

IOWA DISTRICT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Chambers of
Ian K. Thornhill*

*Linn County Courthouse
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TO: Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission Applicants for
District Associate Judge Vacancy

FROM: Judge Ian K. Thornhill, Chairman
Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission

RE: Nominating Commission Meeting and Order of Interviews
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

DATE: February 20, 2026

The Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission will meet on March 4, 2026, in the Linn County Courthouse commencing at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting interviews with all of the applicants for the District Associate Judge vacancy created by the retirement of District Associate Judge Cynthia Finley. The interviews will commence at 9:00 a.m. Upon completion of the interviews on that day, the Commission will, in all probability, commence to vote by ballot until two nominees for the position are selected. The names of the two finalists will be submitted to Governor Kim Reynolds for her consideration and selection of one of the two finalists.

The order of interviews was determined by a random drawing by Court Administration personnel. The resulting interview order is as follows:

1. 9:00 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. -- Geneva Williams [Application and writing samples](#)
2. 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. – Joshua Vander Ploeg [Application and writing samples](#)
3. 10:00 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. – Rebecca Petig [Application and writing samples](#)
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – Break
4. 10:45 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. – Patrick McMullen [Application and writing samples](#)
5. 11:15 a.m. 11:40 a.m. – Ellen Ramsey-Kacena [Application and writing samples](#)
6. 11:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. – David Fiester [Application and writing samples](#)

cc: Postings – Linn County Courthouse
Postings – Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones and Tama Courthouses
<https://www.iowajnc.gov/district-commissions/judicial-district-6>