



A joint effort by Iowa Right to Life and PULSE Life Advocates

Judges Standing for Retention
General Election
November 5, 2024

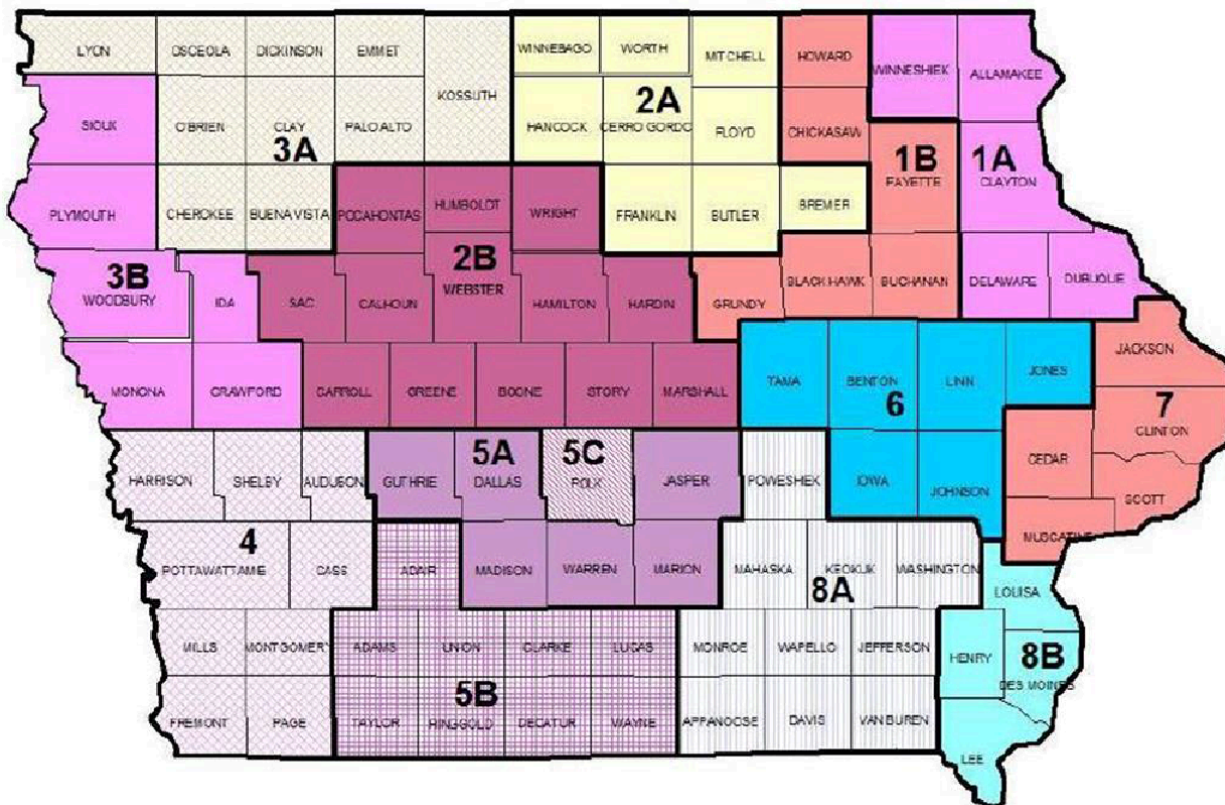
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Introduction

There are 69 judges statewide that will appear on the 2024 general election ballot for a retention vote. This document provides information about these judges.

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.

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 Democratic platform is available at <https://iowademocrats.org/resouces>, then click link for Iowa Democratic Party Platform - Adopted 6.15.24 (pdf).

The 2024 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 Republican platform is available at <https://www.iowagop.org/about>, then at bottom of page, click link for Platform.

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> and the Federal Election Commission (FEC) 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>

Iowa Supreme Court Justices



David May

Justice May, Polk City, was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in July 2022. He was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in April 2019 and appointed as a district judge in Judicial Election District 5C in February 2016. Justice May previously practiced law with Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C., in Des Moines. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia, his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and his law degree from Drake University Law School. **His current term expires December 31, 2024.**

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions: None found

Court Opinion(s):

- Case No. 22-2036 (Fetal Heartbeat), in a 3-3 split decision, joined an opinion that would reverse the order of the district court and remand this case with directions to dissolve the permanent injunction and continue with further proceedings consistent with this opinion. The fetal heartbeat law was passed in accord with the Iowa Constitution; thus, contrary to my colleagues' assertion, it is not a "hypothetical law." It is an actual law. And contrary to my colleagues' assertion, the legislature does not need to "reenact section 146C" to demonstrate that it is an actual law. A statute once declared unconstitutional and later held to be constitutional does not require reenactment by the legislature to restore its operative force.
- Case No. 23-1145 (Fetal Heartbeat), in a 4-3 decision, joined the majority opinion holding that applying rational basis as the constitutional test, undermines the rationale for the district court's ruling. Under the rational basis test, Planned Parenthood cannot show a likelihood of success on the merits of its substantive due process challenge. We thus hold that Planned Parenthood is not entitled to a temporary injunction blocking enforcement of the fetal heartbeat statute. We reverse the order granting the temporary injunction and remand the case for the district court to dissolve the temporary injunction and continue with further proceedings.

