and English. She was awarded her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1993.

Judge Schumacher spent nearly 20 years in private practice in Denison, Iowa. She also served as a prosecutor for Crawford County, as an assistant city attorney for Denison and as a hospitalization referee. She was selected as a district associate judge for the Third Judicial District in December 2012 and appointed to the district court bench in January 2017.

Judge Schumacher is a member of the Business Advisory Committee for the Electronic Document Management System and the chair of the Expedited Rules of Appellate Procedure Task Force. She has previously served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission, the Iowa Supreme Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission, as a past co-chair of the Judicial Technology Committee, and as a past co-chair of the Family First Task Force. She has served as a faculty member for new judge orientation, as a grade examiner for the Iowa bar exam, and has been a frequent presenter for continuing legal education on the topics of juvenile law, family law, and ethics.

Judge Schumacher is a member of the Crawford County Bar Association, the Iowa Judges Association, and the Iowa State Bar Association. Judge Schumacher was born in 1967. Her current term expires December 31, 2026.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2020 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

Iowa Court of Appeals Judges

	John M. Sandy Judge Sandy, Spirit Lake, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2024. Judge Sandy earned his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of St. Thomas in 2007. He attended the University of St. Thomas School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Law & Public Policy and graduated with Dean's honors in 2010. After law school, Judge Sandy served as a First Assistant Public Defender for the State of Minnesota and was a share holder and managing partner at Sandy Law Firm, P.C. where he maintained a trial practice. In March 2021, he was appointed a district court judge. He was raised and graduated from high school in Spirit Lake. Judge Sandy is a member of the Iowa and Minnesota State Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Sandy was born in 1984. His current term expires December 31 2026. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 8 to Republican candidates & 2 to Republican county committees • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 1A Court Judges



Alan T. Heavens

Judge Heavens was appointed to the bench in February 2019. He graduated cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in 2007 and then from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2010. During law school he worked as a research assistant for a professor writing an article about Abraham Lincoln and the power of brevity. The article later became part of a book on effective communication.

Judge Heavens was elected Clayton County Attorney in 2010 and served in that capacity until his judicial appointment. When he was county attorney, he also practiced law at a small firm in the areas of civil litigation, family law, real estate, probate, contracts, and personal injury. He was President of the Clayton County Bar Association for six years and is now the administrative judge for Allamakee County and Clayton County.

Judge Heavens is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, Iowa Bar Association, and Clayton County Bar Association. He frequently speaks to students and community groups and has received an award from writing expert Bryan Garner for excellence in judicial writing.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 9 to Republican candidates & 10 to Republican county committees
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1B Court Judges



Joel A. Dalrymple

Judge Dalrymple was appointed to the bench in 2012. He was born and raised in Waterloo, Iowa, and graduated magna cum laude in 1993 from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. In 1996, he earned his law degree from Drake University Law School. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Dalrymple worked in the Black Hawk County Attorney's Office where he was promoted to First Assistant in 2006.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 to Credit Union PAC (Iowa Credit Union League)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2A Court Judges



Colleen D. Weiland

Judge Weiland was appointed to the bench in 2007. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1991 and graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1994. Judge Weiland previously engaged in the private practice of law in Mason City and instructed at North Iowa Area Community College and Buena Vista University. She served as Cerro Gordo County Magistrate for ten years before being appointed to the district court. Judge Weiland is a member of the Iowa State and Cerro Gordo County Bar Associations.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate & 6 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 2 to Democratic National Committee (2004)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2A Court Judges



Christopher C. Foy

Judge Foy was appointed to the bench in December of 2007. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa in 1984. He graduated with High Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1987. Judge Foy practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1987 - 1991, and in Waverly from 1991 - 2007. Judge Foy is a member of the Bremer County, District 2A and Iowa State Bar Associations.

Judge Foy is married. He and his wife have four children and three grandchildren. Over the years, Judge Foy has been active in a variety of community service organizations. He presently serves as the treasurer of the Waverly – Shell Rock Community Schools Foundation.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 7 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2A Court Judges



DeDra L. Schroeder

Judge Schroeder was appointed to the district bench in May of 2012. Judge Schroeder graduated from the University of Iowa in 1991 and earned her law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1994. Judge Schroeder practiced law in private practice until her appointment to the district bench and served as a judicial magistrate from 2005 - 2012. She is a member of the Iowa and 2A Bar Associations.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2A Court Judges



Gregg R. Rosenblatt

Assistant Chief Judge Rosenblatt was appointed as a District Associate Judge in August 2008, and as a District Judge in August 2012. He earned his AA degree from Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa in 1982, his BA degree from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1984, and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1987. Judge Rosenblatt practiced law in a private firm from 1987 to 1989, and then was an Assistant County Attorney in Cerro Gordo County from 1989 until 2008. He is a member of the Iowa State and Cerro Gordo County Bar Associations.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic county committee
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2B Court Judges



Bethany J. Currie

Judge Currie was appointed to the bench in 2018. She earned her undergraduate degree from Augustana College in 2000 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2003. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Currie was a Law Clerk for the Honorable Linda R. Reade, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Iowa from 2003 to 2005. She was in private practice at Peglow, O'Hare & See, PLC, in Marshalltown from 2005 to 2018 and served as Marshall County Magistrate. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Marshall County Bar Association, and Story County Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2B Court Judges



