

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](mailto:Ian.Thornhill@iowacourts.gov)*

*Telephone (319)398-3920  
Fax No. (319)-398-4054*

NOTICE

TO: All Applicants for District Associate Judge Vacancy

DATE: February 2, 2026

The Linn County Judicial Nominating Commission will meet and select two nominees to send to the Governor for appointment to the District Associate Judge vacancy created by the retirement of District Associate Judge Cynthia Finley. 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 primarily serve in juvenile court in Linn County.

**To be considered by the Commission, the original completed application must be delivered (in person or by email) to the office of the District Court Administrator, Linn County Courthouse, 51 Third Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401, no later than 3:00 p.m., February 20, 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 **February 20, 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 \$151,208.

The Sixth Judicial District Nominating Commission has set **March 4, 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](mailto: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 March 2, 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](mailto:lindholmbruce@gmail.com)

Anthony Olson  
110 Skyview Avenue  
Fairfax, IA  
[tony@rushnicholson.com](mailto:tony@rushnicholson.com)

Danielle Hardon  
1301 Seymour Street  
Tama, IA 52339  
(319) 290-4185  
[daniellehardon@gmail.com](mailto:daniellehardon@gmail.com)

Rev. Chris Arch  
4298 Maureen Terrace  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
(319) 321-0836  
[ulsterarch@gmail.com](mailto:ulsterarch@gmail.com)

Michael Biderman  
125 S. Dubuque Street, Suite 580  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
(319) 887-3688  
[mbiderman@hlplc.com](mailto:mbiderman@hlplc.com)

Jennifer Zahradnik  
920 12<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 283  
Belle Plaine, IA 52208  
(319) 444-3285  
[Jennifer@kszlaw.net](mailto:Jennifer@kszlaw.net)

Laura May Schultes  
425 Second St SE, Suite 1140  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
(319) 365-9200  
[lschultes@fightingforfairness.com](mailto:lschultes@fightingforfairness.com)

Julia Zalenski  
725 S. Clinton Street, Unit A  
Iowa City, IA 52440  
(319) 535-3968  
[jzalenski@spd.state.ia.us](mailto:jzalenski@spd.state.ia.us)

Cara Roberts  
1306 East College Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
[croberts@bpglegal.com](mailto:croberts@bpglegal.com)

Kayne Robinson  
P.O. Box 75  
Marengo, IA 70330-0328  
(703) 300-3283  
[kbr@reagan.com](mailto:kbr@reagan.com)

***Ian K. Thornhill***  
**IAN K. THORNHILL, Chair**  
**Sixth District Judicial Nominating Commission**