Iowa Court of Appeals Judges



Tyler J. Buller

Judge Buller, Johnston, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2022. He earned his undergraduate degree from Drake University and graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Iowa College of Law. Before his appointment, Judge Buller prosecuted criminal trials and appeals as an Assistant Attorney General in the Iowa Department of Justice.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 Donations to Democratic candidate
- FEC - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were identified after a review of over 200 of 792 opinions filed from November 2023 to August 2024.



Mary Elizabeth Chicchelly

Judge Chicchelly, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in December 2021. She was born and raised in Cedar Rapids and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1992.

Her past work experience includes serving as a judicial clerk for Iowa Judicial District 2A from 1992-1993, practicing law in Fort Dodge from 1993-1995 and then in Waterloo from 1995-1997. She was a partner in the law firm of Seidl & Chicchelly in Cedar Rapids from 1997 until her appointment to the Iowa District Court for Judicial District 6 in March 2013. Judge Chicchelly served in that role until her appointment to the Court of Appeals. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Linn County Bar Association and the Judge David R. Hansen American Inn of Court (Emeritus). Judge Chicchelly previously served as a member and past delegate to the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges, is a past president of the Iowa Judges Association and current member of the Iowa Judges Association Board. She is married and has two daughters.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

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

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were identified after a review of over 200 of 792 opinions filed from November 2023 to August 2024.



Samuel Langholz

Judge Langholz, Ankeny, was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in August 2023.

Before his appointment, he practiced law in the Executive Branch of state government for nearly thirteen years, serving as Chief Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Solicitor General, Senior Legal Counsel to the Governor, Chief Administrative Law Judge, and State Public Defender. He also previously worked in private practice at a law firm in Des Moines. He began his legal career as a judicial law clerk to Judge Steven M. Colloton on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Judge Langholz earned his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law with highest distinction and Order of the Coif in 2008 and his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University magna cum laude in 2002. He was raised and graduated from high school in Clear Lake.

Judge Langholz is married and has two sons.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 15 Donations to Republican candidates & 9 to Republican organizations
- FEC - None found

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were identified after a review of over 200 of 792 opinions filed from November 2023 to August 2024.

Other: Prior to his appointment to the Iowa Court of Appeals, Langholz served as an attorney for the appellant in case no. 21-0856 regarding enforcement of Amendment H-8314 to House File 594 that imposed certain requirements for women seeking an abortion, including a 24-hour waiting period. The Iowa Supreme Court held that the Iowa Constitution is not the source of a fundamental right to an abortion and reversed the district court’s grant of summary judgment to Planned Parenthood.



Mary Ellen Tabor

Chief Judge Tabor, Des Moines, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2010 and the members of the court selected her as chief judge in August 2024. She was born in Maquoketa and raised on her family's farm in Jackson County. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1985. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1991.

Judge Tabor worked as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel for the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. from 1991 to 1993. She joined the Iowa Attorney General's Office in 1993 and served as director of the Criminal Appeals Division from 1999 to 2010.

Judge Tabor is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, American Law Institute, Blackstone Inn of Court, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and Polk County Women Attorneys. Judge Tabor is married and has two sons and one daughter.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

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

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were identified after a review of over 200 of 792 opinions filed from November 2023 to August 2024.

District 1A



Monica Ackley

District Court Judge Monica Zrinyi Ackley, Dubuque, was appointed to serve Dubuque County in 1997 as a magistrate and to the district court bench in 2003. She attended the University of San Diego, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1986 and her law degree in 1990. She worked as a law clerk and research assistant before going into private practice. Judge Ackley is a member of the Dubuque County, Iowa State, and California Bar Associations.

Political Party: Democrat

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

Political Contributions:

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

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



Thomas A. Bitter

Judge Bitter, Dubuque, was appointed to the bench in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree from Loras College in 1993 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1996. Judge Bitter was in private practice in Dubuque prior to being appointed to the bench. He currently serves on the Iowa Child Support Guidelines Review Committee and the Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure Review Task Force. He is a member of the Dubuque County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association. He is married and has three children.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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



Robert James Richter

Judge Richter, Sherrill, was appointed to the bench in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree from St. Ambrose University in 2000, and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2003. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Richter was an assistant county attorney in Dubuque from 2004 to 2011.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 1B



Andrea J. Dryer

Judge Dryer, Cedar Falls, was appointed to the bench in 2011. She is a University of Iowa graduate, where she received both her undergraduate degree and law degree. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Dryer had worked in the Waterloo public defender's office since 2004. Prior to working for the public defender's office, she was an assistant county attorney prosecuting cases in Winneshiek and Buchanan counties. Judge Dryer is a member of the Black Hawk County Bar Association as well as the Iowa State Bar Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 donation to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) & 1 donation to Iowans for Vilsack Pederson, Inc. (pilot project by former Gov. Vilsack (D) & Lt. Gov. Pederson (D))
- FEC - None found

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



Kellyann Lekar

Judge Lekar, Waterloo, was appointed to the bench in 2005. She received her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1990 and her law degree from the University of Iowa in 1993. She was in private practice prior to her appointment to the bench. Judge Lekar is a member of the Black Hawk County, Iowa State and American Bar Associations and is also a member of the Iowa Judges Association. She was appointed Chief Judge of the First Judicial District in January, 2012.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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