Angela L. Doyle

Judge Doyle was appointed to the bench in 2011 as district associate judge. In 2018, she was appointed as district court judge. She earned her undergraduate degree from Creighton University in 1982, graduating summa cum laude, and her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1984, graduating magna cum laude. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Doyle served as a Law Clerk for the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court. She was in private practice in Omaha, Nebraska, and Fort Dodge, Iowa, for twenty-six years. Judge Doyle is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Webster County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2B Court Judges

	Amy M. Moore Chief Judge Moore was appointed to the district court in April 2019. She graduated from Iowa State University in 1999 and earned her law degree from Creighton University in 2002. Prior to her appointment, Judge Moore was a trial attorney with the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho and was also in private practice. She previously served as the Story County magistrate. She is a member of the Iowa State and Story County Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found..
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District 2B Court Judges



Christopher C. Polking

Judge Polking was appointed to the bench in 2019. He earned his undergraduate degree from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts in 1994, and his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 2001. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Polking was in private practice and also served as a Magistrate Judge for Carroll County. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Carroll County Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2B Court Judges



Ashley M. Sparks

Judge Sparks was appointed to the bench in 2023. She earned her undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University in 2007. She earned her master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of Northern Iowa in 2011 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2013. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Sparks served as the Boone County magistrate and was in private practice at Sparks Law, PLLC. She is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: None found

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 3A Court Judges



Carl J. Petersen

Judge Petersen was appointed to the bench in 2012. He was born and raised in Hartley, Iowa. Judge Petersen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1990 and his law degree from Hamline University in 1993. He practiced law in Atlantic, Iowa from 1993-2000 and served as the Cass County Magistrate Judge from 1997-2000. Judge Petersen served as the Lyon County Attorney from 2000-2012. He served as the President of the Iowa County Attorney Association in 2007.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 3A Court Judges

	Charles K. Borth Judge Borth was appointed as district judge in June of 2018. He served as district associate judge since his appointment to the bench in October, 2009. He served as Assistant Clay County Attorney and was in private practice in Spencer since 1997. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mankato State University in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1995. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2016 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found..
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District 3A Court Judges



Andrew Justin Smith

Judge Smith was appointed district associate judge in 2018 and district judge in 2024. He served as magistrate for Calhoun County from 2016 to 2018. He graduated from Truman State University in 1995 with a BA in Communications and from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1998 with High Distinction. Judge Smith clerked for the 5th Judicial District before entering private practice in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is a member of the Iowa Bar and the Buena Vista Bar, where he served as president from 2001 to 2004.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 3A Court Judges

	Adam Marvin Miller Judge Miller was appointed to the bench in November 2024. He received his undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2007 and his Juris Doctorate from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (now Texas A&M University School of Law) in 2010. Prior to his appointment, Judge Miller was in private practice in Fort Worth, Texas from 2010 to 2015, and then in private practice in Cherokee, Iowa from 2015 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar and the State Bar of Texas. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2020 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3B Court Judges



Tod Jerome Deck

Judge Deck began judicial service as a Woodbury County Magistrate on November 3, 2014. He was then appointed District Court Judge in 2017. He attended West High School in Sioux City and graduated magna cum laude from Morningside College in Sioux City in 2003 with a B.A. in American History. He attended Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville and graduated with a degree of Juris Doctor in 2006. Judge Deck was admitted to the Iowa State Bar in 2006 and was a partner at Deck Law, LLP prior to his appointment to the bench. He is part of the third generation of lawyers in his family to practice law in Sioux City. He was admitted to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa in 2007 and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in 2009.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 3B Court Judges



Zachary S. Hindman

Judge Hindman was appointed to the bench in August 2018. He earned his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, from Morningside College in 2007. He attended the Drake University School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Drake Law Review, and he graduated Order of the Coif and ranked first in his class in 2010. After law school, Judge Hindman served as a law clerk to the Honorable Steven M. Colloton, circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He then worked in private practice in Sioux City until his appointment.

Judge Hindman is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Woodbury County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 4 Court Judges

	Craig M. Dreismeier Chief Judge Craig M. Dreismeier was appointed as District Court Judge on October 19, 2018. Prior to his appointment, he served as a District Associate Judge commencing on December 30, 2010. On July 2, 2024, following the retirement of Chief Judge Jeffrey Larson, he was selected as the Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial District and has continued to serve in this capacity since. Judge Dreismeier received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1989. In 1992, he earned his law degree from Creighton University. From 1992 until 2010 he was in private practice working not only in Council Bluffs but all Southwest Iowa. He also served as an assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney from 1995-1996. Judge Dreismeier is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 3 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Judges

	Margaret J. Reyes Judge Margaret Reyes was appointed to the bench on October 19, 2018. Judge Reyes is a 1993 graduate of Creighton University School of Law and a 1990 graduate of Creighton University. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Reyes worked as an Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney in charge of the office's Civil Division between 2003 to 2018 where she served as legal counsel to the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, elected county officials and department heads and handled civil litigation matters for the county and an ever-increasing caseload of postconviction cases on behalf of the State of Iowa. Judge Reyes is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and Southwest Iowa Bar Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 2 to Republican candidates & 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Judges



