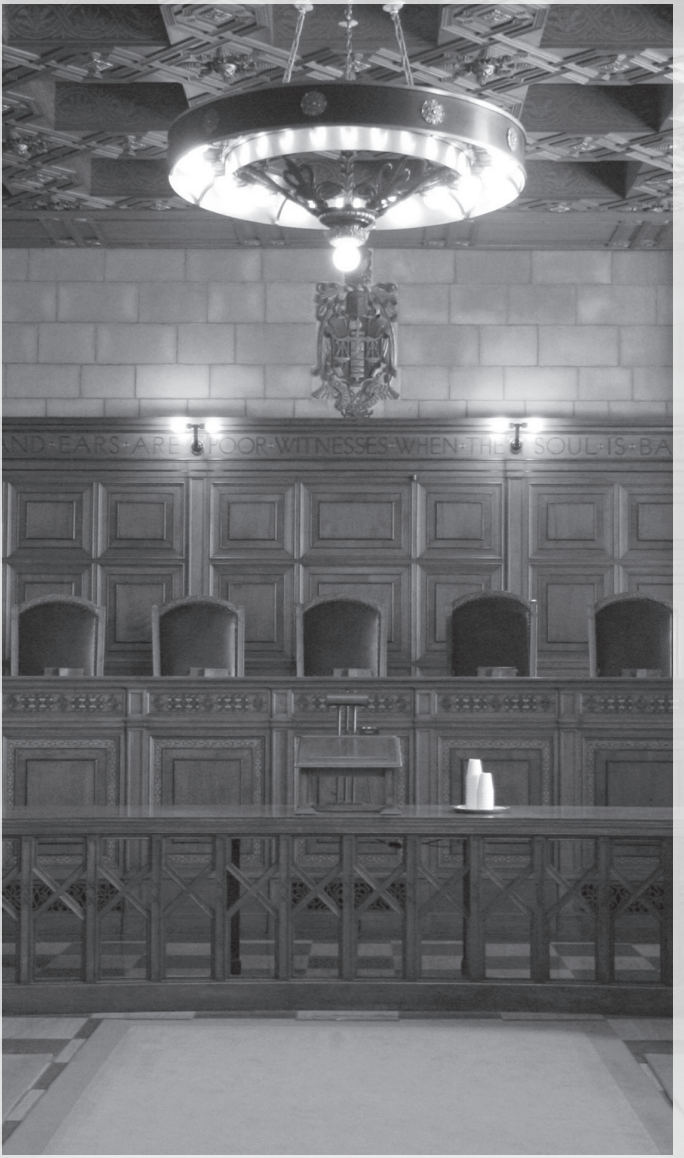
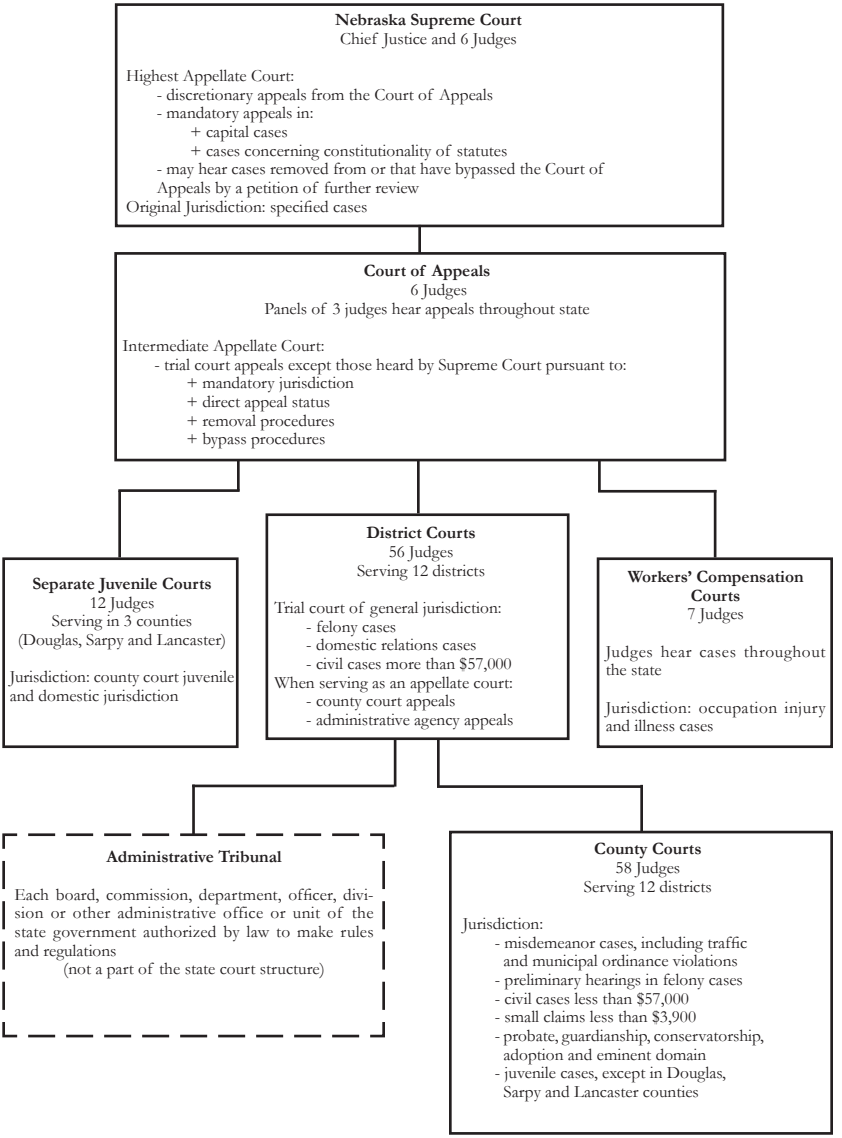


State Judicial Branch

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 two-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 appeals 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 $57,000 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 $3,900 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 12 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