David F. Staudt

Judge Staudt, Waterloo, was appointed to the bench in 2010. He received his bachelor's degree in 1990 from the University of Iowa and his law degree in 1993 from Drake University Law School. Judge Staudt was in private practice until joining the Waterloo public defender's office in 1997 where he was appointed Chief Public Defender in 2006.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



John James Sullivan

Judge Sullivan was appointed to the district court bench in December 2021. He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in 1993 and his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in 1996. After graduating from law school, Judge Sullivan clerked in Judicial District 1B from 1996-1998. He then practiced as an associate at Laird & Luhring in Waverly, Iowa from 1998-2000. He worked as an Assistant Fayette County Attorney from 2000-2002 and an Assistant Woodbury County Attorney from 2002-2005. In 2005, Judge Sullivan opened Sullivan law Office in Oelwein, Iowa, and was a sole practitioner until his appointment to the district court bench in 2021. He also served as a magistrate for Fayette County from 2006-2021. Judge Sullivan is a member of the Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has nine children.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Brook K. Jacobsen

Judge Jacobsen was appointed to the bench in 2017. He received his undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College and his law degree from University of Minnesota Law School in 1999. Prior to his appointment, he was in private practice from 2002 through 2004. He served as Assistant County attorney for the Black Hawk County Attorney's Office from 2004-2017. He is a member of the Black Hawk County and Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Patrick Wegman

Judge Wegman was appointed to the bench in 2017. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1991 and his law degree from Drake Law School in 1994. Prior to being appointed to the bench he was in private practice in Des Moines and Charles City. He also served as Chickasaw county attorney from 2002 through 2017.

Political Party: Democrat

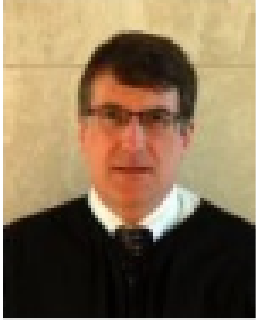
Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 5 donations to Democratic county central committee & 1 Donation to Republican sheriff
- FEC - None found

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

District 2A



Rustin Davenport

Judge Davenport, Mason City, was appointed to the bench in October of 2010. He earned his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1982 and his law degree, with Distinction, from the University of Iowa in 1985. Judge Davenport was a Law Clerk for the Second Judicial District from 1985-1986, a Law Clerk for the Honorable David R. Hansen, United States District Court Judge, Northern District of Iowa from 1986-1988. Judge Davenport was in private practice from 1988-2010. He is Vice-President of the Iowa Judges Association, a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Judicial District 2A Bar Association, and the Cerro Gordo County Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2016 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 7 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan) & 2 to Democratic county central committee
- FEC - None found

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



Blake H. Norman

Judge Norman was appointed to the bench in January 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from University of Northern Iowa in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. In 2012, he earned his law degree from Drake University Law School, graduating with High Honors. Judge Norman served as an assistant Cerro Gordo County Attorney and an assistant Scott County Attorney prior to his appointment as the Hancock County Attorney. Judge Norman was elected as Hancock County Attorney in 2018 and 2022 and served until his appointment. He is a member of the Cerro Gordo and Hancock County Bar Association.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Elizabeth Batey

Judge Batey, Greene, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in December 2022. She has a bachelor’s degree in Ethics and Public Policy from the University of Iowa. Judge Batey earned her law degree from Drake University School of Law in 2015, where she graduated with high honors. After passing the bar, she entered private practice, working at Vickers Law Office in Greene until her appointment as District Associate Judge. Judge Batey also served as the Butler County magistrate for three years.

Judge Batey serves on the Judicial Education Judges Committee. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Butler County Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 5 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 12 Donations to ActBlue earmarked for Democratic candidates & organizations, including Pete Buttigieg & Sen. Jon Ossoff (GA) who support abortion

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

District 2B



Derek Johnson

Judge Johnson was appointed to the bench in January 2020. He received his undergraduate degree in Business from Buena Vista University in 1996 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School in 1999. Prior to his appointment, Judge Johnson worked as an associate attorney for Blake Parker Law Office from 1999 to 2004, was the Humboldt County attorney from 2004-2005, and then began the Derek Johnson Law Office and worked in private practice.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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



Adria Kester

Judge Kester was appointed to the district court in July of 2017. She earned her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1994, and her law degree from Drake University School of Law in 1998. Judge Kester was an Assistant Public Defender, in private practice for six years, the Assistant Boone and Assistant Hamilton County Attorney, and the Boone County Attorney prior to her appointment as district associate judge in 2013. Judge Kester has been involved in the Iowa Association of County Attorneys, Iowa State and Boone County Bar Associations.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

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

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



Kurt John Stoebe

Judge Stoebe, Humboldt, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in July 2006, and then appointed to the District Court bench in February 2011. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota in 1977, and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1980. Stoebe has previously been a law clerk for Judge Roy Stephenson with the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Humboldt County Attorney and was in private practice with Stoebe Law Office. He served as Humboldt County magistrate from 2001 through 2006. Stoebe is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Humboldt County Bar Association and the Iowa Magistrates Association. He is married and has two children.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

<p>No Photo Available</p>	<p><u>Kathryn E. Austin</u></p> <p>Judge Austin, Eldora, was appointed as a District Associate Judge in November of 2022. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University, and her law degree from Michigan State University College of Law. Prior to her appointment, Judge Austin worked as an Assistant County Attorney in Marshall County.</p> <p>Political Party: Democrat</p> <p>Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2020 (R), 2014 (R)</p> <p>Political Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● IECDB - None found● FEC - None found <p>Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found.</p>
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Hans Becker

Judge Becker, Fort Dodge, was appointed to the bench on February 11, 2022. He was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated summa cum laude from Clarke University in 2011 and earned his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2014. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Becker worked as an Assistant Webster County Attorney from 2015 to 2022. He is a member of the Webster County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Becker is married and has one child.