Michael Donn Hooper

Judge Hooper was appointed to the bench in January 2019. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hooper was the Cass County attorney. In private practice, he worked primarily as a criminal defense attorney. He graduated with a BA in Sociology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received his J.D. from Creighton School of Law. He is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the 4th District Bar Association.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2020 (R), 2018 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Republican candidate & 8 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 4 Court Judges

	Amy L. Zacharias Judge Zacharias was appointed to district associate judge in December 2015 and district court judge in March 2019. She received her BSBA from Creighton University in 1998 and her Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in 2001, magna cum laude. She clerked for Judge John Irwin with the Nebraska Court of Appeals from 2001 to 2003. Judge Zacharias served as an Associate with Childs & Hall, P.C. in Harlan from 2003 to 2005, and served as Assistant County Attorney in the Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office from 2005 to 2015. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Judges

	Justin R. Wyatt Judge Wyatt, Mills County, was appointed District Court Judge in 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from Creighton University in 1998 and his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in 2003. Judge Wyatt was appointed district associate judge in 2022. Prior to his appointment, he had been in private practice in southwest Iowa since September of 2003. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Republican candidate • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Judges

	Donna K. Bothwell Judge Bothwell was appointed District Judge in June 2024. She served as District Associate Judge from March 2022 until her appointment. She received her undergraduate degree from Colorado University in 2002 and her Juris Doctorate from Drake University School of Law in 2005, with honors. Judge Bothwell was an attorney with the Iowa Legal Aid's Council Bluffs office prior to opening a solo practice in 2015. She is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2020 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5A Court Judges



Thomas P. Murphy

Judge Murphy, Dallas County, was appointed to the bench in 2017. In 1985, Judge Murphy received his undergraduate degree as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Marquette University. Judge Murphy then served four years on active duty in the United States Army. In 1992, he received his law degree with Honors from Drake University Law School. Judge Murphy practiced law for twenty-five years prior to his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State and Dallas County Bar Associations.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate & 2 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5A Court Judges



Michael K. Jacobsen

Judge Jacobsen, Jasper County, was appointed to the bench in June 2018. He received his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from South Dakota State University in 1990 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake in 1993. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Jacobsen was in private practice for Diehl, Clayton & Jacobsen (1990-1996), assistant Jasper County Attorney (1996-2009), and Jasper County Attorney (2009-2018). He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 13 to Democratic candidates & 6 to Democratic county committees
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5A Court Judges



Nicholas Alan Bailey

Judge Bailey, Dallas County, was appointed as a District Court Judge in 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree in history from Yale University, and his law degree with High Honors from Drake University Law School. Judge Bailey was in private solo practice for 15 years before taking the bench in 2025. He practiced in both the state and federal courts of Iowa, as well as the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as a contract attorney for the State Public Defender in eleven counties in the Fifth Judicial District. Judge Bailey is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County and Dallas County Bar Associations, the District 5B Bar Association, and the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5B Court Judges



Elisabeth S. Reynoldson

Judge Reynoldson, Clarke County, was appointed to the bench in July 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1989, graduating with honors, and her JD with Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law. Her past experience includes a private practice in Osceola from 1992-2002 and 2013-2019. She was the Clarke County Magistrate from 2001-2002, Clarke County Attorney from 2002-2006, and Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division, from 2007-2013. Judge Reynoldson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Blackstone Inn of Court, District 5B Bar Association. She received the Iowa State Bar Association's Award of Merit in 2024, President's Award in 2018 and the YLD Award of Merit in 2004.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate, 10 to Republican candidates & 11 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 1 to Republican Party of Iowa (2000)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5C Court Judges



Lawrence P. McLellan

Judge McLellan, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2012. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 from Drake University. He received his law degree from Drake University in 1983. In 2006 he earned a masters in law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in dispute resolution. Upon graduation from law school in 1983 he clerked for the Honorable Ronald E. Longstaff, United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. He was with the law firm of Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C. from 1984-2000 engaged in a general civil litigation practice. From 2000 until 2012 he was with the law firm of Sullivan & Ward, P.C. also engaged in general civil litigation and mediation. He is a member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations. He is an Honorary Member of the Order of the Barristers. He is a member of the Iowa Judges' Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate, 1 to Republican candidate & 1 to Public Safety for Polk County (ballot issue)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5C Court Judges

	Samantha J. Gronewald Judge Gronewald, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in December 2017. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2000 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2003. Judge Gronewald was in private practice before her appointment. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 12 to Republican candidates • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Judges

	Sarah E. Crane Judge Sarah E. Crane, Polk County, was appointed as a District Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District, based in Des Moines, Iowa, in June 2018. Judge Crane was also appointed as a member of the Iowa Business Specialty Court in November 2019. She received her bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2004 and her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 2007. After starting out in private practice at a firm in Chicago, she returned to Iowa and served as a law clerk for the Iowa Supreme Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Crane was in private practice at the Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, and Polk County Women Attorneys. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2016 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 2 to Democratic candidates & 3 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Judges

	Scott J. Beattie Judge Scott J. Beattie, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2018. He received his bachelor's degree from Cedarville College in 1989 and his law degree with honors from Drake University in 1992. Before taking the bench, Judge Beattie served on active duty with the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Des Moines, and as a partner with the law firm of Peddicord Wharton LLP. Judge Beattie is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 2 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Judges



Celene M. Gogerty

Judge Celene Gogerty, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2018. A proud East High alum, she earned her bachelor's degree from Drake University's College of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1992 and then graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa Law School in 1995. She served as a prosecutor with the Linn County Attorney's Office and the Polk County Attorney's Office until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of many organizations, including the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, and the Polk County Women Attorneys.