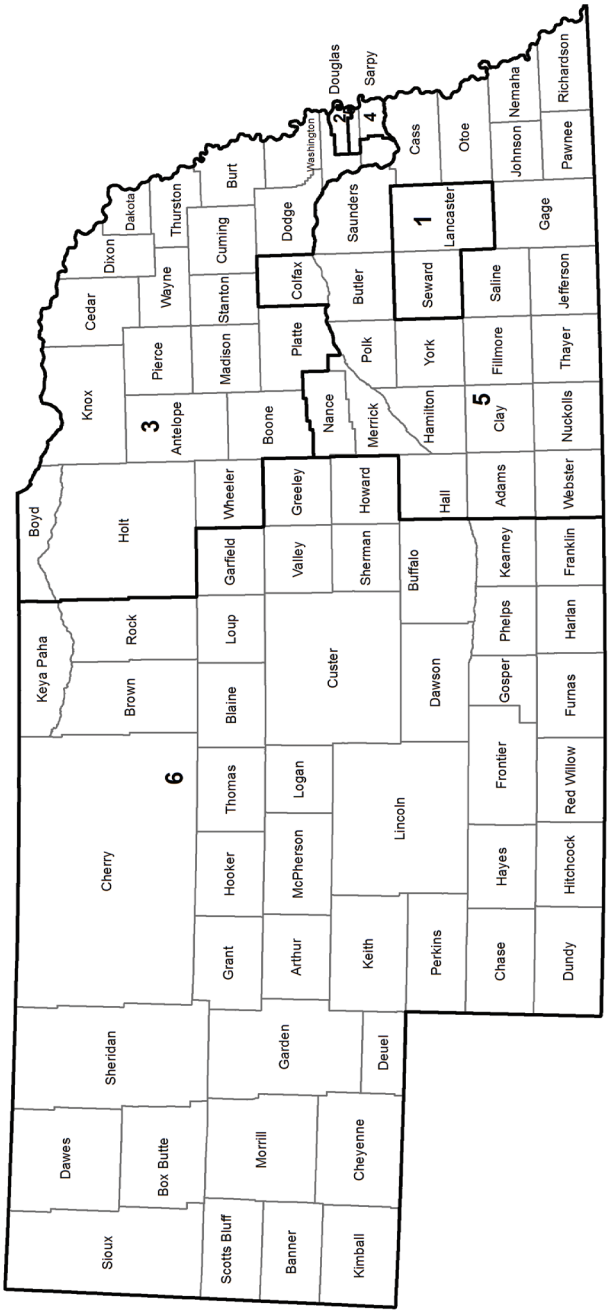
makes final decisions on who will become the new judge. However, if the governor makes no appointment within 60 days after receiving the list of nominees, the chief justice makes the appointment from the list.

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 Districts[1]



[1] Boundaries 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: Corey R. Steel

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

Salary of Supreme Court Judges: $187,036

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 2023
John R. Freudenberg, Lincoln	District 6	January 2023
Jeffrey J. Funke, Nebraska City	District 5	January 2027
Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chief Justice)	State At Large	January 2023
Lindsey Miller-Lerman, Omaha	District 2	January 2027
Jonathan J. Papik, Omaha	District 4	January 2023
Stephanie F. Stacy, Lincoln	District 1	January 2025

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2021

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 and 2016

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. **Member:** Conference of Chief Justices, 2006 to present (president, 2013-14); board of directors, National Center for State Courts, 2011 to present (chair, 2013-14); Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, Judicial Conference of the United States, 2011 to present; Special Committee on Uniform Bar Examination, 2011 to present. **Former Member:** Professionalism Committee, Conference of Chief Justices (chair); United States Attorney General's Advisory Committee (2001-02); Controlled Substances Subcommittee, United States Attorney General's Advisory Committee (chair, 2001-02).

STEPHANIE F. STACY — DISTRICT 1

Office Address: Room 2219, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3737, email address — stephanie.stacy@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Sept. 28, 2015, to replace retiring Judge Kenneth C. Stephan; retained in office 2018

Biography: Born on Westover Air Force Base near Springfield, Mass. Graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School, 1980; University of Nebraska (B.S.), 1988; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D. with distinction), 1991. Married David R. Stacy, May 30, 1987; four children: Sam, Will, Ben and Jack. Former: district court judge, 3rd Judicial District (2011-15); adjunct professor, University of Nebraska College of Law (2005-11); private practice attorney with Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Grimit & Witt, LLP (1993-2011); judicial law clerk for Honorable David L. Piester, U.S. Magistrate Judge (1991-93). **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; lifetime fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation; Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court. **Former member:** Nebraska District Court Judges Association (2011-15); American Board of Trial Advocates.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2021 (Cont'd.)

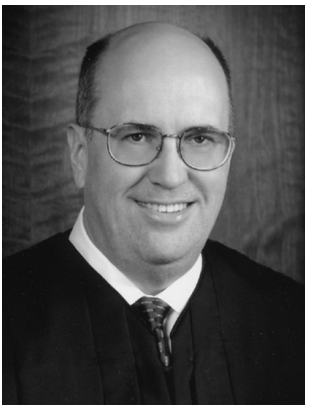
LINDSEY MILLER-LERMAN DISTRICT 2

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, 2008, 2014 and 2020

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: Room 2211, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3736, fax (402) 471-3480, email address — william.cassel@nebraska.gov

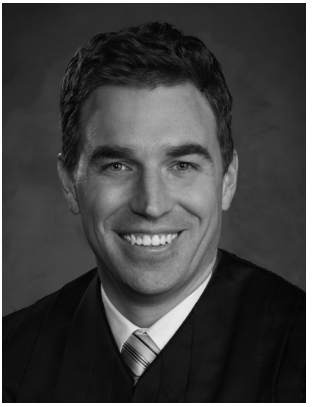
Took Office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: May 9, 2012, to replace Judge John M. Gerrard, who was appointed to the federal bench; retained in office 2016

Biography: Born 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); Eighth Judicial District Bar Association; Supreme Court Committee on Technology, 1999-present and chairman, 2004-present. **Former member:** Supreme Court Automation Advisory Committee, 1995-2015; 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, 1980-92. **Honors and awards:** Warren K. Urbom Mentor

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2021 (Cont'd.)

WILLIAM B CASSEL — DISTRICT 3 (CONT'D.)

Award, Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, 2012 and 2020; 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.



JONATHAN J. PAPIK — DISTRICT 4

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

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: May 7, 2018, to replace Judge Max J. Kelch, who resigned

Biography: Born Jan. 7, 1982, in York. Graduate of Stromsburg High School, 2000; Northwestern College (B.S. in history), 2004; Harvard Law School (J.D.), 2008. Married Rachel E. Hibbard, May 24, 2003; three children: Robert E., Maggie E. and Noelle M. Former attorney, Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP (2010-18); law clerk, Judge Laurence Silberman, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit (2009-10); law clerk, Judge Neil M. Gorsuch, U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit (2008-09).