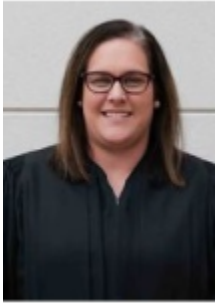
Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Ashley Beisch

Judge Beisch, Boone, was appointed to the bench in 2023. She earned her undergraduate degree from Drake University in 2013 and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2016. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Beisch was in private practice at Wild, Baxter & Sand, P.C., and Johnson Law Office. She also served as an Assistant County Attorney in Webster County. Judge Beisch is a member of the Iowa Judges Association.

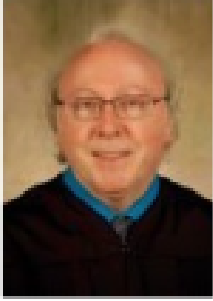
Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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



Paul G. Crawford

Judge Crawford, Marshalltown, was appointed to the bench in January of 2016. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Creighton University in 1981 with a BA in Organizational Communications and from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1984. From 1984 to 1986 Judge Crawford was an assistant Story County Attorney, he was in private practice in Fairfield, Iowa, from 1986 to 1987, and was an assistant Marshall County Attorney from 1987 until his appointment.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2014 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 6 Donations to Democratic candidates
- FEC - None found

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



Joseph B. McCarville

Judge McCarville was appointed to the district associate bench in September of 2017. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and his law degree from the University of Iowa Law School in 1989. Judge McCarville has worked in the Webster County Attorney's office, the Iowa Public Defender's office and private practice since graduation. Judge McCarville is a member and past president of the Webster County Bar Association. He has three children.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2016 (R), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 13 Donations to Republican Candidate
- FEC - None found

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



Hunter Thorpe

Judge Thorpe was appointed to the bench in 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Central College in 2016 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 2019 where he served as the Researcher Editor of the Drake Law Review. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Thorpe was a Law Clerk for the Second Judicial District. He also served as an Assistant County Attorney in Boone County until his appointment.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (R)

Political Contributions:

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

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

District 3A

No judges due to stand for retention

District 3B



Robert D. Tiefenthaler

Judge Tiefenthaler was raised in Breda, Iowa. He graduated from the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice in 1991 and from the University of South Dakota Law School in 1994. During law school in 1994, he served a clinical for a few months in the Woodbury County Attorney's office. After graduation, Judge Tiefenthaler started as an associate with a Sioux City law firm in July 1994. He became a partner and eventual shareholder in the firm from approximately 1996 through June 1999. In July 1999, Judge Tiefenthaler opened his own law office named Tiefenthaler Law Office, P.C. in Sioux City. In his private practice, he handled primarily civil tort, workers' compensation, criminal defense, juvenile law, and family law matters. He remained a solo practitioner until his appointment as a District Court Judge in July 2022. He was also a member of the Iowa Bar Association, the Nebraska Bar Association, the South Dakota Bar Association, the Woodbury County Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the National College for DUI Defense, and the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Judge Tiefenthaler is married with two children and six grandchildren.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2016 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 47 Donations to Justice for All PAC (nonpartisan), 1 donation to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan), 1 donation to Iowans for Vilsack Pederson, Inc. (pilot project by former Gov. Vilsack (D) & Lt. Gov. Pederson (D)), 1 Donation to Iowa Democratic Party, 9 Donations to Democratic Candidates & 1 Donation to Republican sheriff
- FEC - 5 Donations to Democratic candidates & 2 donations to ActBlue earmarked for Democratic candidate

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



Stephanie S. Forker Parry

Judge Forker Parry, Sioux City, was appointed to the bench in 2017. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota, majoring in criminal justice, and her law degree from the University of South Dakota in 1998. She served as a Woodbury County Magistrate from 2008 until her appointment. Prior to her appointment, she was in private practice with the law firm Forker & Parry in Sioux City and was licensed to work in Iowa and South Dakota. Judge Forker Parry serves on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Juvenile Procedure and is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, the Woodbury Bar Association, and South Dakota State Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Jessica R. Noll

Judge Noll, Akron, was appointed to the bench in 2022. She attended the University of South Dakota, earning her undergraduate degree in 2003 and her law degree in 2006. She served as a Woodbury County Magistrate from 2018 until her appointment. Prior to her appointment, she was in private practice in Sioux City and licensed to practice in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Judge Noll is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, South Dakota Bar Association, Woodbury County Bar Association, and the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Noll serves on the Supreme Court Language Access Advisory Committee. She is married with three children.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 4



Jennifer Benson Bahr

Judge Bahr was appointed as District Court Judge on January 14, 2022. Prior to her appointment, she served on the District Associate bench beginning May 3, 2019. Judge Bahr received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 2002 and her Juris Doctorate from Drake University School of Law in 2005. She served as a law clerk for the Second Judicial District from 2005 to 2006. Judge Bahr was elected as the Humboldt County Attorney in 2006 and the Webster County Attorney in 2014. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Bahr worked as an Assistant County Attorney in the Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2020 (R), 2016 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Eric John Nelson

Judge Nelson, Council Bluffs, was appointed to the bench in December 2018. He was raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in 2001 and his law degree from Oklahoma City University in 2005. Judge Nelson was in private practice from 2006-2010 and served in the State of Iowa Public Defender's Office until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Nelson is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and 4th Bar Association. He served two terms as a member of the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. He is married with two children.