Political Party: None found

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 5 to Democratic candidates
- FEC - 1 to Democratic candidate (2016)

Court Opinion(s): On May 2, 2018, the Iowa Legislature passed SF 359, known as the "Fetal Heartbeat" Bill. Governor Reynolds signed the bill on May 4, 2018. The District Court for Polk County entered summary judgment and a permanent injunction in favor of Planned Parenthood on January 22, 2019. The United States Supreme Court in Dobbs overruled Roe and Casey in June 2022, along with nearly a half-century of precedent based on these holdings. On August 11, 2022, the State of Iowa filed a motion to dissolve the permanent injunction issued on January 22, 2019. The State argued that Dobbs constituted a substantial change in the law that justifies the dissolution of the existing permanent injunction because no right to an abortion exists under Iowa's Constitution or the federal constitution. In Case No. EQCE083074, District Court for Polk County, Judge Celene Gogerty denied the motion, concluding it has not been established that the court has any authority, inherent or based on the rules of civil procedure, which allows it to retain jurisdiction in order to dissolve the permanent injunction in this case.

District 5C Court Judges



Joseph W. Seidlin

Judge Seidlin, Polk County, was appointed as a District Court Judge in November 2018, after serving as a District Associate Judge since August 2013. Before that, he served as a Polk County Magistrate for 8 years. Judge Seidlin attended Drake University where he received his undergraduate degree in 1982 and his law degree in 1985. He was in private practice for 28 years before taking the District Associate bench in 2013. Judge Seidlin is a member of the Polk County and Iowa Bar Associations, as well as the C. Edwin Moore and Jack Levin Inns of Court.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): The legislature passed the fetal heartbeat statute on July 11, 2023. Governor Reynolds signed the bill on July 14. In Case No. EQCE089066, the Iowa District Court for Polk County, Judge Joseph Seidlin, issued an order granting a temporary injunction on July 17, 3-days after the statute became effective. In Case No. 23-1145, the Supreme Court of Iowa held that Planned Parenthood is not entitled to a temporary injunction blocking enforcement of the fetal heartbeat statute. The Supreme Court reversed the order granting the temporary injunction and remanded the case for the district court to dissolve the temporary injunction.

District 5C Court Judges



Coleman J. McAllister

Judge McAllister, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in April 2019. He received his undergraduate degree in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1990 and his J.D. from the University of Missouri Law School in 1993. Before his appointment to the bench, he worked as the Judicial Law Clerk Fifth Judicial District of Iowa from 1993-1995, then working for four years in private practice, and 20 years as a prosecutor including serving as Sioux County Attorney from 2007-2014, and as Area Prosecutor with the Iowa Attorney General's Office from 2014 until his appointment. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

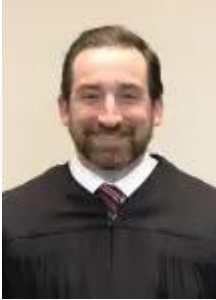
- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5C Court Judges

	Christopher R. Kemp Judge Kemp, Polk County, was appointed as a District Judge in January 2024, after serving as a District Associate Judge since July 2019. He received his Political Science degree from Carleton College in 2006 and his law degree from Drake University in 2009. He is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Polk County Bar Association. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Republican candidate • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 6 Court Judges



Jason D. Besler

Judge Besler was appointed to the bench on June 21, 2018. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Luther College in 1996 and his law degree with Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1999. In law school he served as Student Legal Services Co-Director from 1998-1999, where he was awarded the University of Iowa Faculty Award for Client Service. After law school, and prior to appointment, Judge Besler was an Assistant Linn County Attorney from 2000-2018 and was in private practice from 1999-2000. While serving as an Assistant Linn County Attorney, he served on the Child Protection Center Case Review Committee and Elder Abuse Task Force. He was also awarded the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Outstanding Service Award in 2018. Judge Besler is a graduate of the course on General Jurisdiction offered by the National Judicial College. Judge Besler has served on the Jury Trial Logistics Committee for the 6th District, he has also served on the Domestic Violence, Access to Justice, and Elder Abuse Committees for the American Judges Association. Most recently Judge Besler served four years on the Iowa Judges Association Board, serving as President of the Board from 2024-2025. Judge Besler is a current member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Linn County Bar Association, American Judges Foundation, and Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 30 to Republican candidates, 20 to Republican county committees, 9 to Republican Women, 1 to Iowa PAC for Life & 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 1 to Republican candidate (2002), 1 to Susan B Anthony List (2012) & 3 to Republican Party of Iowa (2007)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 6 Court Judges



Michael John Harris

Judge Harris was appointed to the District Court Bench on January 19, 2024. He earned his BBA in Finance from the University of Iowa in 2003, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2007. After graduating from law school, Judge Harris served as a Judicial Law Clerk in the 3rd Judicial District of Minnesota from 2007-2010. Judge Harris was then in private practice from 2010-2014. In 2015 he began serving as an Assistant Linn County Attorney, where he remained until his appointment to the bench.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 6 Court Judges



