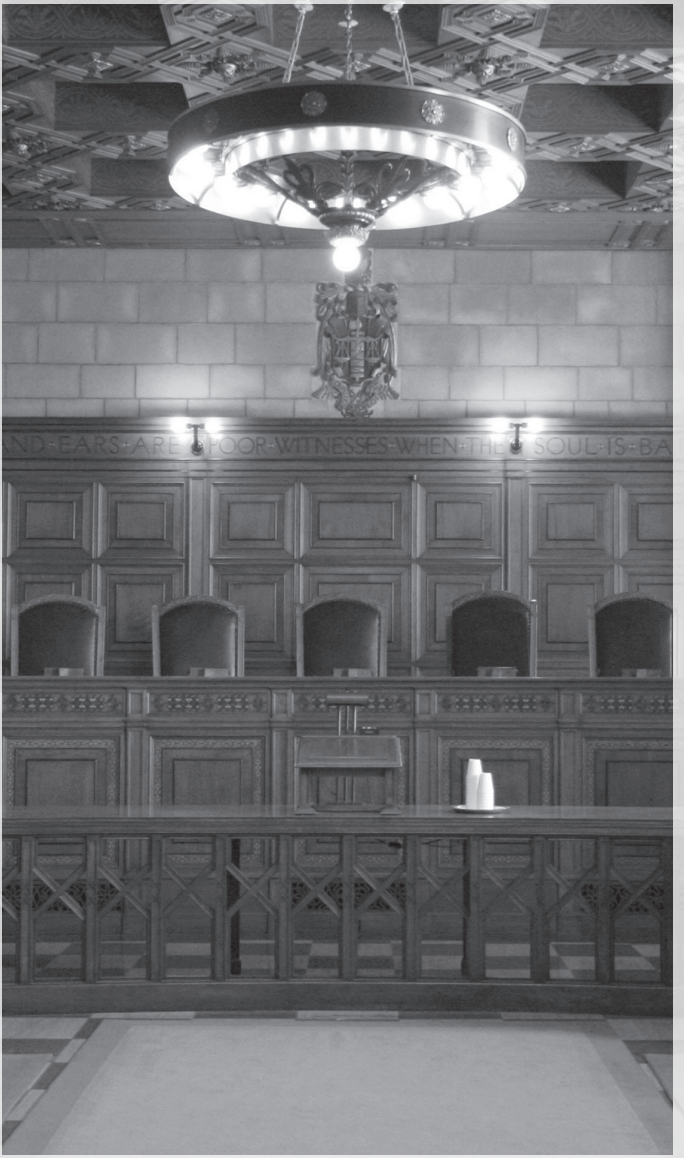
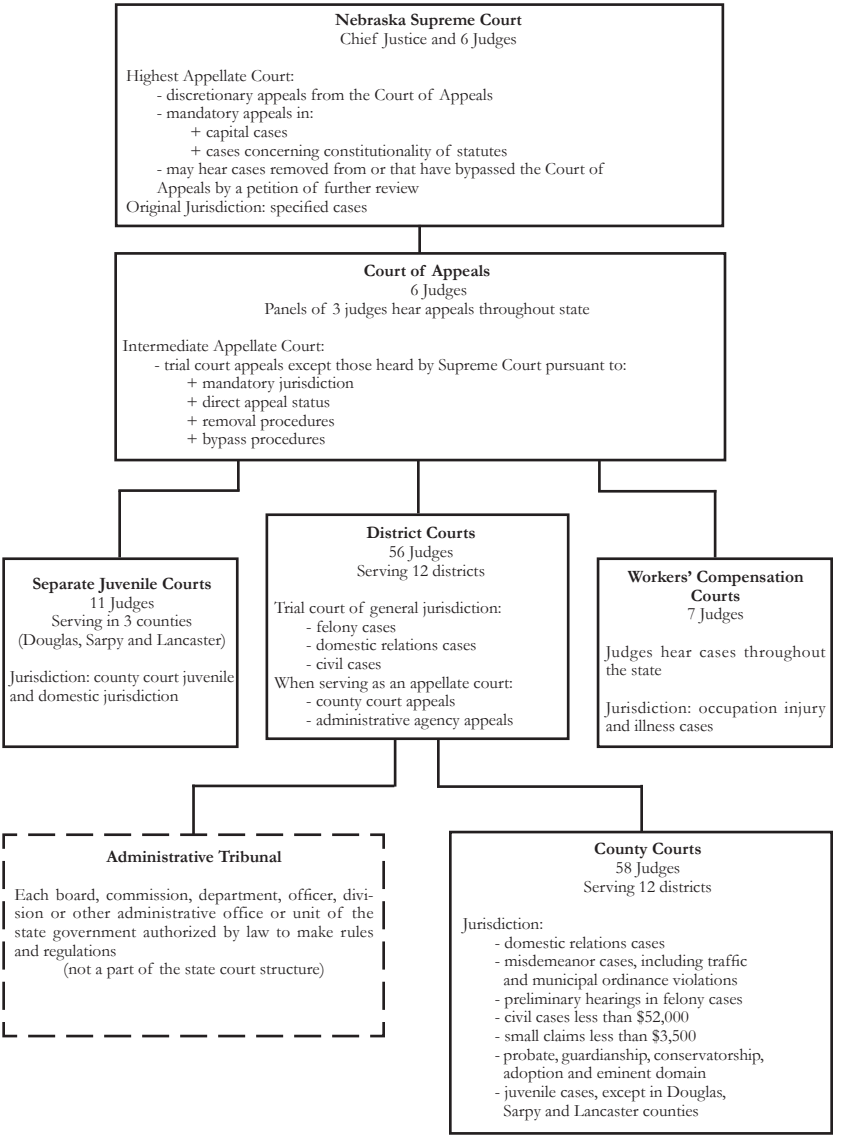


