

**Iowa Judicial Branch**  
**Application for a Court of Appeals Judge Position**

(Revised: 7-14-2018)

**Part 1: Personal Background Information Form**  
**For Submission to the State Judicial Nominating Commission**  
*See the "Instructions for Applicants" (a separate page)*

1. Applicant's full name:

Myron Lee Gookin

2. Current occupation/title. (Lawyers: identify name of firm, organization, or government agency; judicial officers: identify title and judicial election district):

Iowa District Court Judge, District 8A

3. City and county of residence:

Fairfield, Jefferson County

4. Age:

61

5. Gender (Female / Male):

Male

6. Race/ethnicity:

White/Caucasian

Please provide this information so we can determine the extent to which the Iowa courts are attracting candidates from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds. *Please write in the one or two categories that best fit(s) your background.*

- Asian/Pacific Islander (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, Indonesian, native Hawaiian)
- Black/African                      ■ Hispanic/Latina(o)                      ■ Native American (e.g., Meskwaki, Sioux, Inuit)
- White/Caucasian                      ■ Other (write it in one of the boxes)

7. Are you related (within the third degree of consanguinity) to any of the members of the State Judicial Nominating Commission involved in the selection process for the position for which you are submitting this application? (Yes or No) If your answer is "yes," please explain.

NO

8. Have you ever had a social relationship or business relationship (e.g., as a business or law partner) with any of the members of the State Judicial Nominating Commission involved in the selection process for the position for which you are submitting this application? (Yes or No) If your answer is "yes," please explain.

NO

**9. Explain why you are seeking this judgeship position:**

First, I practiced law for 28 years in a general practice law firm and have served as a district court judge in District 8A for 7.25 years. I believe this experience as both a general practice lawyer and trial judge in a rural judicial district gives me a very useful background to serve on the appellate bench. Also, I have always been interested in appellate work. In law school, by competitive selection, I participated on regional and national moot court teams, which were highly successful. I also served on the moot court board. I won the Rodney L. Hudson Senior Advocacy Award, Drake Law School's highest honor for trial and appellate advocacy. In private practice, I did a considerable amount of trial work, which often resulted in appellate work. I have prepared and filed appellate briefs and orally argued cases before the Iowa Court of Appeals and the Iowa Supreme Court. As a district court judge, I have presided at numerous trials, both jury and non-jury, some of which have been appealed with resulting opinions. I believe my long-term experience and interest in trial and appellate work would serve me well in an appellate court position.

Second, before I applied for a district court position in 2011, I struggled a bit with whether I should apply. I felt I had strengths to serve in the judiciary, but enjoyed a successful private law practice with people I respected and with whom I enjoyed working every day. I made the difficult decision to apply, resulting in my appointment to the district bench. Very early in my judicial career, I concluded I made the right decision. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service on the district court bench. It is challenging and highly rewarding. I am confident in my abilities and proud of my work. It would be an honor to continue my service to the judicial branch and the State of Iowa on the Iowa Court of Appeals.

**10. Explain how your appointment would enhance the court:**

I have been a hard worker my entire life. Although a "town kid", born and raised in Fairfield, Iowa, I have walked beans, detassled corn, baled hay, painted and roofed houses, operated concrete saws, jackhammers, tractors and dump trucks, finished concrete, re-glazed windows, and patched and painted a very high percentage of the classrooms in the Fairfield Community School District! I have never shied away from hard labor and have taken pride in my work ethic.

While taking pride in physical labor, I have taken even greater pride in academic pursuits. I have graduated with honors from high school, college and law school. I am a voracious reader who enjoys learning new things. I am a constant seeker of knowledge and truth. I am an attentive listener. I try to be friendly, pleasant, and respectful in all my interactions with people, both personal and professional. I attempt to make good and fair decisions and explain them in a meaningful way, whether as a judge, a father of three children, or in any other capacity. I have varied life experiences as a husband, father, lawyer, business owner, church member and active participant and leader in many community and professional events, boards and commissions. I was an elected official for 14 years on the Fairfield City Council. I believe all of these experiences have cultivated good analytical and decision-making skills, open-mindedness, empathy, wisdom,

perseverance, and a sense of fairness and justice.