Mark D. Fisher

Judge Mark D. Fisher was appointed to the District Court Bench on February 21, 2024. He earned his Associate of Science in Business Administration from Des Moines Area Community College in 2002, his Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies from Arizona State University in 2004, summa cum laude, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa in 2007, high distinction. After graduating from law school, Judge Fisher was in private practice from 2007-2024 and served as a Linn County Magistrate from December 2018 until his appointment to the bench.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges



Joel W. Barrows

Judge Barrows was appointed to the bench in 2012. After being raised in Folletts and Camanche, Iowa, he received a bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1983, a master's degree in history from Southern Illinois University in 1986, a law degree from Drake University in 1989, and a master of laws degree in international and comparative law, with distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1993. Prior to appointment to the bench, Judge Barrows served as a child support recovery attorney for Clinton, Jackson and Cedar Counties, an Assistant Polk County Attorney in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in both Des Moines and Davenport, Iowa. He is a member of the Scott County and Iowa State Bar Associations, as well as the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2016 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 to Democratic candidates, 2 to Republican candidates & 3 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 1 to Republican candidate (2008)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges



Mark R. Lawson

Judge Lawson was appointed to the bench in 2013. He was born in Davenport, Iowa. He is a 1976 graduate of St. Ambrose College and obtained a law degree from Drake University in 1979. He was in private practice in Maquoketa, Iowa from 1979- 2013. He also served as a Jackson County Magistrate from 2010 until his appointment to the district court bench. He is a past board member of the Jackson County Conservation Board and the Maquoketa Area Community Foundation. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Jackson and Clinton County Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 to Democratic candidates
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges



Henry W. Latham, II

Chief Judge Latham was appointed to the bench in 2013 and named chief judge in 2023. Judge Latham has been a lifetime resident of Scott County. After graduating from West High School he continued his education at St. Ambrose College and ultimately obtained his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Judge Latham maintained a general law practice prior to being appointed to the bench.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges



Patrick A. McElyea

Judge Patrick McElyea, was appointed to the bench in 2017. He received his undergraduate degree in History and Political Science from Central College and his law degree from Drake University Law School. He previously served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Iowa, and as an Assistant County Attorney in Iowa, Wapello, and Scott Counties. He is a member of the Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 6 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges

	Tamra J. Roberts Judge Roberts was appointed to the District Court Bench in 2019. She previously served as a magistrate in Cedar County in 2014-2019. She earned her bachelor's degree from Central College in 2003 and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2009. She is a member of the Cedar County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association. Prior to her court appointment, she was in private practice, and she served as Assistant Attorney General and Cedar County Attorney. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2020 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Republican candidate & 6 to Republican county committees • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 7 Court Judges



Jeffrey C. McDaniel

Judge McDaniel, Scott County, was appointed to the bench in 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1990 and then his law degree also from the University of Iowa College of law in 1993. Prior to his appointment, Judge McDaniel was engaged in the private practice of law in the Quad Cities. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Muscatine County Bar Association, and Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 4 to Republican candidates
- FEC - 1 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 7 Court Judges

	Elizabeth O'Donnell Judge O'Donnell was appointed to the bench in 2024. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loras College in 2010 graduating with honors and her law degree from University of Iowa College of Law in 2013. Prior to her appointment, she worked in private practice and served as an Assistant Black Hawk County Attorney and Assistant Scott County Attorney. She is a member of the Muscatine County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 8A Court Judges



Dustin D. Hite

Judge Hite, Mahaska County, was appointed to the bench in 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree from Central College in 2006, and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2009. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Hite was a partner at the Heslinga Law Firm in Oskaloosa, where he practiced law since 2009. He was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 2019 until 2023, and he also served as Mayor of the City of New Sharon from 2012 until 2018 and in 2024. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Mahaska County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 25 to Republican candidates & 4 to Republican county committees & 1 to Republican Party of Iowa
- FEC - 1 to Republican candidate, 3 to Republican Party of Iowa & 1 to WinRed (fundraising platform for Republican Party)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 8A Court Judges

	Amber L. Thompson Judge Thompson, Keokuk County, was appointed to the bench in 2025. She earned her undergraduate degree from Mount Mercy College in 2004 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2007. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Thompson clerked for the Iowa Court of Appeals, was in private practice at the Stravers Law Firm in Oskaloosa, served as Mahaska County Magistrate Judge from 2015-2018 and as the Keokuk County Attorney from 2019 until her appointment to the bench. Judge Thompson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Keokuk County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judge's Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 2 to Republican county committees • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 8B Court Judges



Wyatt P. Peterson

Judge Peterson was appointed to the bench in August of 2018. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 2000 and his law degree with honors from Drake University Law School in 2003. During his final year at Drake Law School, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law. Judge Peterson was in private practice in Burlington from 2003 through 2006. He served as Assistant Washington County Attorney from 2006 until 2010. In 2010, he established a private practice in Winfield and was also appointed as a part-time Magistrate for Henry County in January of 2017, both of which he continued until his appointment as a District Court Judge.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1A Court Associate Judges



Mark T. Hostager

Judge Hostager was appointed to the bench in 2013. He received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Luther College. In 1988, he graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law and also received a MBA degree. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hostager taught for a year at the University of Northern Iowa and subsequently worked as an Assistant County Attorney in Dubuque. He is a member of the Dubuque County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 to Democratic candidates & 1 to Credit Union PAC (Iowa Credit Union League)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1A Court Associate Judges