State Judicial Branch

Nebraska Court Structure*



*Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

State Judicial Branch

The Nebraska court system is consolidated and unified. According to the Nebraska Constitution, judicial authority is distributed among the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, district courts (general jurisdiction), county courts (limited jurisdiction) and other courts created by the Legislature. The state's other types of courts include the separate juvenile courts in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties and a workers' compensation court.

In 1970, the judicial article of the state constitution was amended, resulting in several significant changes in the state court system. The amendment gave the Nebraska Supreme Court general administrative authority over all Nebraska courts, eliminated the constitutional basis for the justice of the peace, consolidated the local courts and other courts of limited jurisdiction to form a uniform county court system and created the position of state court administrator. The Supreme Court appointed the first state court administrator in 1972.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and six associate justices. The chief justice is selected by the governor from a statewide list of applicants, while the other six justices are chosen from regional lists. District court judges or selected retired judges may be called upon to help determine cases.

As amended in 1990, the state constitution guarantees the right of appeal to the Supreme Court in cases involving the death penalty, life imprisonment or constitutional questions. The 1990 constitutional amendment also allows all other cases, criminal or civil, to be appealed to the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals consists of six judges appointed by the governor from lists submitted by judicial nominating commissions. The districts from which the Court of Appeals judges are appointed are the same as those used for the six Supreme Court judges. A chief judge of the Court of Appeals is appointed by the Supreme Court to serve a one-year renewable term.

The Supreme Court provides administrative and policy leadership for the state judicial system. The high court regulates the practice of law in Nebraska and appoints and monitors lawyers who serve on local inquiry committees and a state committee on discipline and professional responsibility. The Supreme Court also admits qualified applicants to the Nebraska State Bar Association and administers the state probation system, which handles adult and juvenile cases.

District courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction and serve as appellate courts in deciding some appeals from county courts and various administrative agencies. There are 12 judicial districts in Nebraska and 56 district judges who serve Nebraska's 93 counties. District courts hear felony and civil cases and some misdemeanors. Most appeals from the county courts are decided by judges of the district courts solely on the record. The 1980 Legislature changed the appeal procedure in all but small claims cases, requiring appeals to be heard on the record by a district judge. Small claims appeals are reheard in the district court.

Each county has an elected clerk of the district court who processes judgment records, maintains court dockets, secures transcripts from lower courts and performs other administrative duties.