JEFFREY J. FUNKE — DISTRICT 5

Office Address: Room 2207, 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: Aug. 2, 2016, to replace retiring Judge William M. Connolly; retained in office 2020

Biography: Born April 27, 1969, in Nebraska City. Graduate of Lourdes Central Catholic School, 1987; University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.S. in business administration), 1991; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1994. Married Hettie M. Schaaf, Oct. 1, 1994; three children: Margaret G. Funke, John T. Funke and William R. Funke. Former district court judge, 2013-16; county court judge, 2007-13; Otoe County Attorney; partner, Hoch, Funke & Partsch; attorney. **Member:** fellow, Nebraska State Bar Association. **Former member:** Nebraska City Airport Authority; board, St. Mary's Hospital; Morton James Public Library Foundation; Friends of Arbor Lodge.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2021 (Cont'd.)

John R. Freudenberg District 6

Office Address: Room 2210, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3735

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: July 6, 2018, to fill a vacancy created by the death of Judge John F. Wright

Biography: Born Nov. 12, 1969, in Gordon. Graduate of Stapleton High School, 1988; Chadron State College (B.A. in criminal justice), 1992; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1995. Married Connie L. Bratten, June 19, 1999; five children: Stephanie Snodgrass, Amber Max, Sean, Kaitlyn and Braxton. Former: county judge, Third Judicial District; Criminal Bureau chief, Office of Nebraska Attorney General; Sheridan County Attorney; partner, Smith, King and Freudenberg; Scotts Bluff deputy county attorney; associate, Jewell, Gatz, Collins, Fitzgerald and DeLay. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; Chadron State Foundation. **Former member:** Community Task Force on Hate Crimes, U.S. Attorney's office; Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force; Nebraska County Attorneys Association. **Honors and awards:** international fellow, National Association of Attorneys General, 2015; governor's manager of the year, Nebraska Attorney General's office.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2021

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 Crounse	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
Jesse L. Root	1909[7]-1911	-	1909-1911

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2021 (Cont'd.)

State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
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]-2018[49]	-	1994-2018
William M. Connolly	1994[35]-2016[23]	-	1994-2016
John M. Gerrard	1995[36]-2012[43]	-	1995-2012
Kenneth C. Stephan	1997[38]-2015[23]	-	1997-2015
Michael McCormack	1997[39]-2015[23]	-	1997-2015
John V. Hendry	1998[40]-2006[23]	1998-2006	1998-2006

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2021 (Cont'd.)

State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
Lindsey Miller-Lerman	1998[41]-	-	1998-
Michael G. Heavican	2006[42]-	2006-	2006-
William B. Cassel	2012[44]-		2012-
Stephanie F. Stacy	2015[45]-		2015-
Max J. Kelch	2016[46]-2018[48]		2016-2018
Jeffrey J. Funke	2016[47]-		2016-
Jonathan J. Papik	2018[50]-		2018-
John R. Freudenberg	2018[51]-		2018-

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 Farhnbruch.
[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.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2021 (Cont'd.)

Endnotes (Cont'd.)

[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.
[45] Appointed June 14, 2015, to replace retiring Judge Stephan.
[46] Appointed Feb. 3, 2016, to replace retiring Judge McCormack.
[47] Appointed June 15, 2016, to replace retiring Judge Connolly.
[48] Resigned Feb. 15, 2018.
[49] Died March 18, 2018.
[50] Appointed March 21, 2018, to replace Judge Kelch, who resigned.
[51] Appointed July 6, 2018, to fill vacancy created by the death of Judge Wright.

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: Corey R. Steel

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.

Offices under the state court administrator include the Office of the Public Guardian, Judicial Branch Education, Division of Attorney Services, the JUSTICE System, Court Improvement Project, Counsel for Discipline and the Office of Dispute Resolution.

Office of Dispute Resolution

Office Address: 521 S. 14th St., Ste. 102, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3148, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

Director: Kelly Riley

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.

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 Coun-

sel, 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
Dan Bechtol, Omaha	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2020
Kristen Blankley, Lincoln	UNL College of Law	Dec. 31, 2020
Kimberly Booth, Omaha	Nebraska State Bar Association	Dec. 31, 2020
Robert Denton, Fremont	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2020
Jacqueline Font-Guzman, Omaha	Creighton University School of Law	Dec. 31, 2022
Mary Kay Hansen, Lincoln	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2022
David Hubbard, Omaha	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2021
Hon. Mark Johnson, Madison	District Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2021
Casey Karges, Lincoln	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2021
Hon. Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha	Appeals Court Chief Judge	Dec. 31, 2022
Hon. Randin Roland, Sidney	County Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2020
Hon. Reggie Ryder, Lincoln	Juvenile Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2022
Chris Hanus Schulenberg, Lincoln	Health and Human Services	Dec. 31, 2020
Hon. David Urbom, McCook	District Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2022

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Office Address: 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: Wendy A. Wussow

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: Maureen Eck

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

Clerks of the Supreme Court

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

*All dates listed indicate beginning of terms.

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2021

*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 Commissioners[1]

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

Clerks and Reporters of the Supreme Court and State Librarians

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

Clerks of the Supreme Court

Harry C. Lindsay 1921-1927
Charles B. Letton 1927-1932
George H. Turner 1932-1977
Larry D. Donnelson 1977-1983
Kenneth A. Wade ..... 1983-1987[4]
Lanet S. Asmussen 1987-2014
Teresa A. Brown 2014-2018
Wendy A. Wussow 2018-

Reporters of the Supreme Court

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

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2021 (Cont'd.)

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Revisor of Statutes

Walter D. James.....1945[9]-1968[10]

* Dates listed indicate beginning of terms.

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

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

[3] Appointed Oct. 29, 1889.

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

[5] Appointed 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.

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

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

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

[9] In 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.

[10] Died 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: Deborah A. Minardi

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.