Stephanie C. Rattenborg

Judge Rattenborg was appointed to the bench in August of 2013. Prior to her appointment, she served as a magistrate in Delaware County since 1996. Judge Rattenborg graduated from the University of Iowa in 1990 with her bachelor's degree and earned her law degree from Drake University in 1994. She graduated with distinction and has worked at two Iowa law firms. She is a member of the Delaware County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Rattenborg serves on the Iowa Judges Association Education Committee, as well as the Magistrate Modernization Committee and the Small Claims Task Force. She has also served on the District Judicial Support Staff Needs Committee and the Benchbook Committee.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2016 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1B Court Associate Judges

	Linnea M. Nicol Judge Nicol was appointed to the bench in 2018. She received her undergraduate degree from Luther College in 1987 and her law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1990. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Nicol served as a Staff Attorney at the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa, now known as Iowa Legal Aid, and the Juvenile Public Defender's Office, Waterloo, Iowa. She is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Association of Counsel for Children, the Iowa Judges Association, and the Iowa State Bar Association. She serves as the co-chair of the Iowa Children's Justice Advisory Committee. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 5 to Democratic candidates & 6 to Democratic county committees • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 1B Court Associate Judges



Patrice J. Eichman

Judge Eichman was appointed to the bench for Black Hawk County in May 2018. She received her undergraduate degree in 1986 and her JD from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1989. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Eichman served as Assistant Public Defender in the State of Iowa Public Defender's office, Director of Admissions for the State Bar of Nevada, Assistant Bar Counsel for the State Bar of Nevada and Courtroom Clerk for the Northern District Court of Iowa. She is a member of the State Bar of Iowa and the State Bar of Nevada.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - 1 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns)

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1B Court Associate Judges

	Michelle Jungers Judge Jungers was appointed to the bench in 2024 as a District Associate Judge in District 1B. She earned her undergraduate degree from Buena Vista University in 2004 and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2007. Judge Jungers worked for many years for Iowa Legal Aid and served as Managing Attorney of the Waterloo office of Iowa Legal Aid from 2015-2021. She was in private practice at Jungers Law PLLC from 2021 until her appointment to the bench. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 3 to Democratic candidates • FEC - 1 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 2A Court Associate Judges

	Karen R. Salic Judge Karen Kaufman Salic was appointed to the bench in 2013. She earned her undergraduate degree from Buena Vista College in 1998) and her law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1998. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Salic was in private practice in Clear Lake from 1998 to 2000, an assistant county attorney in Hancock and Kossuth Counties from 2000-2001, and Hancock County Attorney from 2001 to 2013. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2022 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 2A Court Associate Judges



Adam David Sauer

Judge Sauer was appointed as a District Associate Judge effective February 23, 2018. He received his Business Administration degree from Grand View College in 2004 and his law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2008. After receiving his law degree, Judge Sauer was in private practice until 2008. He then served as Winnebago county attorney and Assistant Worth county attorney until his appointment to the bench. Judge Sauer served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission Attorney Disciplinary Board from 2011-2017.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2022 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 4 to Republican candidates & 1 to Republican county committee
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 2A Court Associate Judges

	Mark Alan Milder Judge Milder, covering Bremer, Butler, and Franklin Counties, was appointed to the bench in 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from The University of Northern Iowa, as an economics major. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2002. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was an associate attorney with Correll, Sheerer, Benson, Galles, Engels, and Demro from 2002 to 2007. He was in private practice as a sole practitioner from 2007 until 2024, practicing primarily as counsel for parents and children in juvenile court and criminal defense. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, District 2A Bar Association, and Bremer County Bar Association. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 16 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 2B Court Associate Judges

	Stephen Alec Owen Judge Owen is an Iowa native, United States Army veteran, husband, and father. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Drake University. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he practiced law from offices in Central Iowa. Judge Owen has also worked as an adjunct professor and lecturer. He has held memberships in and has volunteered for several community, youth, conservation, legal, and charitable organizations. Judge Owen is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2018 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 2B Court Associate Judges

	Joseph L. Tofilon Judge Tofilon was appointed to the bench in 2019. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2002 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2005. Judge Tofilon served as an assistant county attorney and worked in private practice. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Webster County Bar Association. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: 2018 (D), 2014 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate & 16 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3A Court Associate Judges

	Kristi J. Busse Judge Kristi Busse, Spencer, was appointed to the bench in 2024. She earned her undergraduate degree from Buena Vista University in 2004 and her law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2008. Judge Busse was employed at the Clay County Attorney's Office from 2009-2024, serving as both an Assistant County Attorney and County Attorney during that time, and as an associate at Zenor & Houchins from 2009-2013. She has one child. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 2 to Republican candidate & 1 to Republican county committee • FEC - 1 to WinRed (fundraising platform for Republican Party) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3A Court Associate Judges

	Jennifer Bennett Finn Judge Bennett Finn was appointed as a district associate judge in August of 2025. She received her undergraduate degree from Drake University in 2002 and her Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 2006. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Bennett Finn was in private practice in Estherville. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2020 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate & 1 to Democratic county committee • FEC - 2 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) (2016) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3B Court Associate Judges



John C. Nelson

Judge Nelson was appointed to serve Woodbury County in 1997 as a magistrate. He was appointed district associate judge in 2006. He attended the University of Iowa, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1987 and his law degree in 1991. He has worked at the Sioux City Legal Department, Woodbury County attorney's office and was in private practice. Nelson has served as a member of the Woodbury County Civil Service Commission.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 3B Court Associate Judges

	Mark C. Cord Judge Cord was appointed to the bench in 2018. He earned his B.B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1988 and his law degree from the University of South Dakota in 2005. Prior to his appointment, Judge Cord worked in private practice as a partner in a Sioux City law firm and was licensed to practice law in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and Woodbury County Bar Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2016 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3B Court Associate Judges

	Daniel P. Vakulskas Judge Daniel Vakulskas was appointed to serve Woodbury County in 2017 as a magistrate. He was appointed district associate judge in 2018 and serves Plymouth and Sioux counties. Judge Vakulskas graduated from the University of Iowa with his undergraduate degree and received his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law at Vakulskas Law Firm in Sioux City. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate & 1 to Republican candidate • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 3B Court Associate Judges

	Melinda Wicks Judge Wicks was appointed as District Associate Judge in 2024. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, majoring in criminal justice and minoring in both political science and speech communications. She received her law degree from Washburn University, School of Law in 2011. She served as a Woodbury County Magistrate from 2022 until her appointment. Prior to her appointment, she worked as an Assistant Woodbury County Attorney from February 2022 to November 2022, and a Deputy County Attorney for Dakota County, Nebraska from August 2012 to February 2022 and November 2022 to October 2024. She is licensed to practice law in both Iowa and Nebraska. Judge Wicks is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Nebraska State Bar Association, and the Woodbury County Bar Association. Political Party: None found Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Associate Judges



Scott D. Strait

Judge Strait was appointed to the bench in August of 2018. He received his Bachelor's degree from Creighton University in 1991 and his law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1994. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Strait was in private practice for twenty-four years practicing primarily in the areas of criminal law, juvenile law, and family law. He was also a certified family law mediator and a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Iowa Mediation Center.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 to Republican candidates, 2 to Republican county committees & 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 4 Court Associate Judges

	Ashley N. West-Joons Judge Ashley West-Joons, Missouri Valley, Iowa, was appointed to the bench in 2024. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2007 and her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 2010. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge West-Joons was the Harrison County Attorney from November 2023 through July 2024 and Assistant Harrison County Attorney October 2010 through October 2023. In addition to her position as a county attorney, she was in private practice at West Law Office from November 2023 through July 2024, and at Mumm Law Firm from October 2010 through October 2023, all in Missouri Valley, Iowa. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Harrison County Bar Association. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (D), 2018 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 3 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 4 Court Associate Judges

	Matthew A. Schuling Judge Schuling, Pottawattamie County, was appointed to the bench in 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from Coe College in 2008 and his law degree from University of Oregon, School of Law in 2011. Judge Schuling previously was Assistant Iowa Attorney General. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Fourth District Bar Association. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 18 to Democratic candidates, 3 to Democratic county committees & 1 to Iowa Democratic Party • FEC - 1 to Democratic candidate & 15 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5A Court Associate Judges

	Steven W. Guiter Judge Guiter, Marion County, was appointed to the bench in January 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1978 and law degree from Drake University in 1982. Judge Guiter practiced law with the same firm following graduation from law school in 1982 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the American, Iowa State, and Marion County Bar Associations. He also served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 15 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5A Court Associate Judges



Mark F. Schlenker

Judge Schlenker, Warren County, was appointed to the bench as District Associate Judge in 2012. He received a B.S. in Economics from Iowa State University in 1975, and his J.D. from Creighton University in 1978. Prior to appointment to the bench, he served as an Assistant Iowa Attorney General, an Assistant Warren County Attorney, and was in private practice in Indianola for 31 years. He is a member of the American, Iowa State, and Warren County Bar Associations, and in 2023 received the President's Award of the Iowa State Bar Association in recognition of his many years of service to the Association and his colleagues.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 to Republican candidates, 1 to Credit Union PAC (Iowa Credit Union League) & 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5B Court Associate Judges

	Andrew John Zimmerman Andrew J. Zimmerman was appointed to serve Judicial District 5B as a District Associate Judge in December of 2024. Prior to his district-wide appointment, Judge Zimmerman served as the Adams County Magistrate, having been appointed to that position in February 2017. Judge Zimmerman attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, graduating in 2006 with a bachelor's degree, and later received his J.D. at Creighton University School of Law in 2012. Currently Judge Zimmerman serves on the AI Innovation and Governance Committee for the Iowa Judicial Branch. He is a past member of the Iowa State Bar Association's Board of Governors, is Past-President and member of the 5B Bar and serves on a number of community volunteer boards. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: 2016 (D), 2014 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 6 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Associate Judges

	Lynn C. Poschner Judge Poschner, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in May 2018. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 2003 and her J.D. from Drake Law School in 2007 with High Honors. Her past experience includes private practice law. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Associate Judges