There are 12 judicial districts in the Nebraska county court system, each composed of one to 17 counties, and 58 county court judges. Each county has a county court. County courts have exclusive original jurisdiction in probate, guardianship, conservatorship, adoption and eminent domain matters. County courts also have original jurisdiction in juvenile matters in counties that have no separate juvenile court. County courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with district courts in misdemeanor cases arising under state law and domestic relations cases. But, in practice, nearly all misdemeanor cases are tried in county courts. While civil jurisdiction is exercised concurrently with district courts, cases involving less than $52,000 can be filed in county courts.

Each county court has a small claims court division. Small claims courts have jurisdiction in civil cases involving damages or an amount of money of $3,500 or less. Clerk magistrates, who are hired by county judges, act as local administrators and have limited judicial responsibilities. They may accept pleas in traffic and misdemeanor cases, set bail and perform other judicial services.

Separate juvenile courts are courts of record and handle cases involving neglected, dependent and delinquent children. Juvenile courts can be created with approval of voters in counties with more than 75,000 people. Nebraska has 11 juvenile judges.

The workers' compensation court consists of seven judges who have statewide jurisdiction. They travel statewide to hold hearings in county seats. The workers' compensation court administers and enforces the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, and it has original jurisdiction over claims for workers' compensation benefits resulting from job-related injuries or illnesses. Disputed claims for workers' compensation are submitted to the court for finding, award, order or judgment. All industrial accidents must be reported to the court.

Prior to 1964, judges were elected to office. In 1962, voters approved a constitutional amendment providing for a merit plan for selection and retention of Supreme Court and district judges. Today, the governor appoints all judges, who are subject to periodic retention votes.

When a county or district judge dies, retires, resigns, is removed or is not retained in office, or when there is a need for a change in the number or boundaries of the judicial districts or a change in the number of judgeships required by law, a judicial resources commission meets to determine whether a vacancy exists and the location of the vacancy. Commission members include seven citizens, four judges and six attorneys. After the location is determined, a judicial nominating commission meets to accept applications for the available judgeship. The commission then submits the names of at least two qualified lawyers to the governor. Each judicial nominating commission is made up of four lawyers selected by the Nebraska State Bar Association and four nonlawyers appointed by the governor. The chairperson of the judicial nominating commission is a member of the Supreme Court. This judge is a nonvoting member. A commission must have no more than two lawyers or two nonlawyer members from either political party, and members must live in the district in which they serve. Generally, the governor

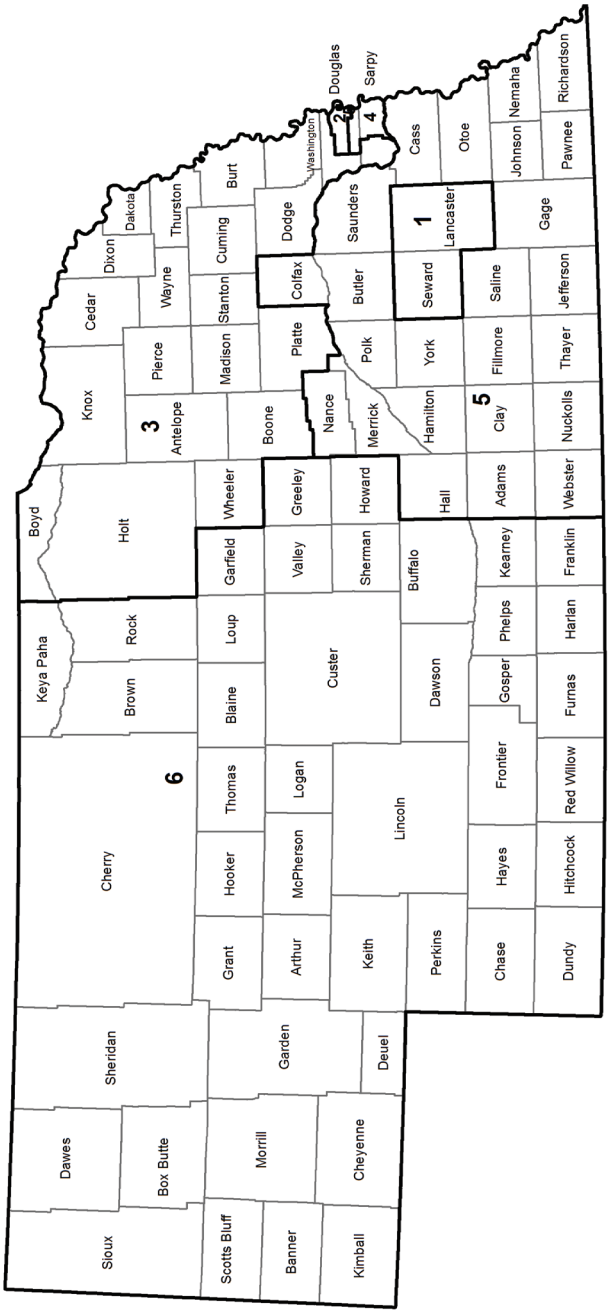
makes final decisions on who will become the new judge. However, if the governor makes no appointment within 60 days after receiving the list of nominees, the chief justice makes the appointment from the list.

