IOWA DISTRICT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chambers of
Ian K. Thornhill

Linn County Courthouse
51 Third Avenue Bridge
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
E-Mail: Ian.Thornhill@iowacourts.gov

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NOTICE

TO: All Applicants for District Associate Judge Vacancy

DATE: October 8, 2026

The Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission will meet and select two nominees to send to the Governor for appointment to the District Associate Judge vacancy in Linn County created by the retirement of District Associate Judge Russell Keast. The person appointed to fill this vacancy will be expected to carry out any assignment made by the Chief Judge of the Judicial District that is within the jurisdiction of a district associate judge. Currently, it is contemplated that the person appointed will initially be assigned to dockets that include traffic, small claims, and magistrate, work with an expansion into indictable misdemeanor and juvenile work as part of the Magistrate Modernization Plan set to begin in Fall 2027

To be considered by the Commission, the original completed application must be submitted in electronic form via email to the office of the District Court Administrator, Kellee Cortez, Kellee.cortez@iowacourts.gov, Linn County Courthouse, 51 Third Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401, no later than 3:00 p.m., November 2, 2026, and a copy sent to each Commissioner by that same date and time at the addresses listed. State prescribed applications and instructions may be found at the following link:

https://www.iowajnc.gov/district-commissions/judicial-district-6

No application will be accepted after **November 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.,** regardless of the reason. **Any application, together with supporting documents and letters of support, must be sent to the Commissioners at the addresses listed.**

Applicants for the position must be members of the Iowa Bar and residents of the Sixth Judicial District or a contiguous county to the Sixth Judicial District. They must also be of an age that will allow them to complete an initial term of office before reaching age seventy-eight. The present annual salary for the position is $155,139.

The Sixth Judicial District Nominating Commission has set **November 12, 2026,** as the date for a meeting at which applicants for the position will be interviewed by the Commission. Following the interviews, the Commission will, in all probability, proceed by ballot to nominate two of the applicants for the position. The interviews and balloting will take place at the Linn County Courthouse, Third Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The names of the two nominees will then be sent to the Governor, who has 30 days within which to appoint one of the two nominees to fill the vacancy.

The person appointed to the position will serve an initial term of one year after appointment and until January 1 following the next judicial election after expiration of such year.

The regular term of office of a district associate judge retained at a judicial election shall be six years, and the person may stand for retention in office every six years thereafter. The retirement of judges in Iowa is mandatory at age seventy-eight.

There is no requirement for applicants to personally interview with Commissioners, nor is there a requirement for applicants to obtain letters of support. It is up to each individual Commissioner to determine whether or not he or she will schedule personal interviews with applicants; however, the individual policy of a Commissioner in this regard is to be applied consistently to all applicants who request an interview in a timely manner. **Letters in support of or in opposition to an applicant shall be directed to Judge Ian K. Thornhill (Ian.Thornhill@iowacourts.gov) or Linn County Courthouse, 51 Third Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401, with copies sent directly to each Commissioner by regular mail or e-mail and must be received no later than November 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.**

To facilitate any personal contacts which an applicant may wish to make with a Commissioner, a complete list of the names and addresses of each Commissioner is provided below:

Bruce Lindholm
316 Forest Drive SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319) 333-4422
lindholmbruce@gmail.com

Anthony Olson
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Fairfax, IA
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Ian K. Thornhill
IAN K. THORNHILL, Chair
Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission