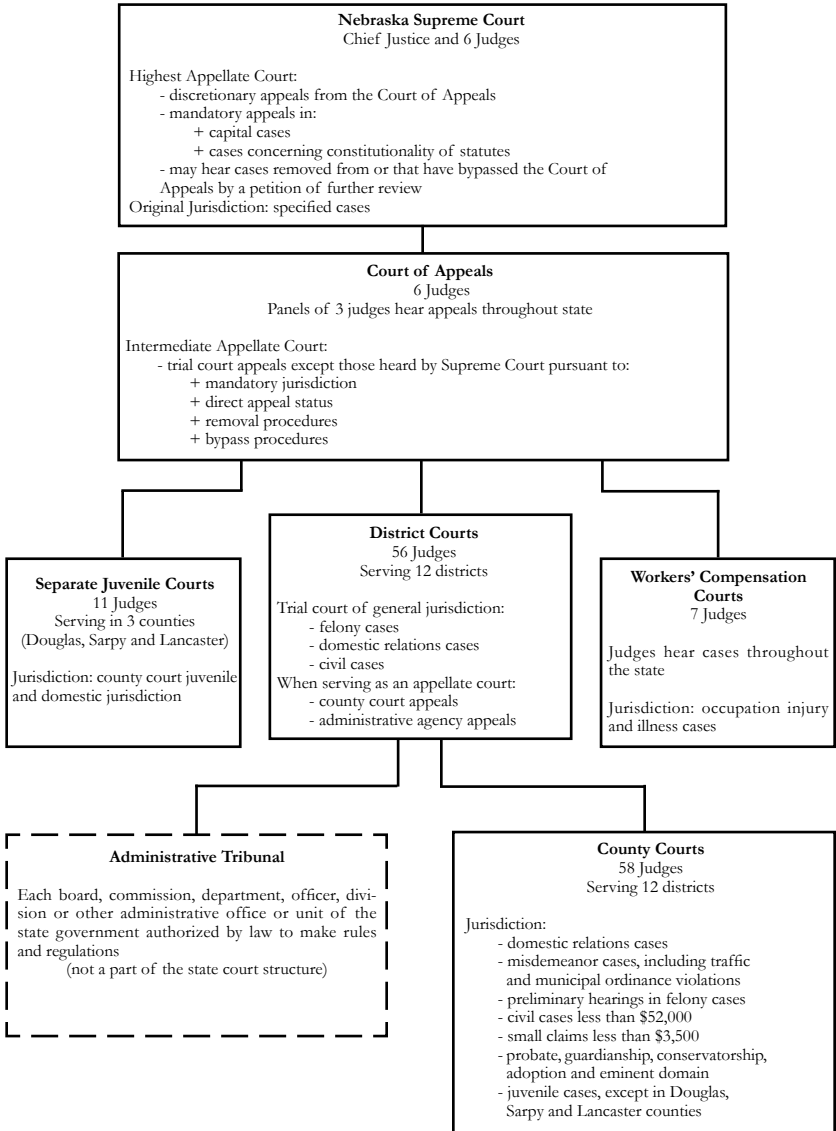




STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Nebraska Court Structure*



*Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Nebraska court system is consolidated and unified. According to the Nebraska Constitution, judicial authority is distributed among the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, district courts (general jurisdiction), county courts (limited jurisdiction) and other courts created by the Legislature. The state's other types of courts include the separate juvenile courts in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties and a workers' compensation court.

In 1970, the judicial article of the state constitution was amended, resulting in several significant changes in the state court system. The amendment gave the Nebraska Supreme Court general administrative authority over all Nebraska courts, eliminated the constitutional basis for the justice of the peace, consolidated the local courts and other courts of limited jurisdiction to form a uniform county court system and created the position of state court administrator. The Supreme Court appointed the first state court administrator in 1972.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and six associate justices. The chief justice is selected by the governor from a statewide list of applicants, while the other six justices are chosen from regional lists. District court judges or selected retired judges may be called upon to help determine cases.

As amended in 1990, the state constitution guarantees the right of appeal to the Supreme Court in cases involving the death penalty, life imprisonment or constitutional questions. The 1990 constitutional amendment also allows all other cases, criminal or civil, to be appealed to the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals consists of six judges appointed by the governor from lists submitted by judicial nominating commissions. The districts from which the Court of Appeals judges are appointed are the same as those used for the six Supreme Court judges. A chief judge of the Court of Appeals is appointed by the Supreme Court to serve a one-year renewable term.

The Supreme Court provides administrative and policy leadership for the state judicial system. The high court regulates the practice of law in Nebraska and appoints and monitors lawyers who serve on local inquiry committees and a state committee on discipline and professional responsibility. The Supreme Court also admits qualified applicants to the Nebraska State Bar Association and administers the state probation system, which handles adult and juvenile cases.

District courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction and serve as appellate courts in deciding some appeals from county courts and various administrative agencies. There are 12 judicial districts in Nebraska and 56 district judges who serve Nebraska's 93 counties. District courts hear felony and civil cases and some misdemeanors. Most appeals from the county courts are decided by judges of the district courts solely on the record. The 1980 Legislature changed the appeal procedure in all but small claims cases, requiring appeals to be heard on the record by a district judge. Small claims ap-

peals are reheard in the district court.

Each county has an elected clerk of the district court who processes judgment records, maintains court dockets, secures transcripts from lower courts and performs other administrative duties.

There are 12 judicial districts in the Nebraska county court system, each composed of one to 17 counties, and 58 county court judges. Each county has a county court. County courts have exclusive original jurisdiction in probate, guardianship, conservatorship, adoption and eminent domain matters. County courts also have original jurisdiction in juvenile matters in counties that have no separate juvenile court. County courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with district courts in misdemeanor cases arising under state law and domestic relations cases. But, in practice, nearly all misdemeanor cases are tried in county courts. While civil jurisdiction is exercised concurrently with district courts, cases involving less than \$52,000 can be filed in county courts.

Each county court has a small claims court division. Small claims courts have jurisdiction in civil cases involving damages or an amount of money of \$3,500 or less. Clerk magistrates, who are hired by county judges, act as local administrators and have limited judicial responsibilities. They may accept pleas in traffic and misdemeanor cases, set bail and perform other judicial services.

Separate juvenile courts are courts of record and handle cases involving neglected, dependent and delinquent children. Juvenile courts can be created with approval of voters in counties with more than 75,000 people. Nebraska has 11 juvenile judges.

The workers' compensation court consists of seven judges who have statewide jurisdiction. They travel statewide to hold hearings in county seats. The workers' compensation court administers and enforces the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, and it has original jurisdiction over claims for workers' compensation benefits resulting from job-related injuries or illnesses. Disputed claims for workers' compensation are submitted to the court for finding, award, order or judgment. All industrial accidents must be reported to the court.

Prior to 1964, judges were elected to office. In 1962, voters approved a constitutional amendment providing for a merit plan for selection and retention of Supreme Court and district judges. Today, the governor appoints all judges, who are subject to periodic retention votes.

When a county or district judge dies, retires, resigns, is removed or is not retained in office, or when there is a need for a change in the number or boundaries of the judicial districts or a change in the number of judgeships required by law, a judicial resources commission meets to determine whether a vacancy exists and the location of the vacancy. Commission members include seven citizens, four judges and six attorneys. After the location is determined, a judicial nominating commission meets to accept applications for the available judgeship. The commission then submits the names of at least two qualified lawyers to the governor. Each judicial nominating commission is made up of four lawyers selected by the Nebraska State Bar Association and four nonlawyers appointed by the governor. The chairperson of the judicial nominating commission is a member of the Supreme Court. This judge is a nonvoting member. A commission must have no more than two lawyers or two nonlawyer members from either political

party, and members must live in the district in which they serve. Generally, the governor makes final decisions on who will become the new judge. However, if the governor makes no appointment within 60 days after receiving the list of nominees, the chief justice makes the appointment from the list.

Judges in Nebraska courts must be U.S. citizens, be at least 30 years old, have been lawyers in Nebraska for at least five years before appointment, be admitted to practice before the Nebraska Supreme Court and be residents and qualified electors of the districts to be represented on the date of appointment. District, county and separate juvenile court judges must continue living in their districts while serving. Workers' compensation court judges must live in Lancaster County unless court members vote for a judge to live elsewhere.

A judge must run for retention in office at the first general election held more than three years after his or her appointment and every six years thereafter. Judges may retire at age 65 but are not required to retire at any age. Earlier retirement due to disability may be approved by the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, which also investigates complaints against judges.

In 1966, Nebraska voters adopted a constitutional amendment providing for the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, which reviews complaints from the public about judges' behavior. The commission can reprimand judges and order formal hearings on the matters in question. The 10-member commission is composed of the chief justice, who serves as its permanent chairperson; three judges appointed by the Supreme Court; three lawyers appointed by the Nebraska State Bar Association; and three citizens appointed by the governor. State law says judges may be disciplined for behavior that violates the laws and purposes of their office, misconduct in office, failure to perform their duties, conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude or disbarment.

Nebraska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Judicial Districts¹



¹Boundaries established by LB699 in the 2011 legislative session.

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

Office Address: Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

State Court Administrator: Janice K. Walker

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-201

Salary of Supreme Court Judges: \$145,615

Publications: *Nebraska Reports, Volumes 1-213*

The Nebraska Supreme Court had its origin in the Organic Act, which created the Nebraska Territory on May 30, 1854. This act declared that the Supreme Court shall consist of a chief justice and two associate judges. The constitutions of 1866 and 1875 provided for three judges. Before the constitution of 1875, the Supreme Court judges also presided over district courts. As the Supreme Court caseload increased, the 1901 Legislature authorized the Supreme Court to appoint nine commissioners to help clear the docket. The 1905 Legislature reduced the number of Supreme Court commissioners to six. By a 1908 constitutional amendment, Supreme Court membership increased from three to seven judges. Legislation passed in 1913 provided for electing judges on a nonpartisan ballot starting in 1914. An amendment submitted by the 1920 constitutional convention called for six judges to be elected by the electors of six districts, with the chief justice to be elected at large.

To speed up the court's work, an amendment submitted by the constitutional convention of 1920 allowed the Supreme Court to sit in division, empowering the chief justice to appoint district judges to sit with the Supreme Court in order to have five judges in each division. Cases involving a statute's constitutionality and all appeals of homicide convictions had to be heard by the undivided court. In 1925 and 1927, the Legislature provided for six Supreme Court commissioners to help with the court's caseload. The 1929 Legislature reduced the number of commissioners to three. Commissioners were no longer used after 1931 at the request of the court.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice selected at large and six associate justices selected from six districts in Nebraska. Judges must be at least 30 years old and have lived in Nebraska for at least three years before their selection.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, civil cases in which the state is a party, mandamus, quo warranto, habeus corpus, election contests involving state officers other than state senators, and appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law. The Supreme Court also hears all appeal cases regarding the death penalty, the sentence of life imprisonment or cases in which constitutional questions are raised. The judges comprise the State Library board of directors.

Judge	Represents	Term Expires
William B. Cassel, O'Neill.....	District 3.....	January 2017
William M. Connolly, Hastings	District 5.....	January 2017
Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chief Justice) ..	State At Large	January 2017
Michael McCormack, Omaha	District 4.....	January 2019
Lindsey Miller-Lerman, Omaha.....	District 2.....	January 2015
Kenneth C. Stephan, Lincoln	District 1.....	January 2019
John F. Wright, Scottsbluff	District 6.....	January 2017

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2013



MICHAEL G. HEAVICAN (CHIEF JUSTICE)

STATE AT LARGE

Office Address: Room 2214, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3738, fax (402) 471-0297, email address — mike.heavican@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice: Oct. 1, 2006, to replace retiring Chief Justice John V. Hendry; retained in office 2010

Biography: Born Aug. 4, 1947, in Columbus. Graduate of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.A.), 1969; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1974. Former: U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska, appointed by President George W. Bush on Sept. 21, 2001, 2001-06; Acting First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Chief, Acting U.S. Attorney, 1991-2001; Lancaster County Attorney, 1981-90; Deputy Lancaster County Attorney, 1975-81.

KENNETH C. STEPHAN

DISTRICT 1

Office Address: Room 2211, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3737, fax (402) 471-2197, email address — kenneth.stephan@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: March 10, 1997, to replace retiring Judge Dale E. Fahrbruch; retained in office 2000, 2006 and 2012

Biography: Born in Omaha. Graduate of Omaha Central High School, 1964; University of Nebraska (B.A.), 1968; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D. with high distinction), 1972. Married Sharon Ross Stephan, April 19, 1969; three children: Alissa Potocnik, Karen Borchert and Charles Stephan. Military service: U.S. Army, 1969-71. Former: private practice attorney with Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson, Endacott & Routh, Lincoln, 1973-97. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association (former chairman, Young Lawyers Section; former member, House of Delegates); Lincoln Bar Association (former member, board of trustees); judicial fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; administrator, Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court.



Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2013 (Cont'd.)