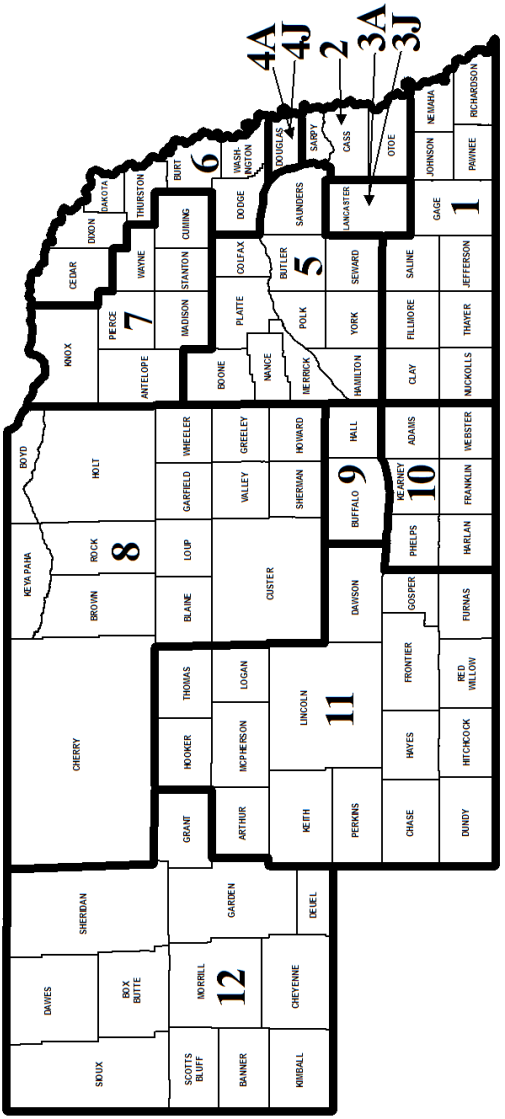
Nebraska Chief Probation Officers, 2021

District	Chief Probation Officer	Residence
1	Ashley Griess	Beatrice
2	Jeff Jennings	Papillion
3	Jeff Curry	Lincoln
3J[1]	Lori Griggs	Lincoln
4	Damon Strong	Omaha
4J[1]	Mary Visek	Omaha
5	Carrie Rodriguez	Columbus
6	Patty Lyon	Fremont
7	Kathryn Liebers	Norfolk
8	Tara Sprigler-Price	O'Neill
9	Connie Hultine	Grand Island
10	Joe Budnick	Hastings
11	Lonnie Folchert	North Platte
12	Darren Duncan	Gering

[1] Juvenile-only district.

Nebraska Probation System*

Probation Districts[1]



*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 official published opinions of the appellate courts are available permanently to the public free of charge through the Nebraska Appellate Courts Online Library website at ne.gov/go/opinions. They also can be accessed for 90 days through the court's website at https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov. Memorandum opinions, which are not designated for publication and are not precedential, are available through SCCALES, the appellate courts' internal case management computer system.

Judge	Represents	Term Expires
David K. Arterburn, Papillion	District 4	January 2027
Riko E. Bishop, Lincoln	District 1	January 2023
Frankie J. Moore, North Platte (Chief Judge)	District 6	January 2023
Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha	District 2	January 2027
Francie C. Riedmann, Omaha	District 3	January 2023
Lawrence E. Welch, Jr., Plattsmouth	District 5	January 2023

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2021

RIKO E. BISHOP — DISTRICT 1

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

Took office as Court of Appeals Judge: Aug. 20, 2013, to replace Judge Richard D. Sievers, who retired; retained in office 2016

Biography: Born in Japan, 1956. Graduate of Kearney State College (B.A. in education and English), 1977; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D., with distinction), 1992. Married Jamie Bishop, May 1987; two sons: Eric and Jacob. Former: associate attorney then shareholder, Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, PC, LLO, 1993-2013; law clerk, Nebraska Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard Sievers, 1992-93. **Member:** chair, Judicial Branch Education Advisory Committee, 2016; Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts Parenting Act Subcommittee, 2014 to present, and co-chair, Temporary Hearings in District Court Subcommittee, 2016 to present; ; executive committee, NSBA Appellate Practice Section, 2015; Order of Barristers; Nebraska State Bar Association, 1992 to present; American Bar Association, 1992 to present; Supreme Court Committee on Practice and Procedure, 1998 to present (chair, 2014 to present). **Former member:** Law-Related Education Committee, Nebraska State Bar Foundation, 2016-19; Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys; Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission, 2004-13; Nebraska Mediation Association, 2011-13; board of trustees, Lincoln Bar Association, 2000-08; Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) Advisory Council, 2012-14; Parenting Act Mediator, ODR approved, 2010. **Honors and awards:** 2018 Warren K. Urbom Mentor Award, Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court; 2017 Outstanding Contributor to Women in Law Award, NSBA Women and the Law Section; 2017 Outstanding Civic Health Partner, Nebraskans for Civic Reform; Nebraska State Bar Association Award of Appreciation, 2006; Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow, 2000; member, National Moot Court Team, 1992 (national brief writing award; regional best oral advocate award; regional best brief award).

MICHAEL W. PIRTLE — DISTRICT 2 (CHIEF JUDGE)

Office Addresses: 1065 N. 115 St, Ste. 200, Omaha, NE 68154, email address — mike.pirtle@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: July 6, 2011, to replace Judge Theodore L. Carlson, who died; retained in office 2014 and 2020

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" Omojola, Michaela "Kaela" Knoll, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Moore and Stacey Pirtle. Former director, Gross & Welch, 2006-11; senior staff attorney, American Family Insurance, 2000-06; associate and partner, Walentine, 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:** 2019 Nebraska State Bar Foundation Lifetime Fellow; 2019 St. Pius X/St. Leo School Distinguished Graduate Award; master teacher award, Midland College, 1993.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2021 (Cont'd.)

FRANCIE C. RIEDMANN — DISTRICT 3

Office Address: 16617 Polk St., Omaha, NE 68135, phone (402) 895-9140, fax (402) 895-3387, 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; retained in office 2016

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:** co-chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts; Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association; co-chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships; Nebraska State Bar Association Appellate Practice Section; volunteer coach, Nebraska State Bar Foundation Mock Trial Competition; volunteer judge, Creighton University School of Law Moot Court Competition; volunteer judge, Dan Jewell Trial Institute; St. Patrick's Catholic Church; citizens' committee, Gretna Public Schools. **Former member:** amicus curiae committee; Nebraska Defense Counsel Association; Friends of the Library, Gretna Public Library. **Honors and awards:** fellow, Litigation Counsel of America; fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

DAVID K. ARTERBURN — DISTRICT 4

Office Addresses: 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046, phone (402) 593-4491, email address — david.arterburn@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 17, 2017; to replace Judge John F. Irwin, who retired; retained in office 2020

Biography: Graduate of York College (associate degree), 1977; University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.A.), 1978, (M.A.), 1982; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1985. Former: district judge, 2nd Judicial District, 2005-17; judge, Sarpy County Adult Drug Court, 2008-17; Nebraska assistant attorney general, 1992-2005; special assistant U.S. attorney, 1995-2005; staff attorney, U.S. Dept. Of Health and Human Services, 1991-92; private practice attorney, 1986-1991; deputy county attorney, Red Willow County, 1986-91. **Member:** Second Judicial District Bar Association; Sarpy County Bar Association; President's Council, York College; Southwest Church of Christ. **Former member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Cornhusker Christian Children's Foundation; Nebraska District Judges Association (court reporter's committee); National District Attorney's Association; Nebraska County Attorney's Association; Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine; pupilage mentor, Robert M. Spire Inns of Court. **Honors and awards:** York College Alumnus of the Year Award, 2017; Certificate of Appreciation, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 1999; Nebraska Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Award, 1997.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2021 (Cont'd.)