Judges in Nebraska courts must be U.S. citizens, be at least 30 years old, have been lawyers in Nebraska for at least five years before appointment, be admitted to practice before the Nebraska Supreme Court and be residents and qualified electors of the districts to be represented on the date of appointment. District, county and separate juvenile court judges must continue living in their districts while serving. Workers' compensation court judges must live in Lancaster County unless court members vote for a judge to live elsewhere.

A judge must run for retention in office at the first general election held more than three years after his or her appointment and every six years thereafter. Judges may retire at age 65 but are not required to retire at any age. Earlier retirement due to disability may be approved by the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, which also investigates complaints against judges.

In 1966, Nebraska voters adopted a constitutional amendment providing for the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, which reviews complaints from the public about judges' behavior. The commission can reprimand judges and order formal hearings on the matters in question. The 10-member commission is composed of the chief justice, who serves as its permanent chairperson; three judges appointed by the Supreme Court; three lawyers appointed by the Nebraska State Bar Association; and three citizens appointed by the governor. State law says judges may be disciplined for behavior that violates the laws and purposes of their office, misconduct in office, failure to perform their duties, conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude or disbarment.

Nebraska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Judicial Districts[1]



[1] Boundaries established by LB699 in the 2011 legislative session.

Nebraska Supreme Court

Office Address: Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

State Court Administrator: Corey R. Steel

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-201

Salary of Supreme Court Judges: $160,540

Publications: *Nebraska Reports, Volumes 1-213*

The Nebraska Supreme Court had its origin in the Organic Act, which created the Nebraska Territory on May 30, 1854. This act declared that the Supreme Court shall consist of a chief justice and two associate judges. The constitutions of 1866 and 1875 provided for three judges. Before the constitution of 1875, the Supreme Court judges also presided over district courts. As the Supreme Court caseload increased, the 1901 Legislature authorized the Supreme Court to appoint nine commissioners to help clear the docket. The 1905 Legislature reduced the number of Supreme Court commissioners to six. By a 1908 constitutional amendment, Supreme Court membership increased from three to seven judges. Legislation passed in 1913 provided for electing judges on a nonpartisan ballot starting in 1914. An amendment submitted by the 1920 constitutional convention called for six judges to be elected by the electors of six districts, with the chief justice to be elected at large.

To speed up the court's work, an amendment submitted by the constitutional convention of 1920 allowed the Supreme Court to sit in division, empowering the chief justice to appoint district judges to sit with the Supreme Court in order to have five judges in each division. Cases involving a statute's constitutionality and all appeals of homicide convictions had to be heard by the undivided court. In 1925 and 1927, the Legislature provided for six Supreme Court commissioners to help with the court's caseload. The 1929 Legislature reduced the number of commissioners to three. Commissioners were no longer used after 1931 at the request of the court.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice selected at large and six associate justices selected from six districts in Nebraska. Judges must be at least 30 years old and have lived in Nebraska for at least three years before their selection.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, civil cases in which the state is a party, mandamus, quo warranto, habeus corpus, election contests involving state officers other than state senators, and appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law. The Supreme Court also hears all appeal cases regarding the death penalty, the sentence of life imprisonment or cases in which constitutional questions are raised. The judges comprise the State Library board of directors.