LINDSEY MILLER-LERMAN DISTRICT 2

Office Address: Room 2222, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3734, fax (402) 435-7872, email address — lindsey.miller-lerman@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Sept. 1, 1998, to replace retiring Judge D. Nick Caporale; retained in office 2002 and 2008

Biography: Graduate of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. (B.A.), 1968; Columbia University School of Law, New York City (J.D.), 1973. Two children: Hannah and Jeremy. Former: chief judge, Nebraska Court of Appeals, 1995-98; judge, Nebraska Court of Appeals, 1992-95; partner, Kutak Rock & Campbell, 1980-92; associate, Kutak Rock & Huie, 1976-79; law clerk and research assistant positions held at various locations, 1969-75; law clerk, U.S. District Court (Southern District of New York). **Member:** American Bar Association; Association of the Bar of the City of New York; National

Association of Women Judges; Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association. **Former member:** board of directors, Tuesday Musical; Judicial Ethics Committee, Securities Industry Association, Compliance and Legal Division; chairwoman, Civil Procedure and Practice Committee of the Federal Court, District of Nebraska; member, Program Committee of the Judicial Conference for the Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit; board of directors, Landmarks Preservation Inc.; board of directors, Children's Museum; board of directors, Art Omaha. **Publications:** *Creighton Law Review*; *Litigation News & Notes*; *American Bar Association Journal*; *The National Law Journal*; *Columbia Law Review*; *Wisconsin Law Review*; *Annals of Internal Medicine*. **Honors and awards:** College of St. Mary, Omaha (honorary doctorate), 1993.

WILLIAM B. CASSEL

DISTRICT 3

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3736, fax (402) 471-3480, email address — william.cassel@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: May 9, 2012, to replace Judge John M. Gerrard, who was appointed to the federal bench

Biography: Born Sept. 20, 1955, in Ainsworth. Graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.S. in accounting with distinction), 1977; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D. with distinction), 1979. Married Audrey J. Cassel, Aug. 12, 1978; two children, John Benjamin and Christina Marie. Former: appeals court judge, 3rd district, 2004-12; district court judge, 15th district (merged into 8th district), 1992-2004; sole practitioner, Cassel and Cassel, 1981-92; partner, Cassel and Cassel, 1979-81; Johnstown city attorney, 1981-92; Long Pine city attorney, 1981-92; Ainsworth city attorney, 1979-92. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association (judiciary committee, 1999-2005; house of delegates, 1983-92; committee on real estate practice guidelines, 1987-97; chairman, 1988-90; legal services advisory committee, 1987-89, chairman 1987-88); American Bar Association; Supreme Court Committee on Technology, 1999-present and chairman, 2004-present; Supreme Court Automation Advisory Committee, 1995-present. **Former member:** Judicial Ethics Committee, 2002-04 and 2007-12; Supreme Court Committee on Pro Se Litigation, 2001-2004; District Judges Education Committee, 1995-2004; member and board secretary, Ainsworth Airport Authority,



Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2013 (Cont'd.)

WILLIAM B CASSEL

DISTRICT 3 (CONT'D.)

1980-92. **Honors and awards:** Warren K. Urbom Mentor Award; Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, 2012; co-recipient, Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judiciary, 2011; co-recipient, Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community, 2002; fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation, elected 1994; fellow, American Bar Foundation, elected 2006.



MICHAEL McCORMACK

DISTRICT 4

Office Address: Room 2218, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-4345, fax (402) 471-3482

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: March 19, 1997, to replace Judge David J. Lanphier, who was voted out of office in 1996; retained in office 2000, 2006 and 2012.

Biography: Born July 20, 1939, in Omaha. Graduate of Creighton University (J.D.), 1963. Married Mary Kay Hartmann, April 22, 1967; three children: Kelley, Kris and Shannon. Former: attorney with McCormack, Cooney, Hillman & Elder, Omaha; Deputy Douglas County Public Defender.

WILLIAM M. CONNOLLY

DISTRICT 5

Office Address: Room 2210, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3733, fax (402) 471-2197

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Dec. 15, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Leslie Boslaugh; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010

Biography: Graduate of Creighton Preparatory School, 1956; Creighton University School of Law (J.D.), 1963. Married Betty Conley Wade. Three children: Cecilia Smith, Thomas G. Connolly and Katherine Connolly; two stepchildren: Roxanne Stingley and Jon P. Wade. Former: Nebraska Court of Appeals judge, 1992-94; Conway, Connolly & Pauley, 1972-91; Adams County attorney, 1967-72; deputy Adams County attorney, 1964-66. **Member:** judicial fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers. **Former member:** executive council, Nebraska State Bar Association, 1986-90; board of directors, Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys, 1972-76; Nebraska State Bar Association House of Delegates, 1971-73; president, Nebraska County Attorneys Association, 1972.



Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2013 (Cont'd.)

JOHN F. WRIGHT

DISTRICT 6

Office Address: Room 2207, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3735, fax (402) 471-3480

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Feb. 25, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Thomas M. Shanahan; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010

Biography: Born Dec. 24, 1945, in Scottsbluff. Graduate of University of Nebraska (B.S.), 1967; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1970. Married Deborah Johnson, July 7, 1972; four children: Jane, Charles, John Floyd and Ellen. Military service: U.S. Army, 1970; Nebraska National Guard, 1970-76. Former: Nebraska Court of Appeals judge, 1992-94; private practice attorney, 1970-91. **Former member:** Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 1992-94; Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, 1991-92; Scottsbluff Rotary Club, 1972-92; Teacher Enrichment Committee, 1988-91; Scottsbluff Board of Education, 1980-87 (president 1984, 1986); president, Western Nebraska Bar Association, 1986; board of directors, Panhandle Legal Services, 1970-74.



Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2013

Territorial

Judge	Term of Office
Fenner Ferguson.....	1854-1857
Edward R. Harden.....	1854-1860
James Bradley.....	1854-1857
J.W. Underwood.....	1857 ¹
Samuel W. Black.....	1857-1859
Eleazer Wakeley.....	1857-1861
Augustus Hall.....	1858-1861
Joseph Miller.....	1859-1860
William Pitt Kellogg.....	1861-1865 ²
William F. Lockwood.....	1861-1867
Joseph E. Streeter.....	1861-1863
Elmer S. Dundy.....	1863-1867
William Kellogg.....	1865-1867

¹ Listed as an associate judge of the Supreme Court in Complete Session Laws, 1855-87, Vol. 1, Page 370.

² Granted leave of absence by President Lincoln to join the 7th Illinois Cavalry. Served as colonel in the regiment from Sept. 8, 1861, to June 1, 1862. Resigned as territorial chief justice in 1865.

State

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
William A. Little ³	-	-	-
Oliver P. Mason.....	1867 ⁴ -1873	1867-1873	-
George B. Lake.....	1867-1884	1873-1878	1867-1873
	-	1882-1884	1878-1882
Lorenzo Crouse.....	1867-1873	-	1867-1873
Daniel Gantt.....	1873-1878 ⁵	1878	1873-1878
Samuel Maxwell.....	1873-1894	1878-1882	1873-1878
	-	1886-1888	1882-1886
	-	1892-1894	1888-1892
Amasa Cobb.....	1878 ⁶ -1892	1884-1886	1878-1884
	-	1890-1892	1886-1890
Manoah B. Reese.....	1884-1890	1888-1890	1884-1888
	1908-1915	1909-1915	1908-1909
T.L. Norval.....	1890-1902	1894-1896	1890-1894
	-	1900-1902	1896-1900
Alfred M. Post.....	1892-1898	1896-1898	1892-1896
T.O.C. Harrison.....	1894-1900	1898-1900	1894-1898
John J. Sullivan.....	1898-1904	1902-1904	1898-1902
Silas A. Holcomb.....	1900-1906	1904-1906	1900-1904
Samuel H. Sedgwick.....	1902-1908	1906-1908	1902-1906
	1910-1919 ⁵	-	1910-1919
John B. Barnes.....	1904-1917	1908-1909	1904-1907
	-	-	1909-1917
Charles B. Letton.....	1906-1925	-	1906-1925
James R. Dean.....	1909 ⁷ -1910	-	1909-1910
	1917-1935	-	1917-1935

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2013 (Cont'd.)

State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
Jesse L. Root	1909 ⁷ -1911	-	1909-1911
Jacob Fawcett.....	1909 ⁷ -1917	1915 ⁸	1909-1917
William Rose	1909 ⁷ -1943	-	1909-1943
Francis G. Hamer.....	1911-1918 ⁵	-	1911-1918
Conrad Hollenbeck	1915 ^{5,9}	1915	-
Andrew M. Morrissey.....	1915 ¹⁰ -1927	1915-1927	-
Albert J. Cornish.....	1917-1920 ⁵	-	1917-1920
Chester H. Aldrich.....	1918 ¹¹ -1924 ⁵	-	1918-1924
Leonard A. Flansburg	1920 ¹² -1923	-	1920-1923
George A. Day.....	1920 ¹³ -1927 ⁵	-	1920-1927
Edward E. Good.....	1923-1937 ⁵	-	1923-1937
W.H. Thompson	1924 ¹⁴ -1931	-	1924-1931
Robert E. Evans.....	1925 ⁵	-	1925
George A. Eberly	1925 ¹⁵ -1943	-	1925-1943
Charles A. Goss.....	1927-1938 ⁵	1927-1938	-
Francis S. Howell	1928 ¹⁶ -1929	-	1928-1929
L.B. Day.....	1929-1938 ⁵	-	1929-1938
Bayard H. Paine.....	1931-1949	-	1931-1949
Edward F. Carter.....	1935-1971	-	1935-1971
Frederick Messmore	1937 ¹⁷ -1965	-	1937-1965
Harvey M. Johnsen	1939 ¹⁸ -1940	-	1939-1940
Robert G. Simmons	1939 ¹⁹ -1963	1939-1963	-
John W. Yeager	1941 ²⁰ -1965	-	1941-1965
E.B. Chappell.....	1943-1961	-	1943-1961
Adolph E. Wenke	1943-1961 ⁵	-	1943-1961
P.E. Boslaugh.....	1949-1961	-	1949-1961
Harry A. Spencer.....	1961-1979 ²³	1978 ²¹	1961-1979
Leslie Boslaugh.....	1961-1994 ²³	-	1961-1994
Robert C. Brower	1961 ²² -1967	-	1961-1967
Paul W. White.....	1963-1978 ²³	1963-1978	-
Hale McCown	1965 ²⁴ -1983 ²³	-	1965-1983
Robert L. Smith	1965 ²⁴ -1973 ²³	-	1965-1973
John E. Newton	1967 ²⁴ -1977 ²³	-	1967-1977
Lawrence M. Clinton	1971 ²⁴ -1982 ⁵	-	1971-1982
Donald Brodkey	1974 ²⁴ -1982 ²³	-	1974-1982
C. Thomas White	1977 ²⁵ -1998 ²³	1995-1998	1977-1995
Norman Krivosha.....	1978 ²⁴ -1987 ²⁶	1978-1987	-
William C. Hastings	1979 ²⁷ -1995 ²³	1987-1995	1979-1987
D. Nick Caporale	1982 ²⁸ -1998 ²³	-	1982-1998
Thomas M. Shanahan	1983 ²⁹ -1993 ³³	-	1983-1993
John T. Grant	1983 ³⁰ -1993 ²³	-	1983-1993
Dale E. Fahrnbruch	1987 ³¹ -1996 ²³	-	1987-1996
David J. Lanphier.....	1993 ³² -1997 ³⁷	-	1993-1997
John F. Wright.....	1994 ³⁴	-	1994
William M. Connolly	1994 ³⁵	-	1994
John M. Gerrard.....	1995 ³⁶ -2012 ⁴³	-	1995-2012
Kenneth C. Stephan	1997 ³⁸	-	1997-

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2013 (Cont'd.) State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
Michael McCormack.....	1997 ³⁹ -	-	1997-
John V. Hendry.....	1998 ⁴⁰ -2006 ²³	1998-2006	1998-2006
Lindsey Miller-Lerman.....	1998 ⁴¹ -	-	1998-
Michael G. Heavican.....	2006 ⁴² -	2006-	2006-
William B. Cassel.....	2012 ⁴⁴ -		2012-

Endnotes

³ Elected in 1867 but died before he qualified.

⁴ Appointed in 1867; elected in 1868.

⁵ Died while in office.

⁶ Appointed in 1878 to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Gantt, then elected 1879.

⁷ Constitutional amendment approved in 1908 increased number of Supreme Court judges from three to seven. The governor appointed four judges, two to serve until successors were elected in the 1909 general election, and the other two to serve until successors were elected in the 1911 general election.

⁸ Acting chief justice Jan. 21 to 25, 1915.

⁹ Served from Jan. 7 to 21, 1915; died Jan. 21, 1915.

¹⁰ Appointed chief justice Jan. 25, 1915, to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Hollenbeck.

¹¹ Appointed Nov. 16, 1918, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Hamer. Aldrich died March 10, 1924.

¹² Appointed April 21, 1920, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Cornish.

¹³ Appointed Jan. 8, 1920, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Sedgwick. Judge Day died Dec. 20, 1927.

¹⁴ Appointed April 15, 1924, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Aldrich.

¹⁵ Appointed July 24, 1925, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Evans.

¹⁶ Appointed Dec. 29, 1927, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge George A. Day.

¹⁷ Appointed Aug. 9, 1937, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Good.

¹⁸ Appointed Nov. 28, 1938, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge L. B. Day. Term began Jan. 3, 1939. Resigned Nov. 8, 1940, upon appointment to U.S. Circuit Court.

¹⁹ Appointed Nov. 12, 1938, to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Goss. Term began Jan. 5, 1939.

²⁰ Appointed Nov. 18, 1940, to fill vacancy created by resignation of Judge Johnsen.

²¹ Served as chief justice pro tempore from Sept. 18 to Dec. 22, 1978.

²² Appointed March 13, 1961, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Wenke.

²³ Retired.

²⁴ Appointed to fill vacancy.

²⁵ Appointed Jan. 6, 1977, to replace retiring Judge Newton. Named chief justice Jan. 26, 1995, to replace retiring Chief Justice Hastings.

²⁶ Resigned July 31, 1987.

²⁷ Appointed Jan. 31, 1979, to replace retiring Judge Spencer. Named chief justice Sept. 2, 1987, following resignation of Chief Justice Krivosha.

²⁸ Appointed Dec. 21, 1981, to replace retiring Judge Brodkey.

²⁹ Appointed March 24, 1983, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Clinton.

³⁰ Appointed Sept. 1, 1983, to replace retiring Judge McCown.

³¹ Appointed Nov. 13, 1987, to fill vacancy created when Judge Hastings was named chief justice.

³² Appointed Oct. 14, 1992, to replace retiring Judge Grant.

³³ Resigned to serve on federal court bench.

³⁴ Appointed Jan. 27, 1994, to replace Judge Shanahan, who resigned to serve on federal court bench.

³⁵ Appointed Nov. 17, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Leslie Boslaugh.

³⁶ Appointed April 20, 1995, to fill vacancy created when Judge C. Thomas White was named chief justice.

³⁷ Voters removed Judge Lanphier from the bench in 1996.

³⁸ Appointed Jan. 27, 1997, to replace retiring Judge Farnbrucher.

³⁹ Appointed Jan. 28, 1997, to fill vacancy created when voters removed Judge Lanphier from the bench.

⁴⁰ Appointed chief justice Aug. 5, 1998, to replace retiring Chief Justice C. Thomas White.

⁴¹ Appointed Aug. 5, 1998, to replace retiring Judge Caporale.

⁴² Appointed Oct. 1, 2006, to replace retiring Judge Hendry.

⁴³ Resigned Feb. 2, 2012, to serve on federal court bench.

⁴⁴ Appointed April 26, 2012, to fill vacancy created when Judge Gerrard accepted an appointment to serve on federal court bench.

Supreme Court Officers

State Court Administrator

Office Address: Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

State Court Administrator: Janice K. Walker

Statutory Reference: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1

The Nebraska Constitution, as amended in 1970, vests general administrative authority over all courts in the Supreme Court and provides that the chief justice exercise this authority. It also provides that the chief justice serve as executive head of the courts and may appoint an administrative director.

The court administrator develops coordination within the judicial branch and with other agencies involved in programs affecting the courts. The administrator also develops statistics, prepares budgets, develops plans for judicial system improvement and serves as a central source for information about the courts.

Office of Dispute Resolution

Office Address: State Capitol, Twelfth Floor, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3148, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

Director: Debora Brownyard

Statutory Reference: 25-2904

The 1991 Legislature created the Office of Dispute Resolution within the office of the state court administrator. The state office coordinates the development of mediation throughout the state and approves mediation centers, which serve as an alternative means to resolving problems. Mediators are neutral individuals who help conflicting parties resolve their problems mutually. The mediation centers can handle all types of civil cases, such as family and juvenile matters, landlord/tenant, employer/employee, community, environmental, welfare, business, education, public policy and small claims disputes. The mediation centers receive referrals from courts, agencies, legislatures, government agencies, organizations and individuals. Regional mediation centers serve all counties in Nebraska.

Mediation Center	Location	Phone Number
Center for Conflict Resolution.....	Scottsbluff	(800) 967-2115
Central Mediation Center.....	Kearney.....	(800) 203-3452
Concord Center.....	Omaha	(402) 345-1131
The Mediation Center.....	Lincoln.....	(402) 441-5740
Nebraska Justice Center.....	Freemont.....	(866) 846-5576
The Resolution Center.....	Beatrice.....	(800) 837-7826

Dispute Resolution Advisory Council

Statutory Reference: 25-2905

When the Office of Dispute Resolution was created in 1991, the Legislature also created an advisory council to assist the office's implementation of the Dispute Resolution Act. The 11 council members are appointed by the state Supreme Court. Members

include representatives from the Nebraska District Court Judges Association, Nebraska County Judges Association, Nebraska State Bar Association, Office of the Public Counsel, social workers, mental health professionals, educators and other interested groups or individuals. Two nonvoting ex officio members are appointed to represent mediation centers. Members serve three-year terms. The council meets at least four times per year. Members are not paid but are reimbursed for expenses.

Member	Represents	Term Expires
Riko Bishop, Lincoln	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2014
Kristen Blankley, Lincoln	UNL College of Law	Dec. 31, 2014
Timothy R. Engler, Lincoln	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2013
Lorin Galvin, Omaha	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2013
Bryan Hanson, Omaha	Creighton University School of Law	Dec. 31, 2012
Chris Hanus, Lincoln	Health and Human Services	Dec. 31, 2014
Gale Jungemann-Shultz, Beatrice	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2012
Michael G. Mullin, Omaha	Nebraska State Bar Association	Dec. 31, 2012
Hon. Michael Offner, Hastings	County Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2014
Hon. Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha	Appeals Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2013
Hon. John Samson, Fremont	District Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2012
RaeAnn Schmitz, Scottsbluff	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2013
Carrie S. Sheldon, Grand Island	Therapist	Dec. 31, 2014
John S. Slowiaczek, Omaha	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2013

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Office Address: Room 1214, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3739, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov.

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals: Peggy J. Polacek

Statutory References: 24-211 and 24-1109

The reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals is appointed by the Supreme Court and performs the following functions:

- oversees editing of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions; has such decisions published in advance pamphlet form and bound volumes; has bound volumes of decisions copyrighted
- supervises preparation and editing of annotations to the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and federal court decisions and has such annotations transmitted to the revisor of statutes
- performs other functions as directed by the courts

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Office Address: Room 2413, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3731

Clerk of the Supreme Court: Lanet S. Asmussen

Statutory References: 24-211 and 24-1109

The state constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to appoint the clerk of the court. The clerk is custodian of the seal of the court and performs other duties as ordered by the court. The clerk of the Supreme Court also serves as the clerk of the Court of Appeals.

State Library

Office Address: State Capitol, Third Floor, P.O. Box 98931, Lincoln, NE 68509-8931, phone (402) 471-3189

State Librarian: Marie Wiechman

Statutory Reference: 51-101

The state library is the oldest public library in the state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of May 30, 1854, established a territorial library to be kept at the seat of state government, then in Omaha, for members of the government and others as prescribed by law.

The Legislature created the office of territorial librarian in March 1855. The library's collection grew to about 4,000 books by 1860. The territorial auditor and later the secretary of state served as librarian. In 1868, the library was secretly moved in the middle of the night from Omaha to the new Capitol in Lincoln. In 1871, the library was separated into two sections: law and miscellaneous. The clerk of the Supreme Court was responsible for the law books. The secretary of state retained the miscellaneous collection. Both collections were put under the supervision of the Supreme Court clerk in 1913. In 1968, the miscellaneous collection was given to other libraries, leaving only law books in the state library.

There are about 140,500 volumes housed in the library's quarters. The Supreme Court judges constitute the library's governing board.

Nebraska Territorial Supreme Court Officers, 1855-67**Librarians*

James S. Izard.....	March 16, 1855	Alonzo D. Luce	Nov. 7, 1859
H. C. Anderson.....	Nov. 6, 1855	Robert S. Knox.....	June 1861
John H. Kellom	Aug. 3, 1957		

Clerks of the Supreme Court

J. Sterling Morton	1855	E. B. Chandler.....	1859
H. C. Anderson.....	1856	John H. Kellom	1861
Charles S. Salisbury	1858	William Kellogg, Jr.....	1865

*All dates listed indicate beginning of terms.

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2013

*State Librarians**

Thomas P. Kennard June 22, 1867 William H. James Jan. 10, 1871

*Clerk of the Supreme Court**

George Armstrong June 11, 1867

Supreme Court Commissioners¹

Robert Ryan 1893-1899	Edward E. Good 1907-1909
John M. Ragan 1893-1899	Elisha C. Calkins 1907-1909
Frank Irvine 1893-1899	Jesse L. Root 1908-1909
William G. Hastings 1901-1904	William C. Parriott 1915-1919
George A. Day 1901-1902	Grant C. Martin 1915-1919
John S. Kirkpatrick 1901-1904	Fred O. McGirr 1915-1919
Willis D. Oldham 1901-1906	Franklin Shotwell 1919-1919
Samuel H. Sedgwick 1901-1902	Leonard A. Flansburg 1919-1920
Roscoe Pound 1901-1902	William C. Dorsey 1919-1921
Edward Duffie 1901-1909	George W. Tibbets 1919-1921
John H. Ames 1901-1907 1925-1929
I. L. Albert 1901-1907	William M. Cain 1920-1921
Charles S. Lobingier 1902-1903	John C. Martin 1925-1929
Richard C. Glanville 1902-1903	Thomas F. Neighbors 1925-1927
Charles B. Letton 1902-1906	William T. Thompson 1925-1929
John B. Barnes 1902-1904	Charles E. Sandall 1925-1929
Jacob Fawcett 1904-1908	Wilmer W. Wilson 1925-1931
N. D. Jackson 1905-1909	Frederick L. Wolff 1927-1931
Ambrose C. Epperson 1906-1909	Claude A. Davis 1928-1931

Clerks and Reporters of the Supreme Court and State Librarians

Guy A. Brown 1868-1889 ²	Lee Herdman 1900-1904
Walter A. Leese 1889 ³	Harry C. Lindsay 1904-1921
D. A. Campbell 1890-1900	

Clerks of the Supreme Court

Harry C. Lindsay 1921-1927	Larry D. Donnelson 1977-1983
Charles B. Letton 1927-1932	Kenneth A. Wade 1983-1987 ⁴
George H. Turner 1932-1977	Lanet S. Asmussen 1987-

Reporters of the Supreme Court

J. M. Woolworth 1870*	Marvin L. Green 1977-1979
Lorenzo Crounse 1873*	Jill Nagy 1980-1981
Henry P. Stoddart 1921-1944	Don Patton 1981-1986
Walter D. James 1944-1945 ⁶	Kathleen Sollars 1987-1989 ⁷
William E. Peters 1968-1971	Steven R. Schroeder 1989-1992 ⁸
H. Emerson Kokjer 1971-1977	Peggy J. Polacek 1992-

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2013 (Cont'd.)

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Revisor of Statutes

Walter D. James.....1945⁹-1968¹⁰

* Dates listed indicate beginning of terms.

¹The use of Supreme Court commissioners was terminated in 1931, at the request of the Supreme Court.

²Appointed clerk Aug. 8, 1868, and appointed librarian March 3, 1871. Appointed reporter 1875; died Oct. 27, 1889.

³Appointed Oct. 29, 1889.

⁴Appointed acting clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian 1983 and served until 1987.

⁵Appointed acting clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian Jan. 16, 1987, and became clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian Sept. 1, 1987.

⁶Appointed reporter of the Supreme Court Dec. 1, 1944; served until Feb. 23, 1945.

⁷Appointed acting reporter of the Supreme Court Jan. 14, 1987, and became reporter of the Supreme Court Sept. 1, 1987.

⁸Appointed acting reporter of the Supreme Court April 1, 1989, and became reporter of the Supreme Court Sept. 1, 1989.

⁹In 1945, the Legislature provided that the reporter of the Supreme Court serve ex officio as revisor of statutes. The Legislature created the office of revisor of statutes within the Legislative Council effective July 1, 1967.

¹⁰Died Feb. 18, 1968.

Office of Probation Administration

Office Address: Room 1209, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-2141

Probation Administrator: Ellen Fabian Brokofsky

Statutory Reference: 29-2249

In 1957, under LB568, Nebraska adopted a general statewide system that provided for a planned, uniform system of presentence investigations, case studies and coordinated supervision of offenders eligible for probation under court suspension of sentence. Organizationally, the Nebraska District Court Judges Association was initially granted power to exercise general supervision over probation in all district courts. District judges within each probation district appointed chief probation officers who served at the pleasure of the judges. From 1958 to 1971, the statewide probation system functioned primarily for adult felons, and supervision of misdemeanants from the county courts was performed as a courtesy.

In 1971, the Legislature passed LB680 which: provided for administration of probation in district, county and juvenile courts, except for the separate juvenile courts; created the Office of Probation Administration and outlined the office's duties; created the Field Probation Service and outlined its duties as well as the procedures for discharging offenders from probation; and provided a mechanism for the supervision of offenders through the Interstate Compact. In 1972, LB1032 created a unified county court system and formally allowed for supervision of probation cases from the county court. In 1978, LB624 was enacted which prohibited county courts from appointing probation officers. In that same year, LB625 was enacted, creating the Nebraska Probation System Committee, which assisted the Office of Probation Administration and the Probation Administrator in developing policies and standards for Field Probation Service. In 1985, the Legislature passed LB13, which merged the municipal courts of

Lincoln and Omaha into the county court systems of Lancaster and Douglas counties and placed the probation personnel of these courts under the supervision of the Office of Probation Administration. The probation personnel of the separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties also were placed under the Office of Probation Administration.

By virtue of LB529, the Legislature placed probation for district courts under the authority of the Nebraska Supreme Court effective July 1, 1986. The bill called for the Nebraska Probation System Committee to serve as an advisory committee until its duties were taken over by the Nebraska Probation Advisory Committee on July 1, 1988. The committee's role was to provide advice to the Probation Administrator and Supreme Court regarding probation matters. This committee was abolished by the Supreme Court on May 14, 1998, when the court alternatively elected to designate a Supreme Court judge to serve as liaison to the probation system.

In 1990, the Legislature provided for the implementation of the Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) program. ISP is designed to serve as an intermediate sanction between traditional probation and jail or prison for adults or state commitment for juveniles. Through utilization of a targeting tool, select offenders who have been deemed appropriate for this sanction may be sentenced to ISP. Organizationally, the state is divided into six ISP regions. Each region is staffed by a coordinator, line field staff and support personnel. Twenty officers were hired as part of the initial program in 1990. An additional five juvenile ISP officers were added in 1991 and five more ISP officers were added in July, 1995.

In 1997, the Legislature passed LB881, directing the Department of Correctional Services to develop and implement an incarceration work camp no later than Jan. 1, 2005, where adult criminal offenders can be placed as a condition of a sentence of probation (statutory reference: 83-4,142 through 83-4,147). LB881 outlined the work camp's structure and core programming and directed the court to target certain types of eligible felony offenders. Probation Administration's responsibility centers on assisting the court in identifying and assigning appropriate offenders to the work camp, responding to acts of noncompliance while offenders are in the work camp and performing an after care role once the offender completes the work camp and transitions back into the community. After several years of collaboration between the Department of Correctional Services and the probation system, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Work Ethic Camp became operational April 30, 2001.

In 2001, the Legislature passed LB451 to streamline the practice of juvenile intake and create a consistent and uniform method of decision making when law enforcement requests post-arrest detention/placement (statutory reference: 43-250, 43-253 and 43-260). The legislation solidified juvenile intake as an exclusive probation function. Seven juvenile intake probation officers were added to strengthen the Probation Administration's ability to successfully implement this new function statewide.

The practices of juvenile intake were further clarified in 2003 with the passage of LB43. The bill clarified that a peace officer retains temporary custody over a juvenile pending a probation officer's detention decision (statutory reference: 43-250). The law also was clarified so that a peace officer contacts the Department of Health and Human

Services, not the Office of Probation Services, when seeking temporary placement of a juvenile (statutory reference: 43-248).

The 2003 Legislature passed LB46, referred to as the Community Corrections Act, which created a number of criminal justice reforms that directly affected the administration of probation services. Key components of LB46 included:

- establishment of a Community Corrections Council within the Nebraska Crime Commission to oversee and ensure that a continuum of community corrections is developed for probationers and parolees (statutory reference: 47-1619 through 47-634)
- establishment of probation and parole enrollment and monthly programming fees to support enhanced programming and services, as well as establishing procedures and criteria for determining ability to pay and a Probation Program Cash Fund (statutory reference: 29-2262.06, 29-2262.07)
- establishment of a procedure and method of allowing probation officers to impose administrative sanctions for technical offender violations (statutory reference: 29-2266)
- elimination of presentence investigations in Class 3A misdemeanors and lower-class offenses and related traffic and city ordinances (statutory reference: 29-2261)
- development of sentencing guidelines by the Supreme Court. Guidelines for felony drug offenses are to be developed first and delivered to the Court by July 1, 2004 (statutory reference: 47-630)
- creation of a Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Fund that is administered by the executive director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, funded by the assessment of an additional \$1 in court costs and used to support data integration efforts among criminal justice entities (statutory reference: 47-632)
- adoption of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (statutory reference: 29-2639)
- alignment of probation districts with judicial districts as of July 1, 2009

Depending on the respective field division involved, probation serves several functions for courts, offenders and communities.

Within the juvenile intake field division, probation officers are statutorily obligated to respond to law enforcement requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make decisions regarding detention, alternative placement or release of a juvenile held in temporary custody. This is accomplished through an assessment of the juvenile's background using a standardized instrument.

In the traditional probation field division, probation officers have a dual responsibility to provide thorough presentence and readjudication investigative reports to the courts and community-based offender supervision. Such supervision entails appropriate offender intervention and redirection, victim restitution, community service and regulated monitoring of offender behavior to ensure that offenders who are not in compliance with their probation orders are returned to court and held accountable for their actions. Within the supervision arena, probation officers are assisted by case managers who are responsible for a higher caseload of low-risk offenders.

In the intensive supervision probation (ISP) field division, probation officers provide a community-based intermediate sentencing sanction that is programmatically

more restrictive than traditional probation. This sanction appropriately targets and intensely supervises both adult and juvenile moderately high-risk offenders who might otherwise be incarcerated or committed to state custody.

Nebraska Chief Probation Officers, 2013

District	Chief Probation Officer	Residence
1.....	Sarah Rinne	Beatrice
2.....	Jodi York	Papillion
3.....	Gene Cotter.....	Lincoln
3J ¹	Lori Griggs	Lincoln
4.....	Ron Broich	Omaha
4J ¹	Mary Visek.....	Omaha
5.....	Shane Stutzman	Columbus
6.....	Bob Denton	Fremont
7.....	Kathryn Liebers.....	Norfolk
8.....	Tara Sprigler-Price.....	O'Neill
9.....	Clay Schutz	Grand Island
10.....	Joe Budnick	Hastings
11.....	Lonnie Folchert	North Platte
12.....	Linda Buehler.....	Gering

¹Juvenile-only district.

Nebraska Probation System* Probation Districts¹



*Source: Nebraska State Probation Administrator's Office.
¹ As of July 1, 2009, probation districts were aligned with District Court judicial districts. District numbers followed by the letter 'j' indicate juvenile-only probation districts.

NEBRASKA COURT OF APPEALS

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-1101

The Nebraska Court of Appeals, an intermediate appellate court, was established on Sept. 6, 1991, as a result of a constitutional amendment approved by voters in the 1990 general election. The 1991 Legislature passed enabling legislation that determined the specifics of the court. The court was created to alleviate the increasing backlog of appeals pending before the Supreme Court and, ultimately, to expedite appellate review of decisions of lower courts and tribunals.

Criminal and civil appeals filed after Sept. 6, 1991, are heard by the Court of Appeals, except for cases involving a death sentence or life imprisonment or cases involving the constitutionality of a statute. Parties to the appeal may file a petition with the Supreme Court to bypass review by the Court of Appeals for direct review by the Supreme Court. Following a decision by the Court of Appeals, any party to a case may petition the Supreme Court for further review of the decision.

The Court of Appeals consists of six judges, with one judge appointed through merit selection from each Supreme Court judicial district. Court of Appeals judges are subject to the same terms relating to selection, filling of vacancy, term of office, discipline, removal from office and retirement as other judges covered by Article V of the Nebraska Constitution. From the six Court of Appeals judges, a chief judge is appointed by the Supreme Court to serve a one-year renewable term. Each Court of Appeals judge may choose any site within the state for his or her office. Court of Appeals judges receive an annual salary totaling 95 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

For purposes of hearing and deciding appeals, Court of Appeals judges sit in panels of three. The membership of the panels is regularly rotated by the chief judge in order to provide each judge an opportunity to serve a proportionate amount of time with every other judge. Although the principal administrative office and courtroom for the Court of Appeals is in the State Capitol, the enabling legislation provides that the court also hears arguments at sites throughout the state by designation of the chief judge.

The enabling legislation for the Court of Appeals provides that the clerk of the Supreme Court and the reporter of the Supreme Court also acts in such capacity for the Court of Appeals. Rules of procedure before the Court of Appeals are to be promulgated by the Supreme Court.

The initial group of Court of Appeals judges took office in 1992 and began hearing cases the third week of February. The court typically schedules arguments for the third week of each month, except during August, when the court is in recess.

The written opinions of the court are available to the public in printed format in *The Decisions of the Nebraska Court of Appeals* and at the court's website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov. Those decisions which are permanently published are published in a bound volume entitled *Nebraska Appeals*.

Judge	Represents	Term Expires
Everett O. Inbody, Wahoo (Chief Judge).....	District 5.....	January 2017
John F. Irwin, Papillion.....	District 4.....	January 2015
Frankie J. Moore, North Platte.....	District 6.....	January 2017
Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha.....	District 2.....	January 2015
Francie C. Riedmann, Omaha.....	District 3.....	January 2015
Richard D. Sievers, Lincoln.....	District 1.....	January 2015

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2013



RICHARD D. SIEVERS

DISTRICT 1

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9035, fax (402) 471-4148

Took office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 7, 1992; retained in office 1996, 2002 and 2008; served as chief judge, December 1991-December 1995

Biography: Born Dec. 31, 1947. Graduate of Kearney State College (B.A.), 1970; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1972. Married Maggie St. John, Aug. 31, 1969; three daughters. Former: attorney with law firm of Bruckner, O’Gara, Keating, Sievers & Hendry. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; chairman, Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Pro Se Litigation, 2001-present. **Former member:** board of directors, National High School Mock Trial Championship, 2003-10; adjunct faculty, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law in Trial Advocacy, 1988-2000; Nebraska State Bar Association Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, 1994; Nebraska State Bar Association Long-Range Planning Committee, 1993; board of directors, Nebraska Continuing Legal Education, 1987-93; board of directors, Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska, 1977-89 (president, 1987-89).

Continuing Legal Education, 1987-93; board of directors, Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska, 1977-89 (president, 1987-89).

MICHAEL W. PIRTLE

DISTRICT 2

Office Addresses: 10730 Pacific St., Ste. 238, Omaha, NE 68114, email address — mike.pirtle@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: June 24, 2011, to replace Judge Theodore L. Carlson, who died

Biography: Born Feb. 22, 1953, in Houston, Texas. Graduate of Midland Lutheran College (B.A. in business), 1975; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1978. Married Kimberly A. Knoll, May 29, 2010; four children: Caroline “Callie” Knoll, Michaela “Kaela” Knoll, Jacquelyn “Jackie” Pirtle and Stacey Pirtle. Former director, Gross & Welch, 2006-11; senior staff attorney, American Family Insurance, 2000-06; associate and partner, Valentine, O’Toole, McQuillan & Gordon, 1986-2000; associate and partner, McCormack, Cooney, Mooney & Hillman, 1979-86; associate, Noren & Burns, 1978-79; law clerk, Pierson, Ackerman, Fitchett & Akin, 1976-78. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association; Sarpy County Bar Association; Order of Barristers. **Former member:** Midland University Board of Trustees, 2008-11. **Honors and awards:** Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow, 2010; Midland Warrior Athletic Hall of Fame, 1993; master teacher award, Midland College, 1993.



Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2013 (Cont'd.)

FRANCIE C. RIEDMANN

DISTRICT 3

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3732, fax (402) 471-4148, email address — francie.riedmann@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: July 17, 2012, to replace Judge William B. Cassel, who was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court

Biography: Born Aug. 23, 1963. Graduate of Kearney State College (B.S.), 1985; Denver Paralegal Institute, 1986; Creighton University Law School (J.D., summa cum laude), 1993. Married Jim Weis, Nov. 5, 1988; three children: Lauren, Emma and Zachary. Former attorney, Gross & Welch. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association; amicus curiae committee, Nebraska Defense Counsel Association; board of directors, Black Student Catholic Scholarship Fund; St. Patrick's Catholic Church; Friends of the Library, Gretna Public Library; citizens' committee, Gretna Public Schools. **Honors and awards:** fellow, Litigation Counsel of America; fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation.



JOHN F. IRWIN

DISTRICT 4

Office Addresses: Nebraska Court of Appeals, Sarpy County Courthouse, Box 10, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046, phone (402) 593-4491, fax (402) 593-4493; State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9038, email address — john.irwin@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 13, 1992; retained in office 1996, 2002 and 2008; served as chief judge, September 1998-September 2004.

Biography: Born May 25, 1952, in Omaha. Graduate of University of Nebraska at Omaha (B.A.), 1974; Creighton University School of Law (J.D.), 1977. Former: chief deputy Sarpy County attorney, 1990-92; deputy Sarpy County attorney, 1981-90; private practice, 1977-81. **Member:** chair, Judicial Branch Education Advisory Committee; National Council of Chief Judges Executive Committee; co-chair, Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the Minority Justice Committee. **Former member:** Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee (chair); Nebraska Supreme Court Technology Committee (co-

chair); National Council of Chief Judges (education chair); Sarpy County Bar Association (president); 14th ABA Appellate Practice Institute Steering Committee, Chicago, Ill., 2007-09; secretary, American Bar Association Appellate Judge's Conference (AJC), 2005-07.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2013 (Cont'd.)



EVERETT O. INBODY DISTRICT 5 (CHIEF JUDGE)

Office Addresses: 112 E. Seventh St., Wahoo, NE 68066, phone (402) 443-5180, fax (402) 443-5285; State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9039, email address — rinbody@ncs.state.ne.us

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: April 20, 1995, to replace Judge William M. Connolly, who was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010; appointed chief judge Sept. 13, 2004

Biography: Born Sept. 13, 1945, in Columbus. Graduate of University of Nebraska (B.S.), 1967; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1970; American Academy of Judicial Education: Diploma of Judicial Skills, 1990; Diploma of Humanities and Judging, 1999. Married Patricia A. (Lee) Inbody; three children: Bernard, Rebecca and Benjamin. Former: district judge, 5th Judicial District, 1991-95; county judge, 5th Judicial District, 1986-91; partner, Haessler, Sullivan and Inbody, 1974-

86; associate, Haessler and Sullivan, 1970-74; director, Regions 4, 5 and 6 of the Nebraska State Crime Commission, 1970-78; deputy county attorney, Saunders County, 1970-75. **Member:** co-chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Children in the Courts, 2004-present; Nebraska State Bar Association Judiciary Committee. **Former member:** president, Nebraska County Judges' Association, 1990-91; Judicial Nominating Commission, 1979-86; Nebraska State Bar Association Executive Committee, 1978-79; adjunct faculty member, John F. Kennedy College, 1970-71; chairman, Nebraska State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, member House of Delegates; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Nebraska District Judges' Association and Education Committee. **Honors and awards:** Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Improvement to the Judiciary, 2010.