LAWRENCE E. WELCH, JR. DISTRICT 5

Office Addresses: 918 Washington Ave., Plattsmouth, NE 68048, phone (402) 296-2550, email address — larry.welch@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 25, 2018, to replace Judge Everett O. Inbody, who retired

Biography: Born July 28, 1966, in Omaha. Graduate of Creighton Prep, 1984; Loyola Marymount University (B.S.), 1988; Creighton School of Law (J.D., magna cum laude), 1994. Married Allison Ann Pollock, Aug. 22, 1998; three children: Lawrence, Benjamin and Jack. Former: partner, Welch Law Firm, PC; associate, Fraser, Stryker; accountant, Arthur Andersen & Co. **Member:** coach, Conestoga High School soccer team; president and director, Southeast Soccer Club; finance committee president, Church of the Holy Spirit; Court Technology Committee; Court SCCALES Automation Committee; Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association. **Former member:** coach, various youth soccer and basketball teams; religious education instructor.

FRANKIE J. MOORE DISTRICT 6 (CHIEF JUDGE)

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, 2010 and 2016

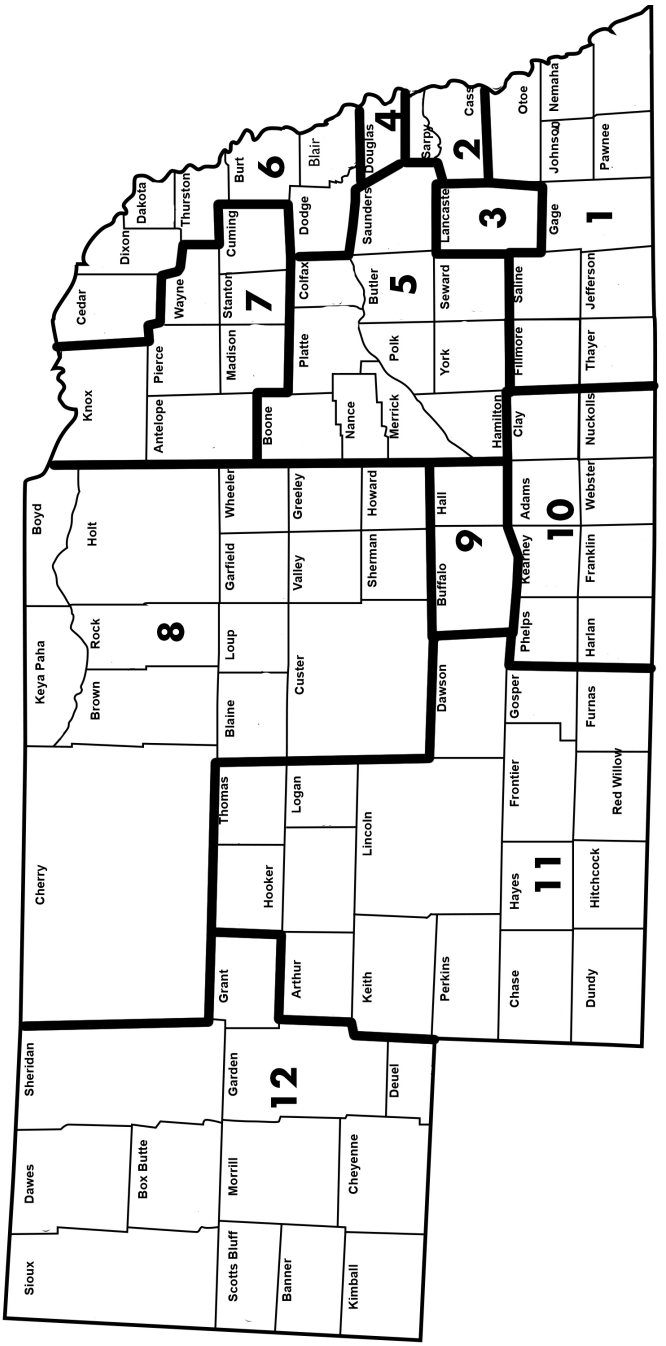
Biography: Born Aug. 13, 1958, in Lincoln. Graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University (B.A.), 1980; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1983. Married Lowell J. Moore; two children: Erica and Sean. Former: judge, Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations, 1989-2000; partner, McCarthy, Gale, 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, 1991-2021

William M. Connolly	1992[1]-1994[4]	Theodore L. Carlson	1998[8]-2011[12]
Lindsey Miller-Lerman[3]	1992[1]-1998[4]	Frankie J. Moore[18]	2000[9]-
John F. Wright	1992[1]-1994[4]	William B. Cassel	2004[10]-2012[14]
Wesley C. Mues	1994[5]-1999	Michael W. Pirtle	2011[13]-
Edward E. Hannon	1992[1]-2004	Francie C. Riedmann	2012[15]-
Richard D. Sievers[2]	1991[1]-2013[16]	Riko E. Bishop	2013[17]-
John F. Irwin[7]	1992[1]-2016[19]	David K. Arterburn	2017[20]-
Everett O. Inbody[11]	1995[6]-2017[21]	Lawrence E. Welch, Jr.	2018[22]-

[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, 2004-14.
[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.
[16] Retired May 31, 2013.
[17] Appointed July 19, 2013, to replace Judge Sievers.
[18] Chief judge, 2014-present.
[19] Retired Nov. 1, 2016.
[20] Appointed Dec. 22, 2016, to replace Judge Irwin.
[21] Retired Dec. 31, 2017.
[22] Appointed Jan. 22, 2018, to replace Judge Inbody.