Judge	Represents	Term Expires
William B. Cassel, O'Neill	District 3	January 2017
William M. Connolly, Hastings	District 5	January 2017
Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chief Justice)	State At Large	January 2017
Michael McCormack, Omaha	District 4	January 2019
Lindsey Miller-Lerman, Omaha	District 2	January 2021
Kenneth C. Stephan, Lincoln	District 1	January 2019
John F. Wright, Scottsbluff	District 6	January 2017

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2015

MICHAEL G. HEAVICAN (CHIEF JUSTICE)
STATE AT LARGE

Office Address: Room 2214, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3738, fax (402) 471-0297, email address — mike.heavican@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice: Oct. 1, 2006, to replace retiring Chief Justice John V. Hendry; retained in office 2010

Biography: Born Aug. 4, 1947, in Columbus. Graduate of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.A.), 1969; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1974. Former: U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska, appointed by President George W. Bush on Sept. 21, 2001, 2001-06; Acting First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Chief, Acting U.S. Attorney, 1991-2001; Lancaster County Attorney, 1981-90; Deputy Lancaster County Attorney, 1975-81. **Member:** Conference of Chief Justices, 2006 to present (president, 2013-14); board of directors, National Center for State Courts, 2011 to present (chair, 2013-14); Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, Judicial Conference of the United States, 2011 to present; Special Committee on Uniform Bar Examination, 2011 to present. **Former Member:** Professionalism Committee, Conference of Chief Justices (chair); United States Attorney General's Advisory Committee (2001-02); Controlled Substances Subcommittee, United States Attorney General's Advisory Committee (chair, 2001-02).

KENNETH C. STEPHAN — DISTRICT 1

Office Address: Room 2211, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3737, fax (402) 471-2197, email address — kenneth.stephan@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: March 10, 1997, to replace retiring Judge Dale E. Fahrnbruch; retained in office 2000, 2006 and 2012

Biography: Born in Omaha. Graduate of Omaha Central High School, 1964; University of Nebraska (B.A.), 1968; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D. with high distinction), 1972. Married Sharon Ross Stephan, April 19, 1969; three children: Alissa Potocnik, Karen Borchert and Charles Stephan. Military service: U.S. Army, 1969-71. Former: private practice attorney with Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson, Endacott & Routh, Lincoln, 1973-97. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association (former chairman, Young Lawyers Section; former member, House of Delegates); Lincoln Bar Association (former member, board of trustees); judicial fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2015 (Cont'd.)

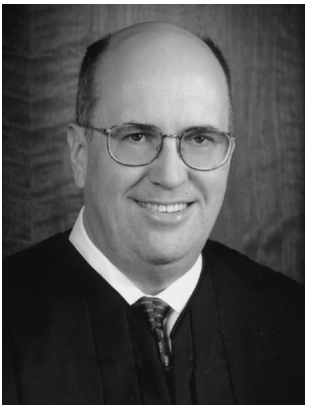
LINDSEY MILLER-LERMAN DISTRICT 2

Office Address: Room 2222, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3734, fax (402) 435-7872, email address — lindsey.miller-lerman@nebraska.gov

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Sept. 1, 1998, to replace retiring Judge D. Nick Caporale; retained in office 2002, 2008 and 2014

Biography: Graduate of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. (B.A.), 1968; Columbia University School of Law, New York City (J.D.), 1973. Two children: Hannah and Jeremy. Former: chief judge, Nebraska Court of Appeals, 1995-98; judge, Nebraska Court of Appeals, 1992-95; partner, Kutak Rock & Campbell, 1980-92; associate, Kutak Rock & Huie, 1976-79; law clerk and research assistant positions held at various locations, 1969-75; law clerk, U.S. District Court (Southern District of New York). **Member:** American Bar Association; Association of the Bar of the City of New York; National Association of Women Judges; Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association. **Former member:** board of directors, Tuesday Musical; Judicial Ethics Committee, Securities Industry Association, Compliance and Legal Division; chairwoman, Civil Procedure and Practice Committee of the Federal Court, District of Nebraska; member, Program Committee of the Judicial Conference for the Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit; board of directors, Landmarks Preservation Inc.; board of directors, Children's Museum; board of directors, Art Omaha. **Publications:** *Creighton Law Review; Litigation News & Notes; American Bar Association Journal; The National Law Journal; Columbia Law Review; Wisconsin Law Review; Annals of Internal Medicine*. **Honors and awards:** College of St. Mary, Omaha (honorary doctorate), 1993.