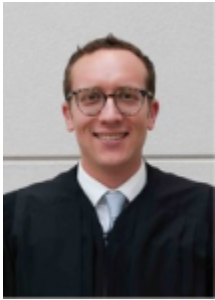
Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

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

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



David W. Brooks

Judge Brooks, Council Bluffs, was appointed District Associate Judge in October 2023. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2014. Judge Brooks serves as a Judge Advocate General for the Army National Guard. Prior to his appointment, Judge Brooks was in private practice and served as an assistant public defender at the Office of the Iowa State Public Defender. He is married with four children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

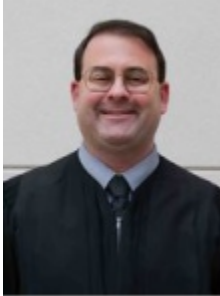
Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 5A



David Faith

Judge Faith, Indianola, was appointed to the bench in 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Concordia College in 2001, his master's degree in history from Syracuse University in 2004, and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2008, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Faith served in private practice at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, as an Assistant and later Deputy Attorney General for the State of Iowa, and as an Assistant United States Attorney. He has also served in the Iowa Army National Guard as a member of the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is married and has a son.

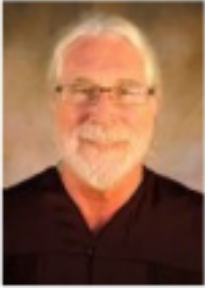
Political Party: Republican

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.



Bradley McCall

Judge McCall, Newton, was appointed to the bench in 2010. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1976 and his law degree, with honors, from Drake University Law School in 1978. In 2024, he received his Masters of Judicial Studies Degree from the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is the author of Voice Stress Analysis: Is “Some Evidence” Sufficient Grounds for Making Legal Determinations?, Barry Law Review, Volume 29 Issue 1.

Prior to taking the bench, he was in private practice, specializing in litigation and trial law. He was board certified in both civil and criminal trial advocacy and is now a Judicial Fellow on the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Judge McCall is a member of the Order of the Coif, the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa Bar Association, the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has three daughters.

Political Party: Democrat

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

Political Contributions:

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

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



Terry R. Rickers

Judge Terry Rickers, Newton, was appointed as a District Court Judge in October 2010 after serving as a Magistrate in Jasper County since 2005. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1983. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned his law degree in 1986. After graduation, he was in private practice in Newton for over 24 years. He is a member of the Jasper County and Iowa State Bar Associations, and the Iowa Judges Association. He previously served on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission. He has served on the Judicial Branch/DHS joint workgroup on mental health law redesign. He is also a Judicial Branch educational trainer on implicit bias and various other topics.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 5 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 1 Donation to Republican candidate

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



Charles Sinnard

Judge Sinnard, Urbandale, was appointed to the bench in 2022. He earned his undergraduate degree in history and Asian studies from the University of Iowa and his law degree from Drake University Law School. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Sinnard served as a prosecutor, first as an Assistant Dallas County Attorney and then as the Dallas County Attorney. During his time as a prosecutor, he was a member and co-chair of the Iowa Domestic Assault Death Review Team, the Dallas County DART/SART board, the Dallas County Chiefs of Police Committee, and as a Director-at-Large of the Iowa County Attorneys Association. He is a member of the Dallas County Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 2 Donations to Republican candidate
- FEC - None found

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



Virginia Cobb

Judge Virginia Cobb, Dallas Center, was appointed to serve as Dallas County Magistrate in 1995 and was appointed to serve as District Associate Judge in 2005. She attended Drake University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in 1978 and her law degree in 1982. She has served as assistant county attorney, instructed at Grand View College and was in the private practice of law. Cobb is a member of the bar and achieved Order of the Barristers.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Kevin Parker

Judge Parker, Indianola, was appointed to the bench in 2005. He received his bachelor's degree from Gannon University in 1977 and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University in 1979. 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. Judge Parker is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Warren County Bar Association. He is married and has four children.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2024 (D), 2022 (D), 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2016 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Democratic county central committee, 2 donations to Democratic candidates & 1 donation to Iowans for Vilsack Pederson, Inc. (pilot project by former Gov. Vilsack (D) & Lt. Gov. Pederson (D))
- FEC - None found

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

District 5B



Patrick W. Greenwood

Judge Greenwood, Lamoni, was appointed by Governor Branstad to the district court bench in February of 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1992 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1998. Prior to his appointment to the district court bench, he was a judicial magistrate and a lawyer in private practice serving clients for more than 17 years as a general practitioner. Judge Greenwood taught Business Law at Graceland University for 13 years. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association. Judge Greenwood is married and has three children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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