Nebraska Judicial Districts — District Courts*



*Boundaries established by LB697 in the 2018 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, 2021*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1	Vicky Johnson, Wilber	January 2025
	Ricky A. Schreiner, Cortland	January 2027
	Julie D. Smith, Tecumseh	January 2027
2	Nathan B. Cox, Papillion	January 2023
	Stefanie A. Martinez, Papillion	January 2027
	Michael Alan Smith, Springfield	January 2027
	George A. Thompson, Papillion	January 2027
3	Darla S. Ideus, Lincoln	January 2027
	Andrew R. Jacobsen, Lincoln	January 2027
	Lori A. Maret, Lincoln	January 2025
	Kevin R. McManaman, Lincoln	January 2027
	Jodi Nelson, Lincoln	January 2023
	Robert R. Otte, Lincoln	January 2025
	Susan I. Strong, Lincoln	January 2025
	Vacant	January 2025
4	Peter Bataillon, Omaha	January 2023
	W. Russell Bowie, Omaha	January 2023
	Timothy P. Burns, Omaha	January 2027
	J Michael Coffey, Omaha	January 2027
	J Russell Derr, Omaha	January 2025
	Duane C. Dougherty, Omaha	January 2027
	James T. Gleason, Omaha	January 2025
	James M. Masteller, Omaha	January 2023
	Thomas A. Otepka, Omaha	January 2025
	Kimberly M. Pankonin, Omaha	January 2027
	Marlon A. Polk, Omaha	January 2027
	Gary B. Randall, Omaha	January 2027
	Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, Omaha	January 2025
	Gregory Schatz, Omaha	January 2023
	Shelly R. Stratman, Omaha	January 2023
	Horacio J. Wheelock, Omaha	January 2025
5	Rachel A. Daugherty, Aurora	January 2025
	Christina M. Marroquin, Seward	January 2023
	James C. Stecker, Seward	January 2025
	Robert R. Steinke, Columbus	January 2025
6	Geoffrey C. Hall, Fremont	January 2027
	Bryan C. Meismer, Hartington	January 2023
	John E. Samson, Blair	January 2025
7	James G. Kube, Madison	January 2025
	Mark A. Johnson, Madison	January 2023
8	Mark D. Kozisek, Ainsworth	January 2027
	Karin L. Noakes, St. Paul	January 2023
9	Andrew C. Butler, Grand Island	January 2023
	Ryan C. Carson, Gibbon	January 2023
	John H. Marsh, Kearney	January 2027
	Mark John Young, Grand Island	January 2025
10	Terri S. Harder, Minden	January 2027
	Stephen R. Illingworth, Hastings	January 2023
11	Richard A. Birch, North Platte	January 2027
	James E. Doyle, Lexington	January 2025
	Michael E. Piccolo, North Platte	January 2023
	David Urbom, McCook	January 2023
12	Leo Dobrovolny, Gering	January 2023
	Andrea D. Miller, Gering	January 2027
	Travis P. O'Gorman, Alliance	January 2027
	Derek C. Weimer, Sidney	January 2025

*Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021*

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
Appleget, Thomas	Tecumseh	1	1887-1892
Arterburn, David K.	Papillion	2	2005-2016
Ashford, W. Mark	Omaha	4	2000-2018
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
Binkard, William L.	South Sioux City	6	2005-2011
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	1999-2016
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	1997-2016
Burns, Timothy P.	Omaha	4	2011-
Bush, J.E.	Beatrice	1	1892-1896
Butler, Andrew C.	Grand Island	9	2019-
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
Carson, Ryan C.	Gibbon	9	2018-
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

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

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Chase, Dewitt Clinton	Stanton	9	1924-1938
Chase, Jackson B.	Omaha	4	1946-1954
			1957-1961
Cheuvront, Jeffre	Lincoln	3	1983-2011
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-[1]
Coffey, J. Michael	Omaha	4	1998-
Coffin, E.M.	Ord	11	1891-1892
Colborn, John A.	Lincoln	3	2000-2020
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
Cox, Nathan B.	Papillion	2	2018-
Crawford, J.C.	West Point	7	1884-1888
Crites, A.W.	Chadron	15	1891-1892
Crites, Albert W.	Chadron	16	1959-1966
Daugherty, Rachel A.	Aurora	5	2014-
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
Dittrick, George W.	Norfolk	9	1961-1977
Doane, George W.	Omaha	3, 4	1888-1892
Dobrovolny, 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
Fahrnbruch, 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

[1] Ending date of term unknown.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
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	1996-2013
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
Funke, Jeffrey J.	Plattsmouth	2	2013-2016
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	1998-2018
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	1995-2013
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	1990-2015
Ideus, Darla S.	Lincoln	3	2015-
Illingworth, Stephen R.	Hastings	10	1988-
Inbody, Everett O.	Wahoo	5	1991-1995

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Irons, Fred R.	Hastings	10	1971-1981
Irvine, Frank	Omaha	4	1891-1892
Irwin, George W.	Bridgeport	17	1935-1939
Jackson, Lyle E.	Neligh	9	1941-1961
Jackson, N. D.	Neligh	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
Johnson, Mark A.	Madison	7	2013-
Johnson, Vicky	Wilber	1	2003-
Kanouff, Howard V.	Wahoo	5	1971-1977
Kelch, Max J.	Papillion	2	2007-2016
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
Keysor, 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	1998-2016
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	1998-2017
Livingston, James D.	Grand Island	9	1992-2014
Livington, D.W.	Nebraska City	2	1934-1937
Luther, Teresa K.	Grand Island	9	1994-2018
Lynch, Patrick W.	Omaha	4	1954-1979
Manasil, William F.	Burwell	11, 20	1958-1973
Maret, Lori A.	Lincoln	3	2014-
Marroquin, Christina M.	Seward	5	2018-
Marsh, John H.	Kearney	9	2016-
Marsh, Joseph	Dakota City	8	1967-1975
Marshall, William	Fremont	4, 6	1887-1898
Martin, Joseph D.	Grand Island	9	1978-1994
Martinez, Stefanie A.	Papillion	2	2017-
Masteller, James M.	Omaha	4	2018-
McFadden, Eugene D.	Norfolk	9	1977-1979
McGill, Michael	Omaha	4	1991-2000
McGinn, Bernard J.	Lincoln	3	1981-2005
Meismer, Bryan C.	Hartington	6	2019-
Merritt, Paul D. Jr.	Lincoln	3	1988-2015
Messmore, Fred W.	Beatrice	18	1929-1937
Meyer, Earl L.	Alliance	6	1926-1959
Miller, Andrea D.	Gering	12	2017-
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