I understand that the Iowa Court of Appeals is a high-volume appellate court. I have the work ethic, intellectual capacity and writing skills to handle the workload while maintaining high work quality. I will be positive, collegial and respectful of my fellow judges as we debate decisions in conference but will remain firm in my positions when I believe the law demands it. Again, I feel my broad experience practicing law in a general practice firm in rural Iowa for 28 years and my 7.5 years of experience on the district court bench uniquely qualify me for a position on the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Finally, I believe the Court of Appeals, like the Iowa Supreme Court, must do everything in its power to earn the respect and trust of the people of Iowa while maintaining its obedience to the law, impartiality, and independence from partisan politics. I am hopeful these beliefs would also enhance the Court and further its mission and role in our constitutional democracy.

11. Identify any offenses for which you have ever been **convicted** or pled guilty for the violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, *excluding* convictions that have been properly *expunged*. Do not include traffic violations for which the court imposed a fine of \$250 or less, unless you were arrested. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Convicted of (describe offense)	Seriousness of charge (e.g., serious misdemean., felony)	Location of court (County, State)	Disposition type (Plea, judge ruling, jury verdict)	Sentence / Penalty	Sentence date (mo/day/yr)
NONE					

12. Has any local, state, or federal office/agency ever assessed or threatened to assess you with a civil or criminal penalty in connection with the reporting of, or **failure to report, your federal, state, or local taxes**? (Yes or No) If yes, provide details.

NO

13. Have you ever been the subject of a **no-contact order**? (Yes or No) If yes, provide details (case number, county, state, date issued, date rescinded, and reason for the NCO).

NO

14. Have you ever been a **party** in any **legal proceeding** (excluding traffic violation cases for which a fine of \$250 or less was imposed, unless you were arrested)? If yes, provide the following information: (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Case number	County, State	Date filed	Date close	Description of case and outcome

Unk.	Unk.	Unk.	Unk.	During the course of my 28-year private legal practice, on a few occasions our firm filed suit in small claims court for unpaid legal fees against former clients. In response, a couple of former clients filed counterclaims against me. Although such counterclaims were baseless, they were resolved by each party dismissing their respective claim.
Unk.	U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa	Unk.	Unk.	In the mid-80's, I represented a Production Credit Association (PCA) in Illinois against an Iowa farmer who was in default on large secured agricultural loans. The farmer had filed for bankruptcy protection. I was local counsel in southeast Iowa, where the farms were located. The loans were secured by a "blanket" security interest in the farmer's assets, including grain. As part of the proceedings, and because of unexplained grain shortages, the bankruptcy court ordered that I monitor the harvest and make a report thereon. I was therefore required to testify in court concerning the monitoring of the harvest. The farmer ultimately filed suit against the PCA and every officer and attorney involved in litigation against him, including me. His suit against me and all others was dismissed on summary judgment.

15. Have you ever been **publicly disciplined** in any manner for a breach of professional ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary board, or other professional group? If yes, provide the following information: *(Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)*

Name of discipline board or agency	Date discipline imposed	Description of the ethics violation	Description of the public discipline
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NO			
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16. List each **college and law school** you attended, including the dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and your reason for leaving each school if you did not receive a degree from that institution was awarded. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

College(s) and Law School(s) – and reason for leaving, if applicable	Dates Attended (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr)	Degree(s)	Month/Yr Received
1. Iowa Wesleyan College (n/k/a Iowa Wesleyan University)	09-76 to 05-78	Transferred to ISU	
2. Iowa State University	09-78 to 05-80	Bachelor of Science	05-80
3. Drake University School of Law	09-80 to 05-83	Doctor of Jurisprudence	05-83

17. List any relevant **honors, prizes, awards**, or other forms of recognition that you have received for educational, professional, or community contributions/achievements. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name/Title of Honor, Prizes, Awards	Awarded by:	Month/Yr Received
Graduated with academic honors	Fairfield High School	May 1976
Dean's Lists, Blue Key National Honor Society, Outstanding Freshman 1976-77	Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa	1976-1978
Graduated with academic distinction, Dean's lists, Alpha Epsilon Rho, honorary broadcasting fraternity	Iowa State University	May 1980
Drake Law School, graduated with academic honors, Dean's lists	Drake University	1980-83
Midwest Moot Court team: First place team; Best Appellant's Brief; Best Appellee's Brief; Outstanding Individual Oralist Award	Midwest Moot Court Competition (Drake Law School)	1981-82
National Moot Court team: First place team (Midwest regional competition-St. Paul, MN); Fifth place team (National competition-New York, NY)	National Moot Court Competition (Drake Law School)	1982-83
Moot Court Board	Drake Law School	1982-83
Rodney L. Hudson Senior Advocacy Award	Drake Law School	1983
Drake Law Review, senior staff writer	Drake Law School	1982-83
American Jurisprudence Awards/top grade in class:	Drake Law School	1981-83

Evidence, Modern Real Estate Transactions, Radio & TV Law		
Order of the Coif—National legal academic honorary society-graduated in top 10% of class; final class academic rank: 12th out of 163	Drake Law School	1983
Order of the Barristers—National trial and appellate advocacy honorary society	Drake Law School	1983
Honorary Colonel in the Iowa Militia, awarded for service to the State of Iowa	Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad and Iowa National Guard Adjutant General Warren G. Lawson	January 1995

18. List all **articles and books** you have published; include the citations and dates. (Use “Tab” in last row to add more rows.)

NONE (I assume the articles referenced herein are professional articles, e.g., law review articles. Otherwise, I have written numerous articles published in a column titled “Court Calls” in the Ottumwa Courier. These are short articles of public interest concerning the judicial branch.)

19. List all **public presentations** you have made at educational, professional, or other public forums; include the citations and dates. (Use “Tab” in last row to add more rows.)

Title of Presentation	City, State	Event Sponsor	Month & Year
Iowa Wesleyan Constitution Day program-Constitutional law symposium-speaker and panel participant-spoke on “The Rule of Law”	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa	Iowa Wesleyan College	September 2015
8th District Bench-Bar Conference Ethics/continuing legal education presentation on “Civility”-speaker, panel moderator, and co-author of outline	Fairfield, Iowa	8th District Bench-Bar Conference	November 2013
Southeast Iowa Land Surveyor’s Association Annual Meeting/Continuing Professional Education-speaker-spoke on “The Role of the Court” and “Where Our Worlds Collide-Boundary Disputes and Encroachments”	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa	Southeast Iowa Land Surveyor’s Association	December 2012
Iowa State University-Media Law Class in Journalism Dept.-guest lecturer on law and the media	Ames, Iowa	Iowa State University	Multiple dates since 2011

20. List all part-time and full-time **teaching positions** you have held. (Use “Tab” in last row to add more rows.)

Name of School / College	City, State	Name of Course(s)	Month/Yr to Month/Yr	Full-time or Part-time
NONE				

21. List the courts or **jurisdictions** in which you are, or have been, **admitted to practice law**, including any administrative bodies with special admission requirements, and the dates of admission for each. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

State and federal jurisdictions in which you are, or have been, admitted to practice law	Month/Yr Admitted
State of Iowa	June 1983
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa	November 1983

22. List chronologically the **employment** you have had *since your initial admission to practice law* in any state or federal jurisdiction. For each time period, provide the following information as applicable:

a. If you served as a law clerk to a judge, provide the name of the judge, the court, and the court's location.