WILLIAM B. CASSEL DISTRICT 3



Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3736, fax (402) 471-3480, email address — william.cassel@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: May 9, 2012, to replace Judge John M. Gerrard, who was appointed to the federal bench

Biography: Born Sept. 20, 1955, in Ainsworth. Graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.S. in accounting with distinction), 1977; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D. with distinction), 1979. Married Audrey J. Cassel, Aug. 12, 1978; two children, John Benjamin and Christina Marie. Former: appeals court judge, 3rd district, 2004-12; district court judge, 15th district (merged into 8th district), 1992-2004; sole practitioner, Cassel and Cassel, 1981-92; partner, Cassel and Cassel, 1979-81; Johnstown city attorney, 1981-92; Long Pine city attorney, 1981-92; Ainsworth city attorney, 1979-92. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association (judiciary committee, 1999-2005; house of delegates, 1983-92; committee on real estate practice guidelines, 1987-97; chairman, 1988-90; legal services advisory committee, 1987-89, chairman 1987-88); American Bar Association; Supreme Court Committee on Technology, 1999-present and chairman, 2004-present; Supreme Court Automation Advisory Committee, 1995-present. **Former member:** Judicial Ethics Committee, 2002-04 and 2007-12; Supreme Court Committee on Pro Se Litigation, 2001-2004; District Judges Education Committee, 1995-2004; member and board secretary, Ainsworth Airport Authority,

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2015 (Cont'd.)

WILLIAM B CASSEL — DISTRICT 3 (CONT'D.)

1980-92. **Honors and awards:** Warren K. Urbom Mentor Award; Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, 2012; co-recipient, Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judiciary, 2011; co-recipient, Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community, 2002; fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation, elected 1994; fellow, American Bar Foundation, elected 2006.

MICHAEL MCCORMACK — DISTRICT 4

Office Address: Room 2218, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-4345, fax (402) 471-3482

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: March 19, 1997, to replace Judge David J. Lanphier, who was voted out of office in 1996; retained in office 2000, 2006 and 2012

Biography: Born July 20, 1939, in Omaha. Graduate of Creighton University (J.D.), 1963. Married Mary Kay Hartmann, April 22, 1967; three children: Kelley, Kris and Shannon. Former: attorney with McCormack, Cooney, Hillman & Elder, Omaha; Deputy Douglas County Public Defender.

WILLIAM M. CONNOLLY — DISTRICT 5

Office Address: Room 2210, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3733, fax (402) 471-2197

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Dec. 15, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Leslie Boslaugh; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010

Biography: Graduate of Creighton Preparatory School, 1956; Creighton University School of Law (J.D.), 1963. Married Betty Conley Wade. Three children: Cecilia Smith, Thomas G. Connolly and Katherine Connolly; two stepchildren: Roxanne Stingley and Jon P. Wade. Former: Nebraska Court of Appeals judge, 1992-94; Conway, Connolly & Pauley, 1972-91; Adams County attorney, 1967-72; deputy Adams County attorney, 1964-66. **Member:** judicial fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers. **Former member:** executive council, Nebraska State Bar Association, 1986-90; board of directors, Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys, 1972-76; Nebraska State Bar Association House of Delegates, 1971-73; president, Nebraska County Attorneys Association, 1972.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 2015 (Cont'd.)

John F. Wright — District 6

Office Address: Room 2207, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3735, fax (402) 471-3480

Took office as Nebraska Supreme Court Judge: Feb. 25, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Thomas M. Shanahan; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010

Biography: Born Dec. 24, 1945, in Scottsbluff. Graduate of University of Nebraska (B.S.), 1967; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1970. Married Deborah Johnson, July 7, 1972; four children: Jane, Charles, John Floyd and Ellen. Military service: U.S. Army, 1970; Nebraska National Guard, 1970-76. Former: Nebraska Court of Appeals judge, 1992-94; private practice attorney, 1970-91. **Former member:** Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 1992-94; Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, 1991-92; Scottsbluff Rotary Club, 1972-92; Teacher Enrichment Committee, 1988-91; Scottsbluff Board of Education, 1980-87 (president 1984, 1986); president, Western Nebraska Bar Association, 1986; board of directors, Panhandle Legal Services, 1970-74.