FRANKIE J. MOORE DISTRICT 6

Office Addresses: 300 E. Third St., Suite 254, North Platte, NE 69101, phone (308) 535-8342, fax (308) 535-8344; State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9037

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 28, 2000, to replace Judge Wesley C. Mues, who died; retained in office 2004 and 2010

Biography: Born Aug. 13, 1958, in Lincoln. Graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University (B.A.), 1980; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1983. Married Lowell J. Moore; two children: Erica and Sean. Former: judge, Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations, 1989-2000; partner, McCarthy, Gale, Moore & Hall, 1991-2000; Moore Law Office, 1990-91; associate, Kelley, Scritsmier & Byrne, 1983-1990. **Former member:** executive board, Nebraska State Bar Association Labor Relations and Employment Law Section; Legislation Committee; Ways, Means and Planning Committee; Task Force on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education; Task Force on Nebraska Judicial Nominating Commission; Federal Practice Committee, U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska.



Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 1991-2013

William M. Connolly.....	1992 ¹ -1994 ⁴	Everett O. Inbody ¹¹	1995 ⁶ -
Lindsey Miller-Lerman ³	1992 ¹ -1998 ⁴	Theodore L. Carlson.....	1998 ⁸ -2011 ¹²
John F. Wright.....	1992 ¹ -1994 ⁴	Frankie J. Moore.....	2000 ⁹ -
Wesley C. Mues.....	1994 ⁵ -1999	William B. Cassel.....	2004 ¹⁰ -2012 ¹⁴
Edward E. Hannon.....	1992 ¹ -2004	Michael W. Pirtle.....	2012 ¹³ -
Richard D. Sievers ²	1991 ¹ -	Francie C. Riedmann.....	2012 ¹⁵ -
John F. Irwin ⁷	1992 ¹ -		

¹ Member of original Court of Appeals. Judges Sievers and Irwin were appointed Dec. 11, 1991; Judges Connolly, Miller-Lerman, Hannon and Wright were appointed Dec. 12, 1991.

² Chief judge, 1991-95.

³ Chief judge, 1996-98.

⁴ Resigned upon appointment to Nebraska Supreme Court.

⁵ Appointed April 22, 1994, to replace Judge Wright.

⁶ Appointed March 7, 1995, to replace Judge Connolly.

⁷ Chief judge, 1998-2004.

⁸ Appointed Nov. 2, 1998, to replace Judge Miller-Lerman.

⁹ Appointed Jan. 28, 2000, to replace Judge Mues, who died.

¹⁰ Appointed Dec. 10, 2003, to replace Judge Hannon.

¹¹ Chief judge, 2004-present.

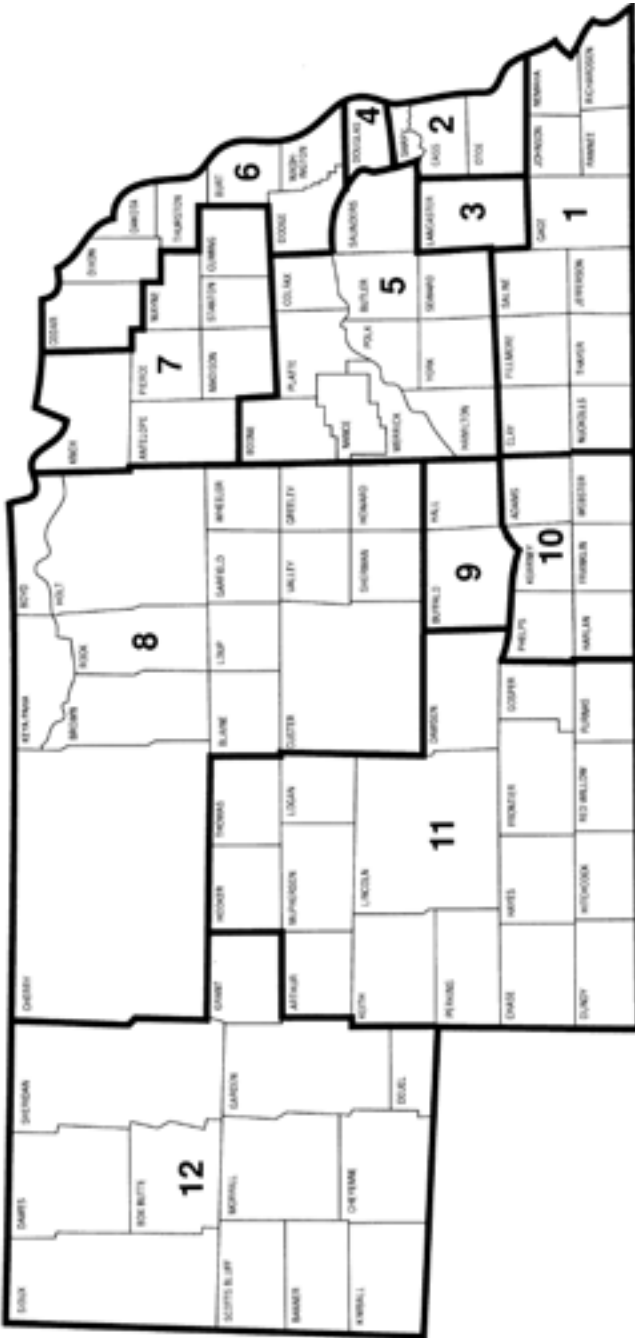
¹² Died April 26, 2011.

¹³ Appointed June 24, 2011, to replace Judge Carlson.

¹⁴ Resigned April 26, 2012, upon appointment to Nebraska Supreme Court.

¹⁵ Appointed July 17, 2012, to replace Judge Cassel.

Nebraska Judicial Districts — District Courts*



*Boundaries established by LB1207 in the 2004 legislative session.

DISTRICT COURTS

Statutory Reference: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1

The Organic Act of May 30, 1854, provided for three judicial districts in the newly created Nebraska Territory. These districts' courts were presided over by the Supreme Court judges, who were required to live in the districts they served. The first district covered Douglas and Dodge counties, the second district covered the territory south of the Platte River, and the third district covered Washington and Burt counties.

In 1855, the first session of these courts took place. In the same year, legislation redrew and enlarged district boundaries. The courts' functions were further defined in 1857.

The constitution of 1875 provided for six judicial districts and relieved the Supreme Court judges of district court duties. A 1920 constitutional amendment approved by voters provided that district judges must assist the Supreme Court when required. The 1961 Legislature provided that the Supreme Court may assign district judges to other districts when their services are needed. Nebraska has 12 districts served by 56 district judges.

District judges are selected to serve a specific district. The state establishes judges' and court reporters' salaries. The 1981 Legislature authorized the state to pay district judges 92.5 percent of the annual salary received by Supreme Court judges.

Clerks of the district court are county officers, elected and paid by the counties. District courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction and also rule on appeals from the county courts.

The 1965 Legislature passed the Conciliation Court Law to protect the rights of children, promote the public welfare by preserving and protecting family life and the institution of marriage, and to provide ways for spouses to reconcile and friendly ways to settle domestic and family problems. The law applies to counties in which the district court determines that the social conditions and number of domestic relations cases in the courts necessitate the consideration of such cases.

Nebraska District Judges, 2013*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1.....	Daniel E. Bryan Jr., Auburn	January 2015
	Vicky Johnson, Wilber.....	January 2019
2.....	Paul W. Korslund, Beatrice.....	January 2015
	David K. Arterburn, Papillion.....	January 2015
	Max Kelch, Papillion.....	January 2017
	Randall L. Rehmeier, Nebraska City.....	January 2019
3.....	William B. Zastera, Papillion	January 2019
	Steven D. Burns, Lincoln	January 2019
	John A. Colborn, Lincoln	January 2017
	Karen B. Flowers, Lincoln.....	January 2019
	Andrew R. Jacobsen, Lincoln.....	January 2015
	Paul D. Merritt Jr., Lincoln.....	January 2017
	Jodi Nelson, Lincoln.....	January 2017
4.....	Robert R. Otte, Lincoln.....	January 2019
	Stephanie Stacy, Lincoln.....	January 2015
	W. Mark Ashford, Omaha.....	January 2017
	Peter Bataillon, Omaha	January 2017
	W. Russell Bowie, Omaha	January 2017
	Timothy P. Burns, Omaha	January 2015
	J Michael Coffey, Omaha.....	January 2015
	J Russell Derr, Omaha.....	January 2019
	Duane C. Dougherty, Omaha.....	January 2015
	James T. Gleason, Omaha.....	January 2019
	Thomas A. Otepka, Omaha.....	January 2019
	Kimberly M. Pankonin, Omaha.....	January 2015
	Marlon A. Polk, Omaha	January 2015
	Gary B. Randall, Omaha	January 2015
	Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, Omaha	January 2019
	Gregory Schatz, Omaha.....	January 2017
5.....	Shelly R. Stratman, Omaha.....	January 2015
	Joseph S. Troia, Omaha.....	January 2019
6.....	Mary C. Gilbride, Wahoo.....	January 2015
	Alan G. Gless, Seward.....	January 2017
	Michael J. Owens, Aurora.....	January 2019
	Robert R. Steinke, Columbus	January 2019
7.....	Geoffrey C. Hall, Fremont.....	January 2015
	John E. Samson, Blair.....	January 2019
	Paul J. Vaughan, Dakota City.....	January 2015
8.....	James G. Kube, Madison.....	January 2019
	Mark D. Kozisek, Ainsworth.....	January 2019
9.....	Karin L. Noakes, St. Paul.....	January 2017
	John P. Icenogle, Kearney.....	January 2019
	James D. Livingston, Grand Island	January 2015
	Teresa K. Luther, Grand Island.....	January 2017
10.....	William T. Wright, Kearney	January 2017
	Terri S. Harder, Minden	January 2015
	Stephen R. Illingworth, Hastings.....	January 2017
11.....	Richard A. Birch, North Platte.....	January 2015
	James E. Doyle, Lexington.....	January 2019
	Donald E. Rowlands II, North Platte.....	January 2015
12.....	David Urbom, McCook.....	January 2017
	Leo Dobrovolny, Gering.....	January 2017
	Randall L. Lippstreu, Gering.....	January 2015
	Travis P. O'Gorman, Alliance	January 2015
	Derek C. Weimer, Sidney.....	January 2019

*Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013*

Name	Residence	District	Term
Ach, Joseph	Friend	7	1961-1971
Adams, Ed L.	Minden	10	1900-1908
Albert, I.L.	Columbus	6	1898
Allen, William V.	Madison	9	1892-1893 1899 1917-1924
Ambrose, G.W.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Amdor, Michael W.	Omaha	4	1994-2002
Ankeny, Harry R.	Lincoln	3	1945-1961
Applegate, Thomas	Tecumseh	1	1887-1892
Ashford, W. Mark	Omaha	4	2000-
Babock, Albert H.	Beatrice	1	1892-1896
Baker, Benjamin S.	Omaha	4	1896-1902
Barnes, J.B.	Ponca	6, 7	1879-1884
Barron, P.J.	Gering	17	1922-1927
Bartlett, Edwin M.	Omaha	4	1904
Bartos, Stanley	Wilber	7	1941-1961
Bartow, Alfred	Chadron	15	1892-1896
Bartu, Bryce	Seward	5	1977-1996
Bataillon, Peter	Omaha	4	2000-
Bates, Edward	York	5	1891-1900
Battershell, John J.	McCook	11	1992-2006
Baxter, Irving F.	Omaha	4	1900-1904
Beal, Henry J.	Omaha	4	1941-1953
Beall, F.B.	Alma, Hastings	10	1892-1896 1896-1900
Beck, Clarence S.	North Platte	13	1961-1965
Begley, James T.	Plattsmouth	2	1913-1934
Birch, Richard A.	North Platte	11	2011-
Blackledge, Lewis H.	Hastings	10	1921-1941
Blair, J.H.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Blue, William D.	Lincoln	3	1972-1996
Boyd, James F.	Oakdale, Neligh	9	1900-1907
Boyles, Bartlett E.	Lincoln	3	1963-1972
Broady, Jefferson H.	Beatrice	1	1884-1892
Broady, Jefferson H.	Lincoln	3	1923-1952
Brodkey, Donald	Omaha	4	1961-1974
Brower, John M.	Fullerton	21	1980-1991
Brown, Ralph D.	Crete	7	1917-1925
Bryan, Daniel E.	Auburn	1	1999-
Buckley, James A.	Omaha	4	1970-1998
Burke, John C.	Omaha	4	1961-1980
Burkhard, Robert V.	Omaha	4	1980-2005
Burns, Steven D.	Lincoln	3	1997-
Burns, Timothy P.	Omaha	4	2011-
Bush, J.E.	Beatrice	1	1892-1896
Button, Frederick W.	Fremont	6	1915-1928
Cambridge, William G.	Hastings	10	1981-1988
Camp, Robert R.	Lincoln	3	1983-1988
Caniglia, Samuel P.	Omaha	4	1971-1985
Caporale, D. Nick	Omaha	4	1979-1982
Carlson, Theodore L.	Omaha	4	1983-1998
Carrigan, Edmund B.	Blair	4	1927
Carter, Edward F.	Gering	17	1927-1935
Case, Raymond J.	Plattsmouth	2	1974-1990
Cassel, William B.	Ainsworth	8	1992-2003
Cecava, Kristine R.	Sidney	12	1999-2008
Chadderdon, Norris	Holdrege	10	1958-1977
Chapmon, Samuel M.	Plattsmouth	2	1887-1895
Chappell, E.B.	Lincoln	3	1929-1943
Chase, Dewitt Clinton	Stanton	9	1924-1938
Chase, Jackson B.	Omaha	4	1946-1954 1957-1961
Chevront, Jeffre	Lincoln	3	1983-2011

*District served reflects realignment of districts passed as LB1059 in the 1992 legislative session.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Church, A.H.	North Platte	10, 13	1889-1892
Clark, John E.	Omaha	4	1972-1994
Clarkson, Joseph R.	Omaha	3	1888-1892
Clements, Edwin P.	Ord	11	1921-1941
Clements, Elliott J.	Lincoln	3	1919-1923
Coady, Orville L.	Hebron	1	1971-2003
Cochran, James E.	McCook	11, 14	1887-189
Coffey, J. Michael	Omaha	4	1998-
Coffin, E.M.	Ord	11	1891-1892
Colborn, John A.	Lincoln	3	2000-
Colby, Lenard W.	Beatrice	18	1921-1924
Colwell, William F.	Pawnee City	1	1963-1981
Cones, Douglas	Pierce	8	1899-1900
Corcoran, George F.	York	5	1908-1925
Cornish, Albert J.	Lincoln	3	1896-1916
Corrigan, Lawrence J.	Omaha	4	1983-1999
Cosgrave, P. James	Lincoln	3	1912-1918
Crawford, J.C.	West Point	7	1884-1888
Crites, A.W.	Chadron	15	1891-1892
Crites, Albert W.	Chadron	16	1959-1966
Davidson, Samuel P.	Tecumseh	1	1882-1884
Davis, Herbert J.	Omaha	4	1891-1896
Davis, Stephen A.	Omaha	4	1982-2002
Day, George A.	Omaha	4	1902-1921
Day, L.B.	Omaha	4	1921-1929
Day, W.A.	Omaha	4	1936-1957
DeBacker, Richard L.	Grand Island	11	1980-1984
Derr, J. Russell	Omaha	4	2002-
Dickinson, Charles T.	Tekamah	4	1896-1904
Dickson, Robert R.	O'Neill	15	1912-1941
Dierks, John M.	Nebraska City	2	1952-1964
Dilworth, William A.	Holdrege	10	1919-1928
Dineen, Frank M.	Omaha	4	1929-1950
Dittrich, George W.	Norfolk	9	1961-1977
Doane, George W.	Omaha	3, 4	1888-1892
Dobrovoly, Leo P.	Gering	12	2007-
Dorsey, William C.	Bloomington	10	1917-1919
Dougherty, Duane C.	Omaha	4	2011-
Dougherty, Sandra L.	Omaha	4	1999-2009
Doyle, James E.	Lexington	11	2001-
Duffie, E.R.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Dunbar, Thomas E.	Nebraska City	2	1944-1952
Dungan, Harry	Hastings	0	1908-1917
Eldred, Charles E.	McCook	14	1919-1945
Ellis, Cloyde B.	Beatrice	18	1937-1958
Empson, Paul D.	Chadron	12	1980-2007
Endacott, Donald E.	Lincoln	3	1979-2000
English, James P.	Omaha	4	1913-1917
English, James T.	Omaha	4	1945-1959
Ensz, Robert B.	Wayne	7	1991-2012
Estelle, Lee S.	Omaha	4	1891-1892 1900-1921
Evans, Arthur J.	David City	5	1904-1908
Evans, Robert E.	Dakota City	8	1896-1900
Fahnbruch, Dale E.	Lincoln	3	1972-1987
Falloon, Virgil	Falls City	1	1937-1963
Fawcett, Jacob	Omaha	4	1896-1904
Feidler, Ted R.	Scottsbluff	17	1961-1977
Ferguson, A.N.	Lincoln	4	1886-1892
Field, Allen W.	Omaha	2, 3	1921-1961
Finn, Robert T.	Auburn, Beatrice, Tecumseh	1	1981-1999
Fitzgerald, James M.	Lincoln	4	1918-1919
Flansburg, Leonard A.	Scottsbluff	3	1961-1977
Flory, Robert D.	Columbus	6	1949-1965
Flory, Robert L.	Fremont	6	1961-1977
Flowers, Karen B.	Lincoln	3	1996-

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Foster, Charles E.	Omaha	4	1929-1933
Frost, Lincoln	Lincoln	3	1898-1912
			1924-1925
Frum, Sidney T.	South Sioux City	8	1941-1955
Fuhrman, Mark J.	Fremont	6	1977-1998
Garden, Richard P.	Norfolk	7	1979-2000
Garrotto, Paul J.	Omaha	4	1961-1971
Gaslin, William Jr.	Kearney	5, 8, 10	1876-1892
Gilbride, Mary C.	Wahoo	5	1998-
Gillan, George C.	Lexington	13	1923-1925
Gitnick, Jerry M.	Omaha	4	1978-1992
Gleason, James T.	Omaha	4	2002-
Gless, Alan G.	Wahoo, Seward	5	1995-
Good, Benjamin F.	York, Wahoo	5	1900-1912
Good, Edward E.	Wahoo	5	1912-1923
Goss, Charles A.	Omaha	4	1921-1927
Gossett, F.A., III	Fremont	6	1998-2003
Grant, John T.	Omaha	4	1974-1983
Graves, Guy T.	Pender	8	1900-1924
Green, W.L.	Kearney	12	1896-1897
Griffey, Thomas L.	Dakota City	6	1876-1877
Grimes, Hanson M.	North Platte	13	1895-1921
Grimison, James A.	Schuyler	6	1899-1904
Groff, Lewis A.	Omaha	3	1887-1892
Gutterson, Charles L.	Broken Bow	12	1903-1904
Hall, Charles L.	Lincoln	3	1891-1898
Hamer, Frances G.	Kearney	10, 12	1884-1892
Hamilton, Donald J.	Omaha	4	1965-1992
Hanna, James R.	Greeley, Grand Island	11	1904-1921
Hannon, Edward	O'Neill	15	1983-1991
Harder, Terri S.	Minden	10	2000-
Harrington, James J.	O'Neill	15	1900-1912
Harrison, T.O.C.	Grand Island	9, 11	1887-1894
Hartigan, John D., Jr.	Omaha	4	1991-2011
Hastings, Lovell S.	David City	5	1923-1947
Hastings, William C.	Lincoln	3	1965-1979
Hastings, William G.	Wilber, Omaha	7, 4	1892-1900
			1923-1937
Hayward, M.L.	Nebraska City	2	1886
Hendrix, Jack H.	Trenton	14	1969-1991
Hickman, Paul J.	Omaha	4	1978-1993
Hippe, Robert O.	Gering	12	1977-2007
Hobart, Ralph W.	Mitchell, Gering	16, 17	1911-1922
Holcomb, Silas A.	Broken Bow	12	1892-1894
Hollenbeck, Conrad	Fremont	6	1898-1914
Holmes, Edward P.	Lincoln	3	1894-1908
Hopewell, Melville R.	Tekamah, Omaha	3, 4	1887-1896
Horth, Ralph T.	Grand Island	11	1931-1934
Hostetler, Bruno O.	Kearney	12	1904-1941
Howard, Keith	Omaha	4	1979-1991
Huber, Walter G.	Blair	6	1972-1980
Hubka, Ernest A.	Beatrice	18	1958-1971
Hurd, Leslie G.	Harvard	7	1904-1917
Icenogle, John P.	Kearney	9	1990-
Illingworth, Stephen R.	Hastings	10	1988-
Inbody, Everett O.	Wahoo	5	1991-1995
Irons, Fred R.	Hastings	10	1971-1981
Irvine, Frank	Omaha	4	1891-1892
Irwin, George W.	Bridgeport	17	1935-1939
Jackson, Lyle E.	Neigh	9	1941-1961
Jackson, N. D.	Neigh	9	1892-1896
Jacobsen, Andrew R.	Lincoln	3	2011-
James, J.W.	Hastings	10	1928-1934
Jessen, Paul	Nebraska City	2	1900-1908
Johnson, Earl E.	Broken Bow	20	1973-1977

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Johnson, Vicky.....	Wilber.....	1	2003-
Kanouff, Howard V.....	Wahoo.....	5	1971-1977
Kelligar, William H.....	Auburn.....	1	1904-1908
Kelly, James R.....	Broken Bow.....	20	1977-1984
Kelly, Lloyd Jr.....	Grand Island.....	11	1972-1980
Kendall, A.A.....	St. Paul.....	11	1894-1900
Kennedy, Howard Jr.....	Omaha.....	4	1904-1913
Keyser, W.W.....	Omaha.....	4	1892-1902
Kieck, W.G.....	Plattsmouth.....	2	1937
Kinkaid, Moses P.....	O'Neill.....	12, 15	1887-1900
Knapp, John D.....	Kimball.....	12	1974-1999
Kneifl, Francis J.....	South Sioux City.....	8	1975-1984
Kokjer, Emerson.....	Wahoo.....	5	1947-1971
Korslund, Paul W.....	Beatrice.....	1	1998-
Kortum, Alfred J.....	Gering.....	12	1972-1995
Kozisek, Mark D.....	Ainsworth.....	8	2004-
Krell, Lawrence C.....	Omaha.....	4	1959-1978
Kroger, E.G.....	Grand Island.....	11	1934-1961
Kube, James G.....	Norfolk.....	7	2009-
Kuns, John.....	Kimball.....	13, 19	1949-1974
Lamberty, Patricia A.....	Omaha.....	4	1998-2011
Landis, Harry D.....	Seward.....	5	1925-1956
Leslie, Charles.....	Omaha.....	4	1912-1945
Letton, C.B.....	Fairbury.....	1	1896-1903
Lightner, Louis.....	Columbus.....	6	1923-1949
Likes, Mary G.....	Omaha.....	4	1992-2002
Lippstreu, Randall L.....	Gering.....	12	1998-
Livingston, James D.....	Grand Island.....	9	1992-
Livingston, D.W.....	Nebraska City.....	2	1934-1937
Luther, Teresa K.....	Grand Island.....	9	1994-
Lynch, Patrick W.....	Omaha.....	4	1954-1979
Manasil, William F.....	Burwell.....	11, 20	1958-1973
Marsh, Joseph.....	Dakota City.....	8	1967-1975
Marshall, William.....	Fremont.....	4, 6	1887-1898
Martin, Joseph D.....	Grand Island.....	9	1978-1994
McFadden, Eugene D.....	Norfolk.....	9	1977-1979
McGill, Michael.....	Omaha.....	4	1991-2000
McGinn, Bernard J.....	Lincoln.....	3	1981-2005
Merritt, Paul D. Jr.....	Lincoln.....	3	1988-
Messmore, Fred W.....	Beatrice.....	18	1929-1937
Meyer, Earl L.....	Alliance.....	6	1926-1959
Miller, Matt.....	David City.....	5	1891-1892
Mitchell, J.L.....	Nebraska City.....	2	1885-1886
Moran, Gerald E.....	Omaha.....	4	1993-2010
Moran, Robert R.....	Alliance.....	16	1966-1992
Morning, William M.....	Lincoln.....	3	1917-1924
Morris, William H.....	Crete.....	5, 7	1883-1884 1887-1892
Moss, William Jefferson.....	Fairbury.....	18	1924-1929
Mounts, Dayton R.....	Atkinson, O'Neill.....	15	1941-1961
Mullen, J. Patrick.....	Omaha.....	4	1985-2012
Mullery, Edward A.....	Omaha.....	4	1961-1962
Munday, Frank J.....	Red Cloud.....	10	1933-1958
Munn, C.A.....	Ord.....	11	1900-1901
Murphy, James M.....	Omaha.....	4	1977-1997
Murphy, John E.....	Omaha.....	4	1961-1978
Murphy, John P.....	North Platte.....	11	1983-2011
Neville, James.....	Omaha.....	3	1883-1888
Neville, William.....	North Platte.....	13	1892-1894
Newkirk, L. Ross.....	Omaha.....	4	1953-1961
Newton, John E.....	Ponca.....	8	1957-1967
Nimtz, Frank G.....	Omaha.....	4	1961-1964
Nisley, I.J.....	North Platte.....	13	1925-1961
Norris, G.W.....	McCook, Beaver City.....	14	1896-1903
Norris, W.F.....	Ponca.....	7, 8	1888-1896

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Norton, William H.	Osceola	5	1977-1991
Norval, T.L.	Seward	6	1883-1890
Nuss, Edmund	Hastings	10	1941-1971
O'Brien, James P.	Omaha	4	1961-1977
O'Gorman, Travis P.	Alliance	12	2011-
Ogden, Charles	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Olberding, Ronald D.	Burwell	8	1984-2006
Oleson, Andrew R.	Wisner	9	1915-1917 1929-1937
Orr, Robert C.	Hayes Center, McCook	14	1903-1912
Otepka, Thomas A.	Omaha	4	2003-
Otte, Robert	Dakota City	6	1985-1993
Owens, Michael J.	York, Aurora	5	1996-
Paine, Bayard H.	Grand Island	11	1917-1931
Pankonin, Kimberly M.	Omaha	4	2011-
Patton, James M.	Omaha	4	1949-1961
Paul, James N.	St. Paul	11	1901-1917
Pemberton, Leander M.	Beatrice	1, 18	1908-1921
Perry, Claibourne G.	Gering	17	1939-1957
Perry, Ernest B.	Cambridge	14	1912-1919
Polk, John L.	Lincoln	3	1937-1965
Pollock, Fay H.	Stanton	9	1943-1969
Post, Alfred M.	Columbus	4, 6	1880-1892 1919-1923
Post, George W.	York	4	1876-1880
Pound, Stephen B.	Lincoln	2	1876-1888
Powell, Clinton N.	Omaha	4	1896-1900
Powers, Isaac Jr.	Norfolk	7, 9	1887-1892
Proudfit, Robert M.	Friend	7	1925-1941
Quist, Darvid D.	Blair	6	1980-2010
Rait, James E.	Omaha	4	1927-1929
Ramsey, B.S.	Plattsmouth	2	1896-1900
Randall, Gary B.	Omaha	4	1997-
Raper, John B.	Pawnee City	1	1906-1937
Raun, Alfred D.	Walthill	8	1955-1957
Read, Guy R.C.	Omaha	4	1902-1904
Reagan, Ronald E.	Papillion	2	1972-2005
Redick, William A.	Omaha	4	1904-1912 1915-1936
Redmond, Maurice S.	Dakota City	6	1993-2005
Reed, Eldridge G.	Kearney	12	1941-1961
Reeder, James G.	Columbus	6	1904-1908
Rehmeier, Randall J.	Nebraska City	2	1990-
Reimer, Henry F.	O'Neill	15	1974-1983
Retelsdorf, Leigh Ann	Omaha	4	2009-
Rhoades, Herbert	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1927-1961
Richling, Theodore L.	Omaha	4	1970-1983
Riley, William H.	Grand Island	11	1984-1992
Rine, John A.	Omaha	4	1937-1944
Rist, William B.	Beatrice	1	1971-1998
Robertson, William A.	Plattsmouth	2	1944
Robinson, J.S.	Madison	9	1895-1899
Robinson, Russell A.	Fremont	6	1945-1961
Rogers, Patrick	Randolph	7	2001-2009
Ronin, Herbert A.	Lincoln	3	1961-1981
Rowlands, Donald E., II	North Platte	11	1986-
Ryan, Mark J.	Pender	8	1925-1941
Samson, John E.	Fremont	6	2003-
Savage, James W.	Omaha	3	1876-1883
Savidge, Samuel L.	Kearney	10	1883-1884
Schatz, Gregory	Omaha, Waterloo	4	2000-
Scheele, Elmer M.	Lincoln	3	1961-1972
Schmidt, Victor H.	Papillion	2	1964-1972
Scott, C.R.	Omaha	4	1892-1900
Sears, Willis G.	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1904-1923 1933-1949

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Sedgwick, S. H.	York	5	1896-1900
Sharp, Betty P.	Nebraska City	2	1972-1976
Shepherd, Frederick E.	Lincoln	3	1917-1945
Sidner, S.S.	Kearney	12	1961-1976
Silverman, Brian C.	Scottsbluff, Alliance	12	1992-2010
Sinclair, H.M.	Kearney	12	1895-1896
Slabaugh, W.W.	Omaha	4	1896-1904
Smith, Jerome H.	Aurora	6	1890-1892
Smith, Robert L.	Omaha	4	1961-1965
Smith, Walter H.	Plattsmouth	2	1965-1974
Smith, William C. Jr.	Ainsworth	15	1961-1974
Sornborger, S.H.	York	5	1900-1904
Spear, Frederick L.	Fremont	6	1928-1945
Spencer, Harry A.	Lincoln	3	1952-1961
Spethman, Richard J.	Omaha	4	1992-2005
Spikes, William F.	St. Paul	11	1941-1958
Sprague, Bernard	Red Cloud	10	1977-1999
Stacy, Stephanie	Lincoln	3	2011-
Stalmaster, Irvin	Omaha	4	1928-1929
Stanley, George H.	Syracuse	2	1976-1983
Stauffer, Carroll	Oakland	4	1921-1925
Stauffer, Carroll O.	Omaha	4	1950-1961
Steinke, Robert R.	Columbus	5	1991-
Stewart, Charles H.	Norfolk	9	1928-1941
Stewart, Willard E.	Lincoln	3	1908-1929
Stratman, Shelly R.	Omaha	4	2012-
Strode, Jesse B.	Lincoln	3	1892-1894
Stuart, Hugh	North Platte	13	1965-1986
Stubbs, George W.	Superior	7	1900-1904
Stull, J.S.	Auburn	1	1896-1904
Sullivan, Homer M.	Broken Bow	12	1897-1903
Sullivan, J.J.	Columbus	6	1892-1897
Sutton, Abraham L.	Omaha, South Omaha	4	1904-1914 1925-1927
Tesar, Rudolph	Omaha	4	1964-1979
Tewell, J.L.	Sidney	13	1921-1949
Thomas, George H.	Columbus, Schuyler	6	1908-1919
Thompson, George A.	Papillion	2	1983-2006
Thompson, J.R.	Grand Island	11	1892-1904
Thomsen, Arthur C.	Omaha	4	1929-1961
Tibbets, A. S.	Lincoln	3	1891-1896
Tiffany, Fayette B.	Albion	9	1883-1892
Travis, Harvey D.	Plattsmouth	2	1908-1913
Troia, Joseph S.	Omaha	4	1991-
Troup, Alexander C.	Omaha	4	1904-1929
Tuttle, Samuel J.	Lincoln	3	1898
Valentine, E. K.	West Point	6	1877-1878
Van Pelt, Samuel	Lincoln	3	1972-1983
Van Steenberg, Richard M.	Mitchell	7	1957-1961
Vaughan, Paul J.	Dakota City	6	2011-
Wakeley, Arthur C.	Omaha	4	1917-1927
Wakeley, Eleazer	Omaha	3, 4	1883-1892
Walton, W.C.	Blair	4	1892-1896
Warren, Merritt C.	Creighton	9	1969-1991
Weaver, A.J.	Falls City	1	1876-1882
Weaver, Donald H.	Grand Island	11	1961-1978
Weimer, Derek C.	Gering	12	2009-
Welch, Anson A.	Wayne	9	1907-1928
Welty, D.T.	Cambridge	14	1892-1896
Wenke, Adolph E.	Stanton	9	1938-1943
Westermark, Victor	McCook	14	1946-1969
Westover, William H.	Rushville	15, 16	1896-1926
Wheeler, Mason	Lincoln	3	1925-1929
Wheeler, Robert	Oscola	5	1892-1896
White, C. Thomas	Columbus	6, 21	1965-1977

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2013 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
White, Paul W.....	Lincoln.....	3.....	1953-1963
Whitehead, John C.....	Columbus.....	5.....	1977-1998
Wilson, Ralph.....	Lincoln.....	3.....	1943-1952
Wilson, W.W.....	Nebraska City.....	2.....	1937-1944
Windrum, Keith.....	Gothenburg.....	13.....	1972-1986
Withoff, Earl J.....	Lincoln.....	3.....	1988-2008
Wolf, DeWayne.....	Kearney.....	12.....	1976-1990
Wright, Fred A.....	Omaha.....	4.....	1929-1932
Yeager, John W.....	Omaha.....	4.....	1933-1940
Zastera, William B.....	Nebraska City, Papillion.....	2.....	1997-
Zeilinger, John D.....	York.....	5.....	1956-1977

Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

Territorial¹

D.S. McGary.....	May 10, 1852	James G. Chapman.....	Aug. 3, 1857
Jonathan H. Smith	June 9, 1855	William McLellan.....	Aug. 3, 1857
S.A. Strickland.....	June 11, 1855	George W. Doane.....	Aug. 3, 1857
John M. Latham	Nov. 6, 1855	U.C. Johnson.....	Oct. 11, 1859
Jacob Safford.....	Nov. 6, 1855		
William Kline.....	Nov. 6, 1855		

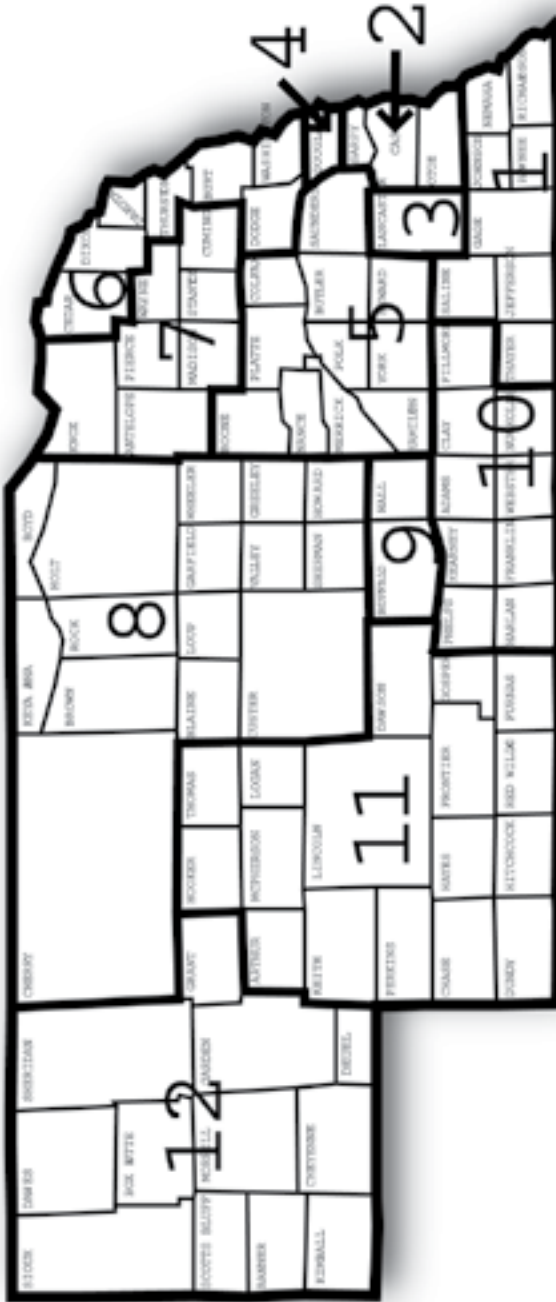
Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

State³

Name	Residence	District	Elected
Hewitt, O.B.....	Brownville.....	1.....	1868, 70
Cown, J.C.....	Omaha.....	2.....	1868, 70
Gray, E.F.....	Fremont.....	3.....	1868, 70
Weaver, A.J.....	Falls City.....	1.....	1872
Connell, William J.....	Omaha.....	2.....	1872, 74
		3.....	1875
Hoxic, Melville B.....	Fremont.....	3.....	1872, 74, 75
Dilworth, C.J.....	Plum Creek.....	1.....	1874, 75, 76
Eller, J.W.....	Omaha.....	1.....	1875
Broady, J.H.....	Beatrice.....	2.....	1875
Barnes, John B.....	Ponca.....	6.....	1875, 76
Maule, J.P.....	Fairmont.....	1.....	1876, 78
Smith, George S.....	Plattsmouth.....	2.....	1876
Buckingham, E.H.....	Omaha.....	3.....	1876
Greene, C.J.....	Omaha.....	3.....	1876
Reese, M.B.....	Wahoo.....	4.....	1876, 78, 80
Watson, John C.....	Nebraska City.....	2.....	1878, 80
Ferguson, A.N.....	Omaha.....	3.....	1878
Scofield, T.D.....	Hastings.....	5.....	1878
McNish, C.C.....	Wisner.....	6.....	1878, 80
Morris, William H.....	Crete.....	1.....	1880
Burnham, N.J.....	Omaha.....	3.....	1880
Bierbower, V.....	Sidney.....	5.....	1880
Sabin, Robert W.....	Beatrice.....	1.....	1882
Strode, J.B.....	Plattsmouth.....	2.....	1882, 84
Godwin, Park.....	Omaha.....	3.....	1882
Roberts, Jacob C.....	David City.....	4.....	1882
Bemis, George W.....	Sutton.....	5.....	1883
Darnell, Thomas.....	St. Paul.....	6.....	1882, 84
Bryant, Wilbur F.....	Ponca.....	7.....	1882
Morian, W.S.....	Arapahoe.....	8.....	1882, 84
Coffin, E.M.....	Ord.....	9.....	1883 ⁴
Bixler, J.W.....	North Platte.....	10.....	1883 ⁴
Osgood, Daniel.....	Tecumseh.....	1.....	1884
Estelle, Lee S.....	Blair.....	3.....	1884
Marshall, William.....	Fremont.....	4.....	1884
Savage, Manford.....	Hebron.....	7.....	1884
Wilbur, Guy R.....	St. Helena.....	7.....	1884
Jackson, N.D.....	Neligh.....	9.....	1884
Sinclair, H.M.....	Plum Creek.....	10.....	1884

¹ Office abolished by act of Jan. 11, 1861, and revived June 11, 1867.² All dates listed for territorial attorneys indicate beginning of terms.³ An 1885 act provided for county attorneys rather than district attorneys beginning March 10 of that year.⁴ Appointed.

Nebraska Judicial Districts — County Courts*



*Boundaries established by LB1059 in the 1992 legislative session.

COUNTY COURTS

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-502

A county court serves each Nebraska county. The court has:

- civil jurisdiction in cases involving less than \$52,000
- criminal jurisdiction in all misdemeanor cases, including violations of city and village ordinances
- jurisdiction in all probate, estate administration and guardianship matters
- exclusive jurisdiction in juvenile cases, except in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties
- jurisdiction in domestic relations cases

The present county court system, established in 1972, combines the previous functions of the 93 county courts, several hundred police courts and several hundred justices of the peace. The 1972 change was the first major restructuring of Nebraska's courts of limited jurisdiction since statehood was attained.

The 58 county judges serve in Nebraska's 12 county court judicial districts. Judges were elected to four-year terms on a nonpolitical ballot in 1972. The 1974 Legislature included county judges in the merit plan system of judicial selection. County judges each receive an annual salary totaling 85 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

A clerk magistrate is appointed in each county, except in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties, where judicial administrators are appointed. In most counties, the clerk magistrate is not a lawyer.

The state pays county judges and county court employees. Each county pays for the cost of facilities, supplies and equipment.

Appeals from the county courts are taken to district court, based on the record made in county court, except when the county court is acting as a juvenile court.