Dates (From -- To)	Name of judge, name of court, and court location
N/A	

b. If you have practiced law, provide the following information for each position you have held:

- (1) Name of the law firm(s), company, or government agency that employed you,
- (2) City and state where the office was located,
- (3) Number of attorneys in the law firm or agency,
- (4) Whether you were a partner in the firm,
- (5) The areas of law in which you practiced, and
- (6) A description of the typical clients you represented. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Description of law practice (address topics in 22(b)(1) – (6) for each time period)
June 1983- September 2011	1) Foss, Kuiken, Gookin & Cochran, P.C.; 2) Fairfield, Iowa; 3) Five attorneys; 4) Partner, effective 1984; 5) General legal practice, including civil and criminal trial and appellate practice, contract, debtor/creditor (excluding debtor bankruptcy), banking, family, estate planning, probate, business planning (including creation of partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies), real estate, personal injury/tort, juvenile, municipal (I served as city attorney for Richland and Packwood, Iowa)

	and church law; 6) I represented banks, local businesses, local churches, municipalities, the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and Bishop, and individual clients.
September 2011-present	Iowa District Court Judge, 8th Judicial District (sub-district 8A)

**23. Regarding your legal experience:**

- a. Approximately what percentage of your court appearances have been in the following types of courts?

Type of court	% of appearances
(1) Federal courts	5%
(2) State courts	90%
(3) Administrative agencies	5%
(4) Other tribunals	

- b. Approximately what percentage of your time have you spent on the following types of cases?

Types of cases	% of your time
(1) Administrative	5%
(2) Civil	35%
(3) Criminal	15%
(4) Domestic	25%
(5) Juvenile	5%
(6) Probate	15%
(7) Other (describe):	

- c. In the past **10 years\***, approximately how many cases have you **tried to a conclusion** (rather than settling) before a judge and before a jury? Indicate the number in which you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

Type of trial	Total # of trials	# as sole counsel	# as chief counsel	# as associate counsel
Tried before a jury	1	1		
Tried before a judge	10	10		

<b>Column Total</b>	11	11		
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\*In the past 10 years, I was only in private practice approx. 2.5 years

- d. In the past **20 years**, in approximately how many cases have you have represented a party in an **appeal to an appellate court in any state or federal jurisdiction?** Indicate the number in which you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

<b>Appellate court*</b>	<b>Total # of appeals:</b>	<b># as sole counsel</b>	<b># as chief counsel</b>	<b># as associate counsel</b>	<b># in which you presented oral argument</b>
Iowa Supreme Court	1	1			1
Iowa Court of Appeals	3	3			Unk.
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other state appellate court (identify):					
Other appellate court (identify):					
Federal Circuit Court(s)					
U.S. Supreme Court					
<b>Total</b>	4	4			1?

\* Count it as an appeal to an intermediate court of appeals (ICA) -- e.g., Iowa's Court of Appeals -- if the state intermediate court of appeal initially handled it; count it as a separate appeal to the supreme court (SC) if the SC accepted it upon a petition for further review from the ICA; count an appeal to the supreme court if the SC retained jurisdiction without first assigning it to the ICA. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

- e. Describe the general nature of your **current law practice**, including the substantive areas of the law in which you practice (e.g., civil, domestic, criminal) and the approximate percentage of time you have spent on each area over the **past five years**: N/A

24. Describe three of the most significant legal matters that you have personally handled. For each of the significant legal matters include the following information:

- Title of the case and the county and state of venue,
- A brief summary of the substance of each matter,
- A succinct statement of what you believe to be the significance of it,

- d. The name of the party you represented,
- e. The nature of your participation in the case,
- f. Dates of your involvement,
- g. The outcome of the case,
- h. Name(s) and address(es) [city, state] of co-counsel (if any),
- i. Name(s) of counsel for opposing parties in the case, and
- j. Name of the judge before whom you tried the case.

Note: if the matter was *confidential*, please avoid the use of any information that may allow disclosure of the identity of the parties.