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2015

Territorial

Judge	Term of Office
Fenner Ferguson	1854-1857
Edward R. Harden	1854-1860
James Bradley	1854-1857
J.W. Underwood	1857[1]
Samuel W. Black	1857-1859
Eleazer Wakeley	1857-1861
Augustus Hall	1858-1861
Joseph Miller	1859-1860
William Pitt Kellogg	1861-1865[2]
William F. Lockwood	1861-1867
Joseph E. Streeter	1861-1863
Elmer S. Dundy	1863-1867
William Kellogg	1865-1867

[1] Listed as an associate judge of the Supreme Court in Complete Session Laws, 1855-87, Vol. 1, Page 370.
[2] Granted leave of absence by President Lincoln to join the 7th Illinois Cavalry. Served as colonel in the regiment from Sept. 8, 1861, to June 1, 1862. Resigned as territorial chief justice in 1865.

State

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
William A. Little[3]	-	-	-
Oliver P. Mason	1867[4]-1873	1867-1873	-
George B. Lake	1867-1884	1873-1878	1867-1873
	-	1882-1884	1878-1882
Lorenzo Crounse	1867-1873	-	1867-1873
Daniel Gantt	1873-1878[5]	1878	1873-1878
Samuel Maxwell	1873-1894	1878-1882	1873-1878
	-	1886-1888	1882-1886
	-	1892-1894	1888-1892
Amasa Cobb	1878[6]-1892	1884-1886	1878-1884
	-	1890-1892	1886-1890
Manoah B. Reese	1884-1890	1888-1890	1884-1888
	1908-1915	1909-1915	1908-1909
T.L. Norval	1890-1902	1894-1896	1890-1894
	-	1900-1902	1896-1900
Alfred M. Post	1892-1898	1896-1898	1892-1896
T.O.C. Harrison	1894-1900	1898-1900	1894-1898
John J. Sullivan	1898-1904	1902-1904	1898-1902
Silas A. Holcomb	1900-1906	1904-1906	1900-1904
Samuel H. Sedgwick	1902-1908	1906-1908	1902-1906
	1910-1919[5]	-	1910-1919
John B. Barnes	1904-1917	1908-1909	1904-1907
	-	-	1909-1917
Charles B. Letton	1906-1925	-	1906-1925
James R. Dean	1909[7]-1910	-	1909-1910
	1917-1935	-	1917-1935
Jesse L. Root	1909[7]-1911	-	1909-1911

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2015 (Cont'd.)

