

Daniel Dlouhy
Iowans Concerned About Judges
704 12th St., Apt 3
West Des Moines, IA 50265

I have received your undated letter enclosing a questionnaire, but no return envelope. I appreciate this opportunity to respond to your group's interest in the Iowa court system and Iowa judges.

As you know, judges in Iowa are not elected in partisan campaigns, but are appointed by the Governor after nominations from a local or state-wide committee selection process. Judges are then on the ballot every six years for retention. If a judge does not receive more than 50% "yes" votes, then the position becomes vacant, and the committee selection process begins again. I was appointed by Governor Robert Ray in August of 1981, and I have been retained by wide margins in all my retention elections since then.

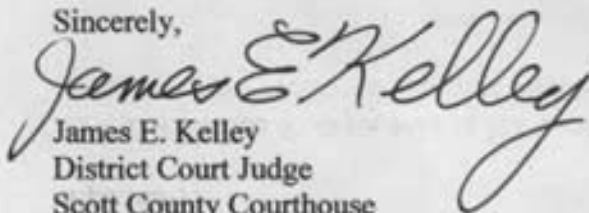
Our courts in Iowa exist to protect the rights of all citizens and to uphold the Constitution. As a judge, my role is to interpret the law and apply it to the facts presented in open court. I do not make the law; I decide specific cases. My opinions reflect my strict adherence to the law. Since taking the bench 25 years ago, I have striven to uphold the Federal and Iowa Constitutions and to rule on each case before me fairly and impartially.

As Chief Justice Roberts said in his confirmation hearing, I also do not wish to hint or signal that I am predisposed to rule on any matter that may be presented to me as a judge. My oath includes my pledge to maintain the highest degree of ethical conduct. That stance ensures fairness, impartiality and courtesy to all who come to the courts for resolution of their disputes.

By maintaining this high degree of ethical conduct, I and all judges promote public trust and confidence in this country's shared value of fair and impartial courts.

I enclose a one page biography that expands on the information about me found on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

Sincerely,



James E. Kelley
District Court Judge
Scott County Courthouse
416 W. 4th Street
Davenport, IA 52801

JUDICIAL RESUME

NAME: James E. Kelley

JUDICIAL OFFICE: District Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial District of Iowa

AGE: 65

Residence: Bettendorf, IA

Family: Married for 42 years. Two adult children and two grandchildren.

College education:

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, Bachelor of Arts degree, 1963.

University of Iowa, College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, Juris Doctor degree, 1966. Honors and awards: Order of Coif, Iowa College of Law, 1966; Developments Editor, Iowa Law Review, Vol. 51, 1965-1966.

University of Nevada-Reno and National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, Master of Judicial Studies degree, 1993. Thesis: Addressing Juror Stress: A Trial Judge's Perspective, published in Vol. 43 Drake Law Review, page 97 (1994).

Background:

Raised in Ames, Iowa, where my father was an Iowa District Court Judge. Both my brother and sister are attorneys, and both teach, or have taught, in law schools. Practicing attorney with the firm of Lane & Waterman, in Davenport, Iowa for 15 years, concentrating practice in the areas of real estate, taxes, state and federal administrative law, labor law, corporate finance, estate and business planning.

Appointed to the District Court on August 15, 1981 by Governor Robert D. Ray. Retained by election; 1982, 1988, 1994 and 2000.

Offices and memberships within the legal system:

Member of the Iowa Judges Association, 1981 to present, member of: Pension Committee, 1982-1984, 1997 to 2005; Long Range Planning Committee, 1984-1987; Judicial Education Committee, 1987 to present. President, Iowa Judges Association, 1996-97.

Chairman of the Iowa Judicial Council Subcommittee on Records Management, 1988 to present.

Co-Chair, Iowa Legislative Study Committee On Organization of Clerks Offices For the District Court, December, 2002- March, 2003.

Chief Justice appeals judge for the Seventh District, assigned to the position by the Iowa Supreme Court in 1984.

Member, Iowa State Bar Association, 1966 to present; member Iowa Jury Instructions Committee, 1994 to 2003, Chair 2000 to 2003.

Member, Scott County Bar Association, 1966 to present; member, Executive Council, 1974-77.

Member, American Bar Association, 1967 to present; member, Jury Standards Committee, Judicial Division, 1995-99.