**Significant legal matter #1:**

- a. Estate of Countryman v. Farmers Co-op Ass’n, 679 N.W.2d 598 (Iowa 2004).
- b. This is one of the most challenging cases of my private practice career. A family gathered for a Labor Day get-together. Unknown to them, a propane gas leak had poured propane gas into the basement of the house. The propane ignited and the ensuing explosion destroyed the house in which the family members were gathered. Seven family members died. Many suffered critical injuries. Our office had done estate planning for some of the family members in years past. As survivors came to our office for estate advice, we perceived potential tort liability. We represented the estates of all that had perished. We associated with a couple of other lawyers who specialized in propane explosions and products liability. For approximately the next five years we were immersed in a complex case representing numerous plaintiffs, including the seven estates, individual survivors, and a conservatorship for a minor, against numerous defendants, one of which is the appellee in the case cited, above. The case involved issues in probate, products liability, and corporation and business law, among others.
- c. Although the legal and procedural issues were substantial, the most significant thing about this case is the people for whom we provided legal services. Among all the legal issues and procedural complexity, we were dealing with many people suffering deep grief, life-altering injuries, anger and frustration. Yet, they were also good people of deep faith who would make you feel better, even as you felt so bad for them. They did not want vengeance; they wanted justice. This case taught me what a special role the legal profession plays in helping people achieve justice, and how important it is to respect the feelings and experiences of your clients during these difficult life journeys.
- d. We represented all plaintiffs/appellants noted in the Iowa Supreme Court case cited above.
- e. I participated in most all aspects of the cases, both probate and tort, although the counsel with whom we associated with specialized experience in propane and products liability admittedly served as lead counsel on those issues, while I provided assistance and support.
- f. Specific dates are unknown. Approximately from late 1999 through 2004.
- g. Although one case in Polk County District Court proceeded through jury selection, ultimately, confidential settlements were negotiated with all defendants, with no admission of liability.
- h. Lead co-counsel was Donald Beattie, 4300 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.
- i. There were numerous attorneys representing multiple defendants over the course of this case, the identity of whom I do not recall. In the case cited above, involving appeal of a summary judgment ruling, Richard Fry and Nancy Penner of Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, PLC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, represented the defendant/appellee.
- j. I do not recall the name of the Polk County judge involved in the case that proceeded through jury

selection. Regarding the above-cited case, the Polk County district court judge who entered summary judgment, which was the subject of appeal, was the Honorable Larry Eisenhauer.

### **Significant legal matter #2:**

- a. Farmers National Bank of Winfield v. Winfield Implement Co. Ltd, 702 N.W.2d 465 (Iowa 2005).
- b. This case involved two different lawsuits. I defended a local business and co-owner of that business in litigation involving a bank pursuing the co-owner on a loan for which his obligations to the bank had been satisfied. We filed a motion for summary judgment on the issue. The district court sustained our motion and dismissed the bank's action. The bank appealed. The appeal was considered by the Iowa Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals reversed the district court and reinstated the action against my clients. We sought further review with the Iowa Supreme Court, which was granted, and the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals in the case cited, above. Thus, the action against my clients was finally dismissed. In turn, my individual client filed a separate tort claim for malicious prosecution and abuse of process against the bank for its action against him. That tort claim eventually was resolved by confidential settlement, without admission of liability.
- c. This case is significant because in most of my debtor/creditor work, I represented banks and creditors. This case was the first major case in which I represented a debtor in extended litigation, who I concluded had no liability for the debt on which the bank doggedly pursued him. It was an eye-opening experience for me, having generally only represented creditors. My client was placed in a serious financial bind over an extended time, with consequent emotional distress, due to the bank's pursuit of its claim. It was a hard-fought battle that taught me the truth of the saying, "there are always two sides to the story," and not to give up when you believe justice demands a certain outcome.
- d. Winfield Implement Co., Ltd. and Jerry Steele.
- e. Sole legal counsel.
- f. Approximately 2002-2006.
- g. The bank's action against my client was dismissed and my client's action against the bank was resolved by confidential settlement, without admission of liability.
- h. No co-counsel.
- i. Opposing counsel was Wm. Scott Power and Brent Ruther of Aspelmeier, Fisch, Power, Engberg & Helling, P.L.C., Burlington, Iowa.
- j. The district court judge whose summary judgment ruling was the subject of the two appeals was the late Honorable Judge R. David Fahey