State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
Jacob Fawcett	1909[7]-1917	1915[8]	1909-1917
William Rose	1909[7]-1943	-	1909-1943
Francis G. Hamer	1911-1918[5]	-	1911-1918
Conrad Hollenbeck	1915[5,9]	1915	-
Andrew M. Morrissey	1915[10]-1927	1915-1927	-
Albert J. Cornish	1917-1920[5]	-	1917-1920
Chester H. Aldrich	1918[11]-1924[5]	-	1918-1924
Leonard A. Flansburg	1920[12]-1923	-	1920-1923
George A. Day	1920[13]-1927[5]	-	1920-1927
Edward E. Good	1923-1937[5]	-	1923-1937
W.H. Thompson	1924[14]-1931	-	1924-1931
Robert E. Evans	1925[5]	-	1925
George A. Eberly	1925[15]-1943	-	1925-1943
Charles A. Goss	1927-1938[5]	1927-1938	-
Francis S. Howell	1928[16]-1929	-	1928-1929
L.B. Day	1929-1938[5]	-	1929-1938
Bayard H. Paine	1931-1949	-	1931-1949
Edward F. Carter	1935-1971	-	1935-1971
Frederick Messmore	1937[17]-1965	-	1937-1965
Harvey M. Johnsen	1939[18]-1940	-	1939-1940
Robert G. Simmons	1939[19]-1963	1939-1963	-
John W. Yeager	1941[20]-1965	-	1941-1965
E.B. Chappell	1943-1961	-	1943-1961
Adolph E. Wenke	1943-1961[5]	-	1943-1961
P.E. Boslaugh	1949-1961	-	1949-1961
Harry A. Spencer	1961-1979[23]	1978[21]	1961-1979
Leslie Boslaugh	1961-1994[23]	-	1961-1994
Robert C. Brower	1961[22]-1967	-	1961-1967
Paul W. White	1963-1978[23]	1963-1978	-
Hale McCown	1965[24]-1983[23]	-	1965-1983
Robert L. Smith	1965[24]-1973[23]	-	1965-1973
John E. Newton	1967[24]-1977[23]	-	1967-1977
Lawrence M. Clinton	1971[24]-1982[5]	-	1971-1982
Donald Brodkey	1974[24]-1982[23]	-	1974-1982
C. Thomas White	1977[25]-1998[23]	1995-1998	1977-1995
Norman Krivosha	1978[24]-1987[26]	1978-1987	-
William C. Hastings	1979[27]-1995[23]	1987-1995	1979-1987
D. Nick Caporale	1982[28]-1998[23]	-	1982-1998
Thomas M. Shanahan	1983[29]-1993[33]	-	1983-1993
John T. Grant	1983[30]-1993[23]	-	1983-1993
Dale E. Fahrnbruch	1987[31]-1996[23]	-	1987-1996
David J. Lanphier	1993[32]-1997[37]	-	1993-1997
John F. Wright	1994[34]-	-	1994-
William M. Connolly	1994[35]-	-	1994-
John M. Gerrard	1995[36]-2012[43]	-	1995-2012
Kenneth C. Stephan	1997[38]-	-	1997-
Michael McCormack	1997[39]-	-	1997-
John V. Hendry	1998[40]-2006[23]	1998-2006	1998-2006

Nebraska Supreme Court Judges, 1854-2015 (Cont'd.)

State (Cont'd.)

Judge	Supreme Court Term of Office	Chief Justice Term of Office	Associate Term of Office
Lindsey Miller-Lerman	1998[41]-	-	1998-
Michael G. Heavican	2006[42]-	2006-	2006-
William B. Cassel	2012[44]-		2012-

Endnotes

[3] Elected in 1867 but died before he qualified.
[4] Appointed in 1867; elected in 1868.
[5] Died while in office.
[6] Appointed in 1878 to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Gantt, then elected 1879.
[7] Constitutional amendment approved in 1908 increased number of Supreme Court judges from three to seven. The governor appointed four judges, two to serve until successors were elected in the 1909 general election, and the other two to serve until successors were elected in the 1911 general election.
[8] Acting chief justice Jan. 21 to 25, 1915.
[9] Served from Jan. 7 to 21, 1915; died Jan. 21, 1915.
[10] Appointed chief justice Jan. 25, 1915, to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Hollenbeck.
[11] Appointed Nov. 16, 1918, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Hamer. Aldrich died March 10, 1924.
[12] Appointed April 21, 1920, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Cornish.
[13] Appointed Jan. 8, 1920, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Sedgwick. Judge Day died Dec. 20, 1927.
[14] Appointed April 15, 1924, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Aldrich.
[15] Appointed July 24, 1925, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Evans.
[16] Appointed Dec. 29, 1927, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge George A. Day.
[17] Appointed Aug. 9, 1937, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Good.
[18] Appointed Nov. 28, 1938, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge L. B. Day. Term began Jan. 3, 1939. Resigned Nov. 8, 1940, upon appointment to U.S. Circuit Court.
[19] Appointed Nov. 12, 1938, to fill vacancy created by death of Chief Justice Goss. Term began Jan. 5, 1939.
[20] Appointed Nov. 18, 1940, to fill vacancy created by resignation of Judge Johnsen.
[21] Served as chief justice pro tempore from Sept. 18 to Dec. 22, 1978.
[22] Appointed March 13, 1961, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Wenke.
[23] Retired.
[24] Appointed to fill vacancy.
[25] Appointed Jan. 6, 1977, to replace retiring Judge Newton. Named chief justice Jan. 26, 1995, to replace retiring Chief Justice Hastings.