District 5C



Heather L. Lauber

Judge Lauber, West Des Moines, was appointed by Governor Reynolds to the district court bench in December 2016. She attended Drake University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 2000 and her law degree in 2003. Judge Lauber was in private practice from 2003–2011. She was Assistant Public Defender from 2011–2015. Judge Lauber was appointed district associate judge in 2015. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Association of Women Attorneys, Polk County Women Attorneys, and C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

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

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



Patrick D. Smith

Judge Smith, Des Moines, was appointed by Governor Reynolds to the bench in 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1989 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1993. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Smith was in private practice in Des Moines for 27 years, and served as in-house counsel for an insurance company for three years. His specialty is worker laws.. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has seven children.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

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

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



Gregory Brandt

Judge Brandt, Des Moines, was appointed by Governor Branstad to the bench in March of 1997. Born in Ottumwa, Iowa, he graduated from Drake University with a bachelor's degree in 1984 and earned his law degree from the same institution in 1987. After graduation, Judge Brandt worked as a law clerk for the Eighth Judicial District until 1988. He went on to be Polk County assistant attorney from 1988 to 1995, at which time we worked as an associate at a law firm until his appointment

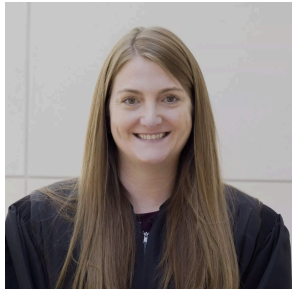
Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Kristen Formanek

Judge Formanek, Ankeny, was appointed by Governor Reynolds as a District Associate Judge in March 2023. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Prior to her appointment, Judge Formanek served as an Assistant Polk County Attorney.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2022 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate
- FEC - None found

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



Becky Goettsch

Judge Goettsch, West Des Moines, was appointed as district associate judge in 2017. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and her law degree from the University of Iowa. Prior to her appointment as magistrate in 2012, Judge Goettsch was in private practice from 1994-1998 and served as a Deputy District Attorney in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1998-2006. From 2006 until her appointment, she served as an Assistant Iowa Attorney General in the Area Prosecutions Division. She is a member of the Polk County Bar Association, Polk County Women Attorneys, and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. She is married with four children.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2022 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Erik Howe

Judge Howe, Polk City, was appointed to the bench in September 2022. He earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Iowa State University in 2009 and his law degree from Drake University Law School in 2012. Judge Howe, prior to taking the bench, was an assistant county attorney in Carroll and Calhoun counties from 2013-2014. He was an assistant county attorney in Polk County from 2015-2022. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court. He is married and has two children.

Political Party: Democrat

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 Donations to Democratic candidate
- FEC - None found

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



Rachael E. Seymour

Judge Seymour, Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in June, 2010. She was born in Madrid, Iowa and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1995. She earned a Masters of Public Administration and Juris Doctorate with honors from Drake University in 1999. Judge Seymour represented both adults and children while working for the State Public Defender from 1999 until her appointment to the bench. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. She has served on the Juveniles Rule Committee since her appointment in 2010. Judge Seymour and her husband have six children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Katie Ranes

Judge Katie Ranes, West Des Moines, was appointed to the bench in 2022. She earned her undergraduate degree from Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2007. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Ranes was a Magistrate Judge in Polk County and worked in private practice.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - 2 Donations to Democratic candidate (Bernie Sanders) & 4 donations to ActBlue earmarked for Democratic candidates (3 to Bernie Sanders)

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

District 6



Andrew B. Chappell

Judge Chappell, Iowa City, was appointed to the bench on February 10, 2017. He earned his Bachelor of Arts with High Honors in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracies from James Madison College at Michigan State University in 1994 and his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1997. Prior to being appointed, Judge Chappell was in private practice in Iowa City from 1997-2000, and was an Assistant Johnson County Attorney in the Civil Division from 2000-2017. Judge Chappell is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Johnson County Bar Association and served on the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board and the ISBA Jury Instructions Committee prior to his appointment. He is married and has one child

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2016 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 8 Donations to Democratic Candidates, 2 donations to Yes for Justice (nonpartisan) & 1 donation to Iowans for Vilsack Pederson, Inc. (pilot project by former Gov. Vilsack (D) & Lt. Gov. Pederson (D))
- FEC - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate

Court Opinion(s): No cases related to protecting the unborn were found. He did uphold the Governor's ban on 'nonessential' abortions in April 2020.



David M. Cox

Judge Cox of Johnson County was appointed to the bench on February 18, 2022. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Iowa in 2004, and attended the University of Iowa Law School, graduating with honors in 2007. After graduation from law school, Judge Cox served as a law clerk for District 2B from 2007-2008. Since clerking, Judge Cox has been in private practice with Bray and Klockau PLC from 2008-2022, in addition to being a Johnson County Magistrate, from July of 2018 to March of 2022. Judge Cox is a member of the Johnson County Bar Association; Member of the Iowa State Bar Association; Member of ISBA Family & Juvenile Law Section, Section Chair from 2015-2017, Vice Chair of Section 2013-2015; and former Chair of CLE Committee from 2017-2022. Judge Cox is married and has one child.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Elizabeth Dupuich