### **Significant legal matter #3:**

- a. In re Marriage of Walters, No.2-343/11-1746, 2012 WL 2411183 (Iowa Ct. App 2012)
- b. This is a divorce modification case. The parties had two minor children. The mother had physical custody of the two minor children. The father sought modification of the divorce decree to grant him physical care of the children.
- c. This case is significant because it was my first trial as a judge. My investiture was September 16, 2011. On Wednesday, September 21, 2011, I walked into chambers in Mahaska County for my first trial, scheduled for two days, and found numerous thick files on my desk. The files revealed almost continuous litigation between the parties concerning their children since their original divorce. We spent two very long days in trial. During the course of that trial, I was struck by the gravity and magnitude of the decisions judges are called upon to make each day. I generally understood that reality from 28 years of practicing law, but as the decision-maker, I realized I had underappreciated that reality. In my first few days on the

bench, I presided at a trial that required me to make extremely difficult, life-changing decisions concerning these parents and their children. I will never forget how challenged and humbled I felt to wear the robe and make such important decisions for that family. It is an experience which continues to influence me every day in my work.

d. N/A

e. Judge

f. September 2012

g. I ruled to split physical care of the two children, with one child in each parent's physical care, under the unique circumstances of the case. The ruling was upheld by the Iowa Court of Appeals in the case cited, above.

h. N/A

i. N/A

j. N/A

25. Have you served as a judicial officer in any state? (Yes / No):  If "No" – skip to # 26.

a. If "Yes" - provide the following information: (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Judicial title	County or District	Types of cases within your jurisdiction
September 2011 to present	Iowa District Court Judge	8A	General-all types

b. If you have been a judicial officer in **Iowa** during the previous **five years**:

(1) How many times did you **fail** to file the monthly Rule 22.10 reports by the report deadline?

To the best of my knowledge, I once forgot to file a 22.10 report because the monthly 10-day window for filing occurred while I was on vacation. Upon bringing this to my attention, I immediately filed the report showing no cases pending more than 60 days.

(2) During the past **five years**, how many **cases** did you list on your Rule 22.10 reports that were more than the following number of days old from the time they were submitted for a ruling?

	120 days old	180 days old	240 days old	One year old
# of cases more than:	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

26. If you are **currently** an officer, director, partner, sole proprietor, or otherwise engaged in the **management of any business enterprise or nonprofit organization** other than a law practice, provide the following information about your position(s) and title(s): (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Name of business / organization	Your title	Your duties	Dates (From -- To)
Deer View Estates, Ltd.	Vice-president, board of directors,	Extremely limited. I attend to legal matters, including filing corporate reports with the	8-22-2003 to present.

	shareholder.	Iowa Secretary of State. My wife and I and another couple created a residential subdivision in Fairfield, Iowa, several years ago. We have two lots that have not yet sold, so the corporation remains active but no business is conducted, other than marketing of the remaining lots.	
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27. List all county, state, and national **bar association and professional organization memberships** and the years you have been a member of each (e.g., 1998 to present), and identify any committees on which you have served and offices you have held in those organization(s) - and the titles and dates of any offices you have held. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Professional associations to which you have belonged	Committees / Offices	Dates (From -- To)
Iowa State Bar Association (current)	Juvenile (past) Probate (past) Jury Instructions (current) Volunteer Lawyers Project (past) ISBA Mentoring program (past)	June 1983 to present.
Jefferson County, Iowa, Bar Association (current)	None	June 1983 to present
American Bar Association (past)	None	June 1983 to unk. Date
Iowa Association for Justice (past)	None	Unk. to Sept. 2011
Iowa Judges Association	Board of Directors	Sept. 2011 to present

28. List all local, county, state, and national government (including but not limited to judicial branch) **commissions, task forces, or advisory committees** on which you have served - and any titles (e.g., chair) you have held on such commissions or committees. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)

Dates (From -- To)	Government commissions, task forces, etc. on which you served
Unk.	Iowa Supreme Court Limited Jurisdiction Task Force (past)
Unk.	Iowa Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education (Chair) (past)
Unk. to present	Iowa Supreme Court Client Security Commission (Chair) (current)
Unk. to present	Iowa Supreme Court Rules of Criminal Procedure Advisory Committee (Co-chair) (current)
Unk. to present	Iowa Supreme Court Rules of Criminal Procedure Review Task Force (current)

