NOTICE OF JUDICIAL OPENING

The Governor of the State of Iowa and the Commissioner of Elections have certified a judicial vacancy in Judicial Election Subdistrict 1A. The Subdistrict 1A Judicial Nominating Commission received written notice of the vacancy from the Governor on October 16, 2026.

A vacancy exists in Iowa Judicial Election District 1A for a district associate judge due to the upcoming retirement of Associate Juvenile Judge Thomas Straka. The person appointed to fill this vacancy will be expected to carry out any assignment made by the Chief Judge of the First Judicial District that is within the jurisdiction of a district associate judge, as defined in Iowa Code Sections 602.6305 and 602.6306. Currently, it is contemplated that the person appointed will initially be assigned to the juvenile docket but may be called upon for coverage for initial appearances, pleas and trials for indictable misdemeanors, and any other matters within the jurisdiction of a district associate judge.

Anyone seeking to be nominated for this position must submit a certified application as described below. Applicants for this position must have the following minimum qualifications: (1) be an attorney licensed to practice law in Iowa; (2) be a resident of Judicial Election District 1A or a contiguous county of Judicial Election District 1A, before assuming office and during the entire term of office; and (3) be able, measured by the person's age at the time of appointment, to complete the initial term of office, as defined in Iowa Code prior to reaching age seventy-eight (78).

The Uniform Joint Judicial Application form may be obtained from the Iowa Judicial Nominating Commission website: https://www.iowajnc.gov/district-commissions/judicial-district-1 All non-confidential portions of an applicants' submissions and materials shall be posted on the Commission website. Applicants must also complete the Joint Judicial Background Information available on the same website.

Completed applications and any cover letter, writing sample or attachment must be electronically submitted to Judge Monica Zrinyi Ackley (monica.zrinyiackley@iowacourts.gov), Chairperson of the District 1A Nominating Commission, Lena Heit (lena.heit@iowacourts.gov), District Court Administrator/Secretary of the Commission, and ALL members of the Commission to their email addresses listed on the attached sheet.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS November 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. *No late application will be accepted*.

It is expected that interviews will be conducted on December 9, 2026, in a designated room in the Dubuque County Courthouse. Commission deliberations and balloting are confidential.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments concerning the qualifications of any applicant by email to the Commissioners at the email addresses listed below. Comments provided to the Commissioners may be subject to disclosure pursuant to Iowa's Open Records Laws.

The Commission will submit the names of two nominees to the Governor of the State of Iowa who will then have 30 days to appoint a nominee to fill the vacancy.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2026.

Judge Monica Zrinyi Ackley
Judge Monica Zrinyi Ackley, Chairperson
1A Dubuque Judicial Nominating Commission

1A JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Honorable Monica Zrinyi Ackley, Chairperson
Dubuque County Courthouse
720 Central Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001

Appointed	Elected
Debi Butler Dubuque, IA debi@brainhealth-now.org	Benjamin Robert Bartels Cascade, IA ben@hammerlawoffices.com
Duane Smith Waukon, IA pastorduane1631@gmail.com	Bridget Goldbeck Dubuque, IA bgoldbeck@htlegal.net
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VACANT	Jeffrey Hiatt Asbury, IA jhiatt@cwcmlaw.com
VACANT	Alyssa Carlson Dubuque, IA acarlson@octhomaslaw.com