Judge Dupuich, Johnson County, was appointed to the bench on May 26, 2023. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and English with Honors, from the University of Iowa in 1998, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California School of Law in 2002. After graduating from law school, Judge Dupuich worked as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice and as a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County, California. Judge Dupuich also served as an Assistant Johnson County Attorney in Iowa City, Iowa, and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2018 (D), 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to school board candidate (party unknown)
- FEC - None found

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



Joan M. Black

Judge Black was appointed to the District 6 Bench on December 6, 2021. Judge Black comes to the bench with an extensive background in child services. Prior to attending Drake Law School in 2004 she was in the child services field for 20 years. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1984, obtained her Masters in Social Work at the University of Iowa in 1992, and graduated from Drake Law School in 2006. After graduating from Law School Judge Black went into private practice until she joined the Muscatine County Attorney's Office in 2015. In June of 2020 she joined the Johnson County Attorney's Office where she remained until her appointment to the bench.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Brandon L. Schrock

Judge Schrock was appointed to the District 6 bench on January 25, 2023. Prior to his appointment he served as a staff attorney for the Linn County Advocate from 2005 to 2023. Judge Schrock earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts in 2001. After that, he earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2005.

Judge Schrock is a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, the Linn County Bar Association

Political Party: No Party (NP)

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Iowa Democratic Party
- FEC - 4 Donations to ActBlue earmarked for Democratic candidates & organizations

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



Nicholas Scott

Judge Scott, Cedar Rapids, was appointed to the bench as a district associate judge in 2016. He graduated from the Iowa College of Law in 2001. When not working for the people of the great State of Iowa; he enjoys beekeeping, raising hens, tapping maple trees, gardening, running, and reading.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 7



Thomas Reidel

Judge Reidel, Muscatine, was appointed to the bench in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1989 and his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1992 with High Distinction. After graduation from law school, he was in private practice, in Muscatine, Iowa, from 1992 to 2011. He served as Muscatine County Magistrate from 2009 until his appointment to the district court bench. He is a past recipient of the Iowa Golden Seal Award for his dedication to ending domestic violence. He has a long history of being active in his community and is past board member of multiple nonprofit organizations and the past Chairman of the Muscatine County Civil Service Commission. He is a member of the Muscatine County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Associations and the Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has four children.

Political Party: Republican

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate
- FEC - None found

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



Gary Patrick Strausser

Judge Strausser was appointed to the bench in 2005. He earned his bachelor's degree from Towson State University and his Law Degree from Drake University Law School. He also earned his Master's Degree from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Drake University. After graduating from Law School he served as an Assistant Clinton County Attorney from 1992 to 2005 and was First Assistant from 1999 until 2005. Judge Strausser is married and has one son.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 8A



Michael Carpenter

Judge Michael O. Carpenter, Ottumwa, was appointed to the bench in 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1999, a masters' degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 2001, and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2004. Judge Carpenter was previously employed as a partner in the law firm of Gaumer, Emanuel, Carpenter & Goldsmith, P.C. He is married and has two children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 10 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan), 3 donations to Republican candidates, 1 Donation to Democratic candidate (pro-abortion per Facebook), 6 donations to other Democratic candidates
- FEC - None found

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



Crystal S. Cronk

Judge Cronk, Jefferson County, was appointed to the bench in November 2017. She attended Northeast Missouri State University and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1996 from the University of Missouri - Columbia. She was in private practice from 1996 to 2010, serving as Assistant Van Buren County Attorney from 1996 to 1999 and as County Attorney from 1999 to 2006; and was appointed as Van Buren County Judicial Magistrate from 2006 to 2010. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and the District 8 Public Outreach Committee. She previously served on the judicial technology committee and currently serves on the judicial education committee.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2014 (R), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Myron Gookin

Judge Gookin, Fairfield, was appointed to the bench in August of 2011. Judge Gookin received his bachelor’s degree with distinction from Iowa State University in 1980 and his Juris Doctorate with Honors from The Law School at Drake University in 1983. Judge Gookin was in private practice with Foss, Kuiken, Gookin & Cochran P.C. in Fairfield, Iowa from July 1983 until his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, Iowa Supreme Court Criminal Rules Advisory Committee, Iowa Supreme Court Client Security Commission, Iowa Supreme Court CLE Commission (past), Iowa State Bar Association Jury Instruction Committee, and on the board of directors of the 8th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services. He is married and has three children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (D), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 Donations to Republican candidates
- FEC - None found

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



Shawn R. Showers

Judge Showers, Washington, was appointed to the bench in November 2016. Judge Showers was born in Leon, Iowa, and grew up on farms in Lucas and Wayne counties. He graduated from Mormon Trail Community High School in 2000 and the University of Iowa in 2004. He received his law degree from Washburn University School of Law in 2008. In law school, Judge Showers was active in law clinic and elected Student Bar Association President. After being admitted to the Iowa Bar, Judge Showers worked as an assistant county attorney in Cerro Gordo County and Washington County. He also worked as an assistant public defender in Ottumwa before being elected Washington County Attorney in November 2014. Judge Showers is a member of the Washington County Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association and the Iowa Judge's Association. Judge Showers and his wife, Megan, have two children.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 5 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan), 6 donations to #19139 Shawn Showers for Washington County Attorney (Republican) & 1 donation to Republican candidate
- FEC - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate (US Rep. Harold Ford, Jr.)