	Brendan L. Greiner Judge Greiner, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2018. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and his law degree from Drake University Law School. He is also a solicitor of England and Wales. Prior to his appointment, Judge Greiner was an assistant county attorney for Polk and Story where he specialized in prosecuting vehicular homicides and fraud. Political Party: None found Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - 10 to Democratic candidates, 1 to AFSCME Iowa Council 61 & 1 to Iowa Democratic Party • FEC - 1 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Associate Judges



Kimberly Ayotte

Judge Ayotte, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in February 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1993 and her J.D. with Distinction from the University of Iowa in 1996. Prior to her appointment, she worked as a staff attorney for 23 years at the Youth Law Center. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, National Association of Counsel for Children, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and Blackstone American Inn of Court. Judge Ayotte is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 5C Court Associate Judges

	Tabitha L. Turner Judge Turner, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in August 2019. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Oregon State University in 2005, and her J.D. from Drake University Law School in 2011. Her past experiences include being the sole practitioner of Turner Law Firm P.L.L.C., specializing in criminal defense, family law, and mediation. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2018 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - 26 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Associate Judges

	Jordan W. Brackey Judge Brackey, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2024. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2004. He received his law degree from the Michigan State University College of Law in 2007, graduating magna cum laude. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Brackey was an Assistant County Attorney in Webster County, Iowa from 2009-2015. He then served as an Assistant Polk County Attorney until his appointment. He is a member of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2014 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 4 to Democratic candidates • FEC - 4 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 5C Court Associate Judges

	Ashley Stewart Judge Stewart, Polk County, was appointed to the bench in 2024. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston in 2003 and her law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2009. Prior to her appointment, Judge Stewart was a criminal defense solo practitioner, a claims specialist at Nationwide Insurance, and an assistant appellate defender for the State of Iowa Appellate Defender's Office. Political Party: None found Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Democratic candidate, 2 to Credit Union PAC (Iowa Credit Union League) & 1 to Iowa Democratic Party • FEC - 7 to ActBlue (fundraising platform for left-leaning & Democratic campaigns) Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 6 Court Associate Judges

	Casey D. Jones Judge Jones was appointed to the bench as a district associate judge in 2007. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell College in 1987 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1990. Prior to being appointed, Judge Jones worked as a Federal Public Defender and was managing attorney at the Linn County Advocate for 15 years, after working in private practice. He is a member of the Linn County Bar Association and is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2020 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 6 Court Associate Judges



Angeline M. Johnston

Judge Johnston was appointed to the bench in 2007. Judge Johnston received her undergraduate degree from Luther College, cum laude, in 1989, and her law degree, with honors, from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992. Judge Johnston started her legal career in private practice in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She became the Assistant Henry County Attorney in 2001. She moved back to Cedar Rapids in 2001 and worked as an Assistant Linn County Attorney until her appointment to the bench. Judge Johnston is a member of the Linn County Bar Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 6 Court Associate Judges

	Kristin L. Schneider Judge Kristin Schneider was appointed to the bench in 2025. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts in 1992 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1995. Prior to her appointment, Judge Schneider served as an assistant county attorney in Allamakee County from 1996 to 1997 and in Marshall County from 1997 to 2000. She then held a position as assistant in-house counsel for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company from 2000 to 2005. From 2005 through 2025, Judge Schneider was in private practice. In 2017 she was appointed as a Judicial Hospitalization Referee for Johnson County. In 2018, Judge Schneider was appointed as the Magistrate for Jones County. Judge Schneider is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. Political Party: No Party (NP) Primary Election History: 2018 (D), 2016 (D) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 7 Court Associate Judges

	Cheryl E. Traum Judge Traum was appointed to the bench in 2012. She earned a BA Degree from the University of Northern Iowa and her law degree from the Northern Illinois College of Law. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Scott County Bar Association. From 2002 until her appointment to the bench, Judge Traum was in the private practice of law in Davenport, Iowa. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2018 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 8A Court Associate Judges

	Susan Claire Cole Judge Cole, Moravia, was appointed to the bench in 2024. She earned her undergraduate degree from Drake University in 2010 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2013. Judge Cole previously served as Appanoose County Attorney. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and Iowa Judges Association. She is married and has two children. Political Party: Republican Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R) Political Contributions: • IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 8A Court Associate Judges

	Jennifer Nicole Jensen Judge Jensen was appointed to the bench in 2025. She earned her undergraduate degree from Boise State University in 2010 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2015. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Jensen served as an Assistant State Public Defender in Ottumwa. She is a member of the Mahaska County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Political Party: Democrat Primary Election History: None found Political Contributions: • IECDB - None found • FEC - None found Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.
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District 8B Court Associate Judges



Emily S. Dean

Judge Dean was appointed to the bench in 2006. She attended the University of Northern Iowa and received her undergraduate degree in 1996 and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1999 from the University of Tulsa. Judge Dean was a partner at Saunders, Humphrey, Johnson and Dean from 1999 to 2006 in her hometown of Fort Madison. She is member of the Iowa Judges Association and has served on the board of the Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program for the past 13 years.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None found

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.

District 1A Associate Juvenile Judge



Thomas J. Straka

Judge Thomas Straka was appointed to serve Dubuque County as a magistrate in 2005, and appointed to the bench as an Associate Juvenile Judge in 2006. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991, and his law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1995. He served as law clerk for the Sarpy County Juvenile Court and was former secretary of the Dubuque County Bar Association and President of the Young Lawyers Division. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Straka practiced primarily in the area of family and criminal law.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.