Unk.	Iowa Supreme Court Guardianship and Conservatorship Reform Task Force (Work Group Chair) (past)
Unk.	Jefferson County Courthouse Security Committee (current)
Unk.	8A Judicial District Magistrate Nominating Commission (Chair) (Poweshiek Co., Appanoose Co., Mahaska Co. current)
Unk.	8th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services Board of Directors (current)
Unk.	Iowa Judicial Workload Formula Study Committee (2016) (past)

**29. Describe your pro bono work during the past 10 years:**

a. Approximate number of pro bono cases you've handled:	Unk., several
b. Average number of hours of pro bono service per year:	Unk., varied
c. Types of pro bono cases:	Landlord/Tenant, Divorce

**30. List any employment outside of the legal profession that you have had since graduating from law school that may be relevant to this application; include: (a) the dates, (b) organization or business for whom you worked, and (c) duties you performed. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)**

Dates (From -- To)	Business / Organization Name, City, State	Your Duties
N/A		

**31. Have you ever held public office or have you ever been a candidate for public office? If the answer is "yes," describe the public office held or sought, the location of the public office, and the dates. (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)**

Dates (From -- To)	Public office(s): Indicate "Held" or "Sought" and Location
Jan. 1998-Sept. 2011	Fairfield, Iowa City Council-At Large (Held)-mayor pro tem, chair of various committees

**32. Provide the following information on your military service (if any): (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)**

Dates (From -- To)	Military branch	Current Rank	Location and dates of service in other countries	Current Status (Active/Inactive)
NONE				

**33. List any civic, charitable, religious, educational, social or fraternal organization(s) to which you belong or provide volunteer services. Describe the nature of your involvement with the organization(s), including any offices you have held with the organization(s). (Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)**

<b>Dates (From -- To)</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Nature of your involvement</b>
Unk.	Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce	Board of directors, vice-president (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Evergreen Cemetery Association	Board of directors, secretary/treasurer (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Economic Development Association Advisory Board	Advisor to Fairfield Economic Development Association (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Park and Recreation Department	Board of trustees (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Rotary Club	Board of directors, secretary, vice-president, and president (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Public Access TV Committee	Chairman (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Public Library Campaign	Committee co-chair to build new library (Past)
Unk.	Fairfield Aquatic Center Campaign	Committee co-chair to build new aquatic center (Past)
Unk.	Jefferson County Hospital Foundation	Board of directors, president (Past)
1983-present	Fairfield First United Methodist Church	Member, chair of numerous committees, choir, praise band (Current)
Unk.	United Methodist local church lay speaker	Pulpit supply (Past)
Unk.	Ottumwa District Council on United Methodist Ministries	President, assistance to local church ministries (Past)
Unk.	Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	Board of Trustees, President (Past)
Unk.	Iowa United Methodist Foundation, Inc.	Board of Directors, President (Past)
Unk.	Chancellor, Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	Attorney for the Bishop and state organization of the United Methodist Church (Past) (As part of private practice.)
Unk.	Iowa Mental Health, Mental Retardation,	State Administrative Commission, Chairman (Past)

	Developmental Disabilities Commission	
Unk.	Community Mental Health Center of Henry, Louisa and Jefferson Counties	Board of directors, president. (Past)

**34.** List all the **social media applications** (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn) that you have used in the past **five years** and your account name or other identifying information (excluding passwords) for each account. *(Use "Tab" in last row to add more rows.)*

Social media application name	Account name or other identifying information
Facebook	Myron Gookin

**35. References:** List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least **five persons** who are in a position to provide knowledgeable comments about your qualifications for this judicial position.