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



Daniel Perry Kitchen

Judge Daniel P. Kitchen, Washington, was appointed to the bench in 2017. He earned his law degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in December 1994. Judge Kitchen was in private practice in Muscatine and Davenport before moving to Washington in 1997. He was in private practice in Washington and served as Washington County's Judicial Magistrate starting in 2003, until his appointment as a District Associate Judge. Judge Kitchen is a member of the Iowa State and Washington County Bar Associations. Judge Kitchen lives with his family in Washington, Iowa.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

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

Political Contributions:

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

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



Richelle Mahaffey

Judge Mahaffey, Grinnell, was appointed to the bench in 2023. She earned her undergraduate degree from Luther College in 2013, and her law degree from Drake University Law School in 2016. Judge Mahaffey was previously employed as an Assistant County Attorney in the Marshall County Attorney’s Office, and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Juvenile Public Defender’s Office in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

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

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Democratic candidate
- FEC - 7 Donations to ActBlue earmarked for Democratic candidates (6 Biden for President & 1 Amy Klobuchar for President)

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



Patrick McAvan

Judge Patrick McAvan, Fairfield, was appointed to the bench in 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Loras College in 1996 and his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1999. Judge McAvan served as the Assistant Jefferson County Attorney from 1999 – 2023. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Judges Association. He is married and has three children. rick J. McAvan

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (D), 2020 (R), 2018 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (R), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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

District 8B



Clinton R. Boddicker

Judge Boddicker, Keokuk, was appointed to the district court bench in December 2021. Prior to that, he was appointed to the district associate bench in January 2018. He received his bachelor’s degree in Political Science and History from the University of Northern Iowa in 1993 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996. After graduation, he was in private practice in Keokuk and Cedar Rapids. In 2008, he began work as Assistant Lee County Attorney, eventually being named full-time First Assistant Lee County Attorney in 2011. He was elected Lee County Attorney in May of 2017 and served in that capacity until his appointment to the bench. Judge Boddicker is a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the South Lee County Bar Association and a former member of the Iowa State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Iowa County Attorneys Association, and the National District Attorneys Association. He is married and has two adult children.

Political Party: Republican

Primary Election History: 2024 (R), 2022 (R), 2020 (R), 2016 (R), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 4 Donations to Democratic county central committee, 4 donations to #19681 Citizens for Boddicker (county attorney), 2 donations to #5140 Governor Branstad Committee (Republican) & 1 donation to #21745 Committee to Save Our Courthouse (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

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



Joshua P. Schier

Judge Schier, Burlington, was appointed to the bench in January 2022. Judge Schier was born in Burlington, Iowa and graduated from Burlington Notre Dame High School. He attended Western Illinois University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree, both in American History. Judge Schier received his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2014 and entered private practice with the Cray Law Firm in Burlington, Iowa, where he was a partner until his appointment to the bench. Judge Schier is a member of the Des Moines County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Judge’s Association. Judge Schier and his wife have three children.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 3 Donations to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - None found

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



Shane Wiley

Judge Wiley, Burlington, was appointed to the bench in September 2023. A Muscatine native, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1999 and his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2002. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law at the West Burlington firm of Hirsch, Adams, Putnam, Cahill & Wiley, PLC. He is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Des Moines 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.



John M. Wright

Judge Wright grew up in Fort Madison where he graduated in 1982. He attended the University of Iowa earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1986. Judge Wright received his Juris Doctorate degree from The Law School at Drake University in 1990 and entered private practice in Fort Madison. He has worked for the Executive Office of the United States Trustee and as an assistant Lee County Attorney.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: 2018 (D), 2014 (D), 2012 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to Iowa Law PAC (nonpartisan)
- FEC - 1 Donation to Braley for Congress (Democrat)

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



Jennifer Slocum Bailey

Judge Bailey, Burlington, was appointed to the bench in 2016. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa, graduating summa cum laude in 2002. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, graduating with distinction in 2005. After graduation, Judge Bailey entered private practice until 2007. She was an Assistant County Attorney at the Des Moines County Attorney's office from 2007 until 2014. Judge Bailey worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Burlington from 2014 to 2016, when she was selected as a District Associate Court Judge.

Political Party: No Party (NP)

Primary Election History: None since 2011

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Tyron T. Rogers

Judge Rogers, Burlington, was appointed to the bench January, 2017. He attended University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts, where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors, majoring in sociology in 1997 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2000. After being admitted to the Iowa Bar, Judge Rogers worked as First Assistant County Attorney in the Des Moines County Attorney's Office from October, 2000 - January, 2017. In 2012 Judge Rogers received the Iowa County Attorney's Association Staff Attorney Award of Merit.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2014 (D)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - None found
- FEC - None found

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



Jonathan Michael Stensvaag

Judge Stensvaag, Mount Pleasant, was appointed to the bench in February 2022. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2007 and his juris doctorate from the University of Iowa School of Law in 2010. Prior to his appointment, Judge Stensvaag worked in private practice from 2010-2011, as a public defender from 2011-2018, and the First Assistant Lee County Attorney from 2018-2022. He is a member of the Iowa Judges Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the South Lee County Bar Association.

Political Party: Democrat

Primary Election History: 2020 (D), 2012 (R)

Political Contributions:

- IECDB - 1 Donation to #19681 Citizens for Boddicker (county attorney) & 1 donation to #6113 AFSCME Iowa Council 61
- FEC - None found

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