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
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
Nelson, Jodi L.	Lincoln	3	2006-
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
Norton, William H.	Osceola	5	1977-1991
Norval, T.L.	Seward	6	1883-1890
Nuss, Edmund	Hastings	10	1941-1971
James O'Brien,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
Otte, Robert R.	Lincoln	3	2008-
Owens, Michael J.	York, Aurora	5	1996-2014
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
Piccolo, Michael E.	North Platte	11	2018-
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 L.	Nebraska City	2	1990-2013
Reimer, Henry F.	O'Neill	15	1974-1983
Retelsdorf, Leigh Ann	Omaha	4	2009-
Rhoades, Herbert	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1927-1961

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
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	1986-2018
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
Schreiner, Ricky A.	Cortland	1	2016-
Scott, C.R.	Omaha	4	1892-1900
Sears, Willis G.	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1904-1923 1933-1949
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, Michael Alan	Springfield	2	2016-
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	2011-2015
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
Stecker, James C.	Seward	5	2013-
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
Strong, Susan I.	Lincoln	3	2015-
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, George A.	Papillion	2	2016-
Thompson, J.R.	Grand Island	11	1892-1904
Thomsen, Arthur C.	Omaha	4	1929-1961
Tibbets, A. S.	Lincoln	3	1891-1896

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2021 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Tiffany, Fayette B.	Albion	9	1883-1892
Travis, Harvey D.	Plattsmouth	2	1908-1913
Troia, Joseph S.	Omaha	4	1991-2015
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	2011-2019
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	Osceola	5	1892-1896
Wheelock, Horacio J.	Omaha	4	2015-
White, C. Thomas	Columbus	6, 21	1965-1977
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
Witthoff, Earl J.	Lincoln	3	1988-2008
Wolf, DeWayne	Kearney	12	1976-1990
Wright, Fred A.	Omaha	4	1929-1932
Wright, William T.	Kearney	9	2007-2018
Yeager, John W.	Omaha	4	1933-1940
Young, Mark John	Grand Island	9	2014-
Zastera, William B.	Nebraska City, Papillion	2	1997-2017
Zeilinger, John D.	York	5	1956-1977

Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

Territorial[1]

D.S. McGary ..... May 10, 1855[2]
Jonathan H. Smith ..... June 9, 1855
S.A. Strickland ..... June 11, 1855
John M. Latham ..... Nov. 6, 1855
Jacob Safford ..... Nov. 6, 1855
William Kline ..... Nov. 6, 1855
James G. Chapman ..... Aug. 3, 1857
William McLellan ..... Aug. 3, 1857
George W. Doane ..... Aug. 3, 1857
U.C. Johnson ..... Oct. 11, 1859

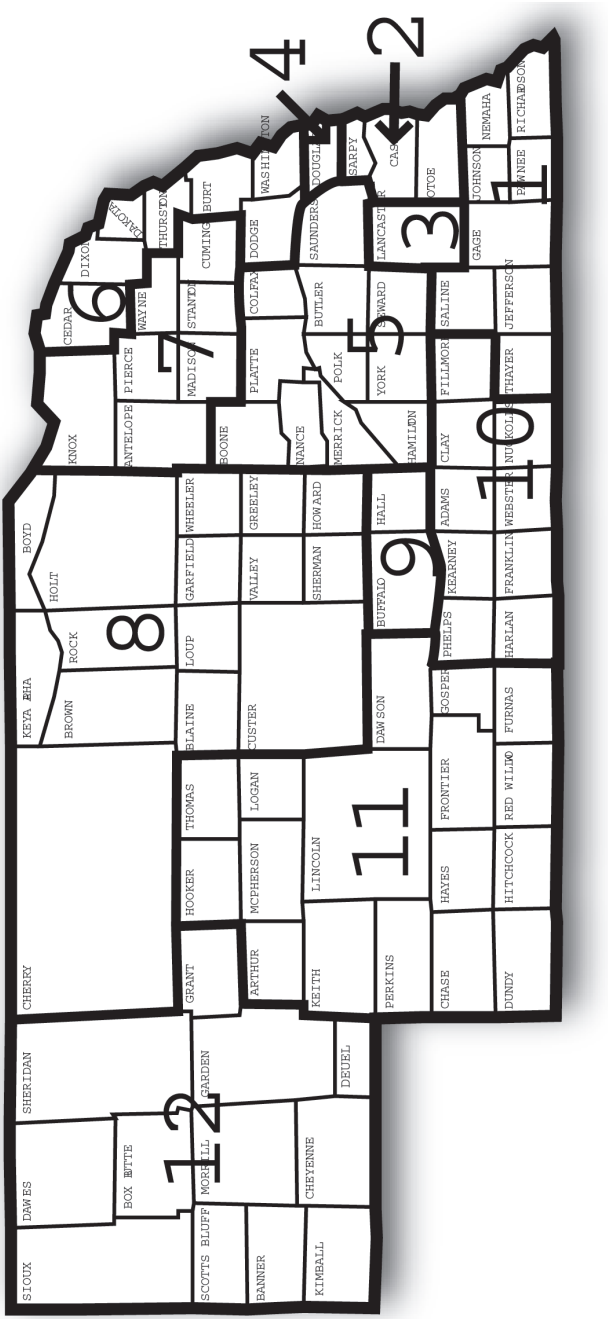
Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

State[3]

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
Hoxie, 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
Morlan, 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 $57,000