Name	Address	Telephone number
Craig R. Foss-former law partner	1st National Bank Building Suite 201 Fairfield, Iowa 52556	641-472-3129
Honorable Michael R. Mullins Iowa Court of Appeals	Washington County Courthouse Washington, Iowa 52353	319-653-7764
Robert Smith-law school classmate and apartment mate-Vice-President and General Counsel, Vermeer Corporation	Vermeer Corporation 1210 Vermeer Road East P.O. Box 200 Pella, Iowa 50219	641-621-7727
James Q. Blomgren, Chief Judge, 8th Judicial District, retired; Mahaska County Attorney, retired.	305 North 10th St. Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577	641-673-3802
Prof. Josephine Gittler-Faculty Member, University of Iowa, College of Law, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Public Health	412 Boyd Law Building The University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa 52246	319-335-9046
Joseph (Joe) Carr-long-time neighbor and friend	1106 Kodi Circle Fairfield, Iowa 52556	641-919-4650

**36. Provide any additional information that may reflect positively on you or which you believe would assist the State Judicial Nominating Commission in selecting nominees for this position.**

There are always questions commissioners are not supposed to ask regarding personal matters. I am happy to provide information. My wife and I were both born and raised in Fairfield, Iowa, and never anticipated returning there. We did return, however, and have never regretted our decision to pursue our careers and raise our family in Fairfield. We are high school sweethearts who have been married 35 years. We have three children, a daughter and two sons, all college graduates. My wife retired this past year from 30 years teaching in public schools, mostly 6th grade reading and language arts. I am very healthy. In my spare time, I enjoy exercise, working outside, reading, travelling, music (especially drumming) and family.

Throughout my life, I have always sought new experiences in my education, profession, businesses, community, church and in general service to others. This application sets forth the history of many of my varied experiences. I am proud that at the same time as I was involved in a busy private law practice, my wife and I and another couple developed a new residential subdivision in Fairfield, Deer View Estates, Ltd. I also created a corporation with four other business people, Fairfield Media Group, Inc., and purchased and operated four radio stations in S.E. Iowa over the course of ten years. For fun, I play in a 60's-70's rock band with other musicians of my generation. I love life, learning and experiencing all that I can. Being a general practitioner and a district court judge over the last 36 years has exposed me to the incredible breadth of the law and challenged me as an attorney and as a judge in multiple areas of the law. My experience in the law and life in general has uniquely prepared me to serve the Iowa Judicial Branch at the appellate level. I look forward to the challenge. I will give it my absolute best efforts, as I have done with all challenges throughout my life.

Finally, I am proud to have received from the Iowa State Bar Association, through the attorneys who practice before me, a **100% retention rating** for the 2018 retention election and very high scores concerning my work as a district court judge.

Specifically, with 5 being the top score, meaning "Excellent", I received the following scores:

- Knowledge and application of the law 4.71
- Perception of factual issues 4.72
- Punctuality for court proceedings 4.84
- Attentiveness to evidence and arguments 4.77
- Management and control of the courtroom 4.83
- Temperament and demeanor 4.86
- Clarity and quality of written opinions 4.73
- Promptness of rulings and decisions 4.76

With 5 being the top score, meaning "Strongly Agree", I received the following scores:

- Avoids undue personal observations or criticisms of litigants, judges and lawyers from bench or in written opinions: 4.88
- Decides cases on basis of applicable law and fact, not affected by outside influence: 4.84

- Is courteous and patient with litigants, lawyers and court personnel:  
4.89
- Treats people equally regardless of race, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or disability:  
4.88

These are among the highest scores of all the judges in the statewide ISBA 2018 Judicial Performance Review. It is the closest thing to a report card on my skills and demeanor you will have to consider. I am extremely proud to receive these high scores and this respect from the attorneys practicing before me and with whom I interact on a daily basis.

- 37.** When you submit this **application** form, attach at least **two writing samples** (e.g., brief, opinion, or book) that reflect your personal work. Note: **Do not** submit a writing sample that includes confidential information about you or any other person unless you remove / redact the confidential information to obscure the identity of the parties and any information that may allow disclosure of the parties’ identity.
- 38. Photo:** If you are willing, please provide a photo of yourself. In the event you are one of the nominees, your photo will be shared as part of the press release.
- 39. Certification.** I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the information I have provided above is true and correct.

Applicant’s signature:	/s/ Myron L. Gookin
Attorney PIN:	#7939
Date:	March 8, 2019