Nebraska County Judges, 2013*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1	Curtis L. Maschman, Falls City	January 2015
	J. Patrick McArdle, Wilber	January 2017
	Steven B. Timm, Beatrice	January 2015
2	Jeffrey J. Funke, Papillion	January 2017
	Todd J. Hutton, Papillion	January 2015
	John F. Steinheider, Nebraska City	January 2019
	Robert C. Wester, Papillion	January 2017
3	Mary L. Doyle, Lincoln	January 2019
	James L. Foster, Lincoln	January 2017
	Timothy C. Phillips, Lincoln	January 2015
	Gale Pokorny, Lincoln	January 2017
4	Susan Strong, Lincoln	January 2017
	Laurie J. Yardley, Lincoln	January 2017
	Edna Atkins, Omaha	January 2015
	Lawrence E. Barrett, Omaha	January 2017
	Susan Bazis, Omaha	January 2017
	Joseph P. Caniglia, Omaha	January 2015
	Thomas K. Harmon, Omaha	January 2015
	Marcena M. Hendrix, Omaha	January 2015
	John E. Huber, Omaha	January 2015
	Marcela A. Keim, Omaha	January 2015
5	Sheryl L. Lohaus, Omaha	January 2015
	Darryl R. Lowe, Omaha	January 2015
	Jeffrey Marcuzzo, Omaha	January 2017
	Craig Q. McDermott, Omaha	January 2015
	Linda S. Caster Senff, Aurora	January 2015
	Curtis H. Evans, York	January 2017
6	Patrick R. McDermott, Schuyler	January 2015
	Frank J. Skorupa, Columbus	January 2017
	Douglas L. Luebe, Hartington	January 2019
	Kurt Rager, Dakota City	January 2017
	C. Matthew Samuelson, Blair	January 2015
7	Kenneth Vampola, Fremont	January 2015
	Richard W. Krepela, Madison	January 2019
	Ross A. Stoffer, Pierce	January 2017
	Donna Taylor, Neligh	January 2019
8	Alan L. Brodbeck, O'Neill	January 2019
	James J. Orr, Broken Bow	January 2015
	Tami K. Schendt, Broken Bow	January 2015
9	Graten D. Beavers, Kearney	January 2019
	Gerald R. Jorgensen Jr., Kearney	January 2019
	Philip M. Martin Jr., Grand Island	January 2019
	Arthur S. Wetzal, Grand Island	January 2015
10	Michael P. Burns, Hastings	January 2015
	Robert A. Ide, Holdrege	January 2017
	Michael L. Offner, Red Cloud	January 2017
11	Anne Paine, McCook	January 2017
	Michael Piccolo, North Platte	January 2015
	Edward D. Steenburg, Ogallala	January 2015
	Kent D. Turnbull, North Platte	January 2015
	Russell W. Harford, Chadron	January 2015
12	Kris D. Mickey, Gering	January 2015
	Randin Roland, Sidney	January 2017
	James M. Worden, Scottsbluff	January 2015

* Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 27; and 43-2,111

Separate juvenile courts are courts of record and handle matters pertaining to neglected, dependent and delinquent children. These courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with district courts in all matters concerning the care, support, custody or control of mentally deficient children younger than 18. Separate juvenile court judges each receive an annual salary totaling 92.5 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

There are 11 juvenile judges — five in Douglas County, four in Lancaster County and two in Sarpy County.

County	Judge	Term Expires
Douglas	Elizabeth G. Crnkovich, Omaha	January 2017
	Vernon Daniels, Omaha	January 2017
	Douglas F. Johnson, Omaha	January 2017
	Christopher Kelly, Omaha	January 2017
	Wadie Thomas, Omaha	January 2017
Lancaster	Roger Heideman, Lincoln	January 2019
	Linda S. Porter, Lincoln	January 2015
	Reggie L. Ryder, Lincoln	January 2017
Sarpy	Toni G. Thorson, Lincoln	January 2017
	Lawrence D. Gendler, Papillion	January 2015
	Robert B. O'Neal, Papillion	January 2019

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98908, Lincoln, NE 68509-8908, phone (402) 471-6468, toll-free phone (800) 599-5155, email address — newcc@wcc.ne.gov, website — www.wcc.ne.gov

Administrator: Glenn W. Morton

Statutory Reference: 48-152

Publications: Annual Report; court rules; annual Occupational Safety and Health Survey; various information pamphlets.

The Workers' Compensation Court administers and enforces the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, including original jurisdiction of claims for workers' compensation benefits resulting from industrial accidents or occupational diseases. All disputed claims must be submitted to the court for finding, award, order or judgment. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Appeals.

The first Nebraska Workers' Compensation Law was passed in 1914. From then until 1917, several state district courts administered the act. In 1917, the Legislature created the Compensation Division in the Department of Labor, and the commissioner of labor was designated compensation commissioner. The 1935 Legislature transferred Compensation Division functions to the Workers' Compensation Court.

Compensation court judges are selected and serve terms pursuant to a merit plan.

Each judge’s salary is 92.5 percent of the salary set for the chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court. Compensation court judges have statewide jurisdiction and travel throughout the state to hold hearings in county seats in disputed cases. The court administers the Workers’ Compensation Court Trust Fund (formerly the Second Injury and Vocational Rehabilitation Trust fund). The court reviews qualifications of employers who want to be self-insured. Other court duties include certifying vocational rehabilitation providers, administering the medical, surgical and hospital fee schedules, providing the independent medical examiner system, certifying managed care plans, creating publications and providing informal dispute resolution. The court also maintains a statewide toll-free information line. To perform its duties, the court is organized into two operating divisions and seven operating sections. The adjudication division, under the direction of the presiding judge, includes the judges and the Office of the Clerk of the Court. The administration division, under the direction of the administrator, includes Administration, Rehabilitation, Legal, Public Information Services and Coverage and Claims sections.

All reportable industrial accidents and occupational diseases are required to be reported to the court. The court maintains a computer database of work-related injuries and all payments reported, as well as employers’ insurance coverage.

Judge	Term Expires
James R. Coe, Omaha.....	January 2017
J. Michael Fitzgerald, Lincoln.....	January 2019
Daniel R. Fridrich, Omaha.....	January 2015
Michael K. High, Lincoln.....	January 2015
John R. Hoffert, Lincoln.....	January 2017
Lauren K. VanNorman, Lincoln (Presiding).....	January 2015
Thomas E. Stine, Lincoln.....	January 2015

Workers’ Compensation Court Judges, 1935-2013

Judge	Term of Service
Lawrence F. Welch.....	June 8, 1935-July 1, 1941 Dec. 15, 1965-March 31, 1973
Franklin M. Coffey.....	June 8, 1935-July 1, 1943
Paul L. Hoffman.....	July 1, 1941-July 1, 1945
Charles E. Jackman.....	June 8, 1935-July 30, 1951
Joe P. Cashen.....	Oct. 8, 1951-Jan. 31, 1956
O.M. Olsen.....	July 1, 1943-Dec. 31, 1960
Albert Arms.....	July 1, 1945-Dec. 31, 1964
William H. Riley.....	Jan. 1, 1965-June 1, 1969
Richard N. Johnson.....	Jan. 1, 1965-June 1, 1969
Richard S. Willes.....	June 1, 1969-Sept. 1, 1977
Ted W. Vrana.....	Sept. 15, 1975-April 30, 1993
James P. Monen.....	Sept. 1, 1977-August 31, 1993
Mark A. Buchholz.....	Aug. 1, 1972-Feb. 28, 1994
Ben Novicoff.....	Feb. 1, 1956-Jan. 31, 1996
Paul E. LeClair.....	April 4, 1973-Oct. 20, 1997
Joseph S. Ramirez.....	Nov. 1, 1993-June 30, 2001
Michael P. Cavel.....	Oct. 5, 1983-Sept. 30, 2011
James R. Coe.....	Oct. 7, 1988-
Laureen K. VanNorman.....	July 6, 1993-
Ronald L. Brown.....	April 8, 1994-Aug. 2, 2012
J. Michael Fitzgerald.....	April 12, 1996-
Michael K. High.....	Jan. 8, 1998-
John R. Hoffert.....	Oct. 4, 2001-
Thomas E. Stine.....	Sept. 13, 2011-
Daniel R. Fridrich.....	Sept. 18, 2012-

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

Judicial Resources Commission

Contact Person: Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory Reference: 24-1201

When a district or county judge dies, retires, resigns, is removed from office or is not retained in office, or if there is a need to change the boundaries or number of district or county judicial districts or the number of judgeships, the Judicial Resources Commission holds a public hearing in the affected district or districts. The commission determines whether a judicial vacancy exists and the location of that vacancy, whether the judicial district boundaries or number of districts should be changed or whether the number of district or county judges should be changed. After reaching a decision, the commission makes a recommendation to the Legislature.

Commission members include:

- a district judge, a county judge, a juvenile judge and a Supreme Court judge, all of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court judge serves as commission chairperson.
- six members of the Nebraska State Bar Association, one from each of the six Supreme Court districts, who have practiced law in the state for at least 10 years and who are appointed by the association’s executive council
- seven governor-appointed citizens, one from each of the six Supreme Court districts and one appointed at large, who are not judges (active or retired), Nebraska State Bar Association members or immediate family members of any other member

All members of the commission serve six-year terms. Members are reimbursed for expenses.

Member	Position	Term Expires
Riko E. Bishop, Lincoln.....	Attorney, District 1.....	July 24, 2014
Richard Carter, Bellevue.....	Citizen, District 4.....	July 1, 2016
Mike Day, Omaha.....	Citizen, District 2.....	July 1, 2016
Thomas E. Hoarty, Omaha.....	Attorney, District 2.....	July 24, 2014
Jayne Mann, Aurora.....	Citizen, District 5.....	July 1, 2016
Wayne J. Mark, Omaha.....	Attorney, District 4.....	July 24, 2014
Steven Mattoon, Sidney.....	Attorney, District 6.....	July 14, 2014
Michael McCormack, Lincoln (Chairman).....	Supreme Court Judge.....	July 14, 2016
Patrick McDermott, Schuyler.....	County Judge.....	July 14, 2016
Robert O’Neal, Papillion.....	Juvenile Judge.....	Oct. 31, 2013
Robert J. Parker, Hastings.....	Attorney, District 5.....	July 24, 2014
Brian Phares, North Platte.....	Citizen, District 6.....	July 1, 2016
John Samson, Fremont.....	District Judge.....	July 14, 2016
Lori Scherer, Beemer.....	Citizen, District 3.....	July 1, 2016
Amy Schlichting, Lincoln.....	Citizen, At Large.....	July 1, 2016
Mark M. Sipple, Columbus.....	Attorney, District 3.....	July 14, 2014
Darlene Starman, Lincoln.....	Citizen, District 1.....	July 1, 2016

Judicial Nominating Commission

Contact Person: Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 21; and 24-801

Once a determination is made that a judicial vacancy exists and a location is selected for the judge's home court, a judicial nominating commission holds a public hearing to interview candidates for the position.

Judicial nominating commissions are local bodies composed of four lawyers selected by the Nebraska State Bar Association and four nonlawyers appointed by the governor. No more than two lawyers may be from the same political party. Commission members serve four-year terms.

After each judicial nominating commission public hearing, the commission selects at least two qualified candidates for consideration by the governor. Generally, the governor selects the new judge. If the governor does not make an appointment in 60 days, the chief justice of the Supreme Court makes the appointment from the commission's list of candidates.

By Sept. 1 of each year, the clerk of the Supreme Court determines whether vacancies exist on any commission and reports the status of each commission to the governor. The governor must promptly fill vacancies of members that he or she appointed. Vacancies of commission lawyer members must be filled promptly by a special election, conducted by the Supreme Court clerk.

Commission on Judicial Qualifications

Contact Person: Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 28; and 24-715

The 1967 Legislature created the Commission on Judicial Qualifications pursuant to Article V, Sections 28 to 31 of the Nebraska Constitution, as adopted at the 1966 general election.

Any citizen may file a complaint with the commission about judges' acts, activities or qualifications. The commission conducts investigations after receiving complaints or requests for action. The commission can subpoena witnesses, hold hearings, require the judge to submit physical or mental examination findings by medical experts, appoint special masters to conduct hearings and conduct special investigations. The commission may recommend to the Supreme Court that a judge be either reprimanded, disciplined, censured or suspended. Actions calling for such punishment include:

- willful misconduct in office
- willful disregard of or failure to perform duties
- habitual intemperance
- conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude
- disbarment from the legal profession
- conduct that harms the administration of justice and the integrity of the judicial office

office

A constitutional amendment adopted in 1980 provides that commission membership include:

- a district judge, a county judge and a judge of any other court except the Supreme Court, all of whom are appointed by the chief justice
- three members of the Nebraska State Bar Association who have practiced law in the state for at least 10 years and who are appointed by the association’s executive council
- three citizens who are not judges or Nebraska State Bar Association members and who are appointed by the governor
- the chief justice, who serves as the commission chairperson

Members serve four-year terms. The commission meets three to five times a year. Members are not paid but may be reimbursed for their expenses.

Member	Position	Term Expires
Hon. Alan L. Brodbeck, O’Neill.....	County Judge.....	March 31, 2013
Charles Diers, Fremont.....	Citizen.....	March 31, 2013
Douglas Dolezal, Lincoln.....	Citizen.....	March 31, 2013
Hon. Terri S. Harder, Minden.....	District Judge.....	March 31, 2013
Margaret Hornady, Grand Island.....	Citizen.....	March 31, 2013
Fred Kaufman, Lincoln.....	Attorney.....	March 31, 2013
D. Steven Leininger, Grand Island.....	Attorney.....	March 31, 2013
Mandy Strigenz, Omaha.....	Attorney.....	March 31, 2013
Hon. Wadie Thomas, Omaha.....	Juvenile Court Judge.....	March 31, 2013
Hon. Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chair)....	Chief Justice.....	Nonexpiring