• 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, 2021*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1	Linda A. Bauer, Fairbury	January 2025
	Curtis L. Maschman, Falls City	January 2027
	Vacant	January 2021
2	Nathan B. Cox, Papillion	January 2023
	Patricia A. Freeman, Papillion	January 2027
	Todd J. Hutton, Papillion	January 2027
	Robert C. Wester, Papillion	January 2023
3	Matthew L. Acton, Lincoln	January 2023
	Joseph E. Dalton, Waverly	January 2023
	Holly Jo Parsley, Hickman	January 2025
	Timothy C. Phillips, Lincoln	January 2023
	Rodney D. Reuter, Lincoln	January 2027
	Laurie J. Yardley, Lincoln	January 2023
	Thomas E. Zimmerman, Lincoln	January 2025
4	Grant A. Forsberg, Omaha	January 2023
	Stephanie R. Hansen, Omaha	January 2025
	Thomas K. Harmon, Omaha	January 2023
	Marcena M. Hendrix, Omaha	January 2027
	John E. Huber, Omaha	January 2027
	Marcela A. Keim, Omaha	January 2027
	Sheryl L. Lohaus, Omaha	January 2027
	Darryl R. Lowe, Omaha	January 2027
	Jeffrey Marcuzzo, Omaha	January 2023
	Craig Q. McDermott, Omaha	January 2027
	Stephanie S. Shearer, Omaha	January 2027
	Derek R. Vaughn, Omaha	January 2025
5	Andrew R. Lange, Waverly	January 2023
	C. Jo Petersen, Seward	January 2025
	Frank J. Skorupa, Columbus	January 2023
	Stephen R.W. Twiss, Central City	January 2023
	Vacant	January 2021
6	Francis W. Barron III, Blair	January 2025
	Douglas L. Luebe, Hartington	January 2025
	Edward Matney, Hartington	January 2025
	Kenneth Vampola, Fremont	January 2027
7	Michael L. Long, Madison	January 2023
	Ross A. Stoffer, Pierce	January 2023
	Donna Taylor, Neligh	January 2025
8	Kale B. Burdick, O'Neill	January 2027
	James J. Orr, Broken Bow	January 2025
	Tami K. Schendt, Broken Bow	January 2023
9	Alfred E. Corey III, Grand Island	January 2027
	Gerald R. Jorgensen Jr., Kearney	January 2025
	John P. Rademacher, Kearney	January 2025
	Arthur S. Wetzel, Grand Island	January 2027
10	Michael P. Burns, Hastings	January 2027
	Timothy E. Hoeft, Holdrege	January 2023
	Michael O. Mead, Juniata	January 2025
11	Joel B. Jay, North Platte	January 2023
	Anne Paine, McCook	January 2023
	Edward D. Steenburg, Ogallala	January 2027
	Kent D. Turnbull, North Platte	January 2027
	Jeffrey M. Wightman, Lexington	January 2025
12	Russell W. Harford, Chadron	January 2025
	Kris D. Mickey, Gering	January 2027
	Randin Roland, Sidney	January 2023
	Paul G. Wess, Alliance	January 2025
	James M. Worden, Scottsbluff	January 2027

* 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	Chad M. Brown, Omaha	January 2023
	Vernon Daniels, Omaha	January 2023
	Matthew R. Kahler, Omaha	January 2027
	Amy N. Schuchman, Omaha	January 2025
	Mary M.Z. Stevens, Omaha	January 2025
	Vacant	January 2023
Lancaster	Roger Heideman, Lincoln	January 2025
	Reggie L. Ryder, Lincoln	January 2023
	Michelle "Shellie" Sabata, Lincoln	January 2025
	Elise M.W. White, Lincoln	January 2025
Sarpy	Lawrence D. Gendler, Papillion	January 2027
	Robert B. O'Neal, Papillion	January 2025

Workers' Compensation Court

Office Address: 1010 Lincoln Mall, Ste. 100, P.O. Box 98908, Lincoln, NE 68509-8908, phone (402) 471-6468, toll-free phone (800) 599-5155, email address — wcc.generalISM@nebraska.gov, website — www.wcc.ne.gov

Administrator: Jill Gradwohl Schroeder

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
Dirk V. Block, Omaha	January 2027
James R. Coe, Omaha	January 2023
J. Michael Fitzgerald, Lincoln	January 2025
Daniel R. Fridrich, Omaha (Presiding Judge)	January 2023
John R. Hoffert, Lincoln	January 2023
Julie A. Martin, Omaha	January 2025
Thomas E. Stine, Lincoln	January 2027

Workers' Compensation Court Judges, 1935-2021

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. Van Norman	July 6, 1993-Jan. 5, 2017
Ronald L. Brown	April 8, 1994-Aug. 2, 2012
J. Michael Fitzgerald	April 12, 1996-
Michael K. High	Jan. 8, 1998- Nov. 30, 2014
John R. Hoffert	Oct. 4, 2001-
Thomas E. Stine	Sept. 13, 2011-
Daniel R. Fridrich	Sept. 18, 2012-
Julie A. Martin	Dec. 23, 2014-
Dirk V. Block	Jan. 13, 2017-

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

Judicial Resources Commission

Contact Person: Corey R. Steel, 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
Stephen Bader, Bellevue	Citizen, District 4	July 1, 2022
Charles Conrad, Hastings	Citizen, District 5	July 1, 2022
William Dittrick, Omaha	Attorney, District 4	July 1, 2026
Timothy Engler, Lincoln	Attorney, District 1	July 1, 2026
Matthew R. Kahler, Omaha	Juvenile Judge	Dec. 2, 2025
Roxanne Rae Kracl, Fremont	Citizen, At Large	July 1, 2022
Michael J. McCarthy, North Platte	Attorney, District 6	July 1, 2026
Christopher Nielsen, Omaha	Citizen, District 2	July 1, 2022
Anne M. Paine, McCook	County Judge	July 14, 2022
Robert J. Parker, Hastings	Attorney, District 5	July 1, 2026
Brian Phares, North Platte	Citizen, District 6	July 1, 2022
John Samson, Fremont	District Judge	July 14, 2022
Lori Scherer, Gering	Citizen, District 3	July 1, 2022
Robert Slovek, Omaha	Attorney, District 2	July 1, 2026
Stephanie F. Stacy, Lincoln (Chairperson)	Supreme Court Judge	July 14, 2022
Darlene Starman, Lincoln	Citizen, District 1	July 1, 2022
Jacqueline Tessendorf, Columbus	Attorney, District 3	July 1, 2026

Judicial Nominating Commission

Contact Person: Corey R. Steel, 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: Corey R. Steel, 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

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
Tammy Allen, Grand Island	Citizen	March 31, 2021
Hon. Vernon Daniels, Omaha	Juvenile Court Judge	March 31, 2021
Douglas Dolezal, Lincoln	Citizen	March 31, 2021
Judy E. Glassburner, Geneva	Citizen	March 31, 2021
Hon. Terri S. Harder, Minden	District Judge	March 31, 2021
Brad Holbrook, Kearney	Attorney	March 31, 2021
Mandy Strigenz, Omaha	Attorney	March 31, 2021
Terry R. Wittler, Lincoln	Attorney	March 31, 2021
Hon. Laurie Yardley, Lincoln	County Judge	March 31, 2021
Hon. Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chair)	Chief Justice	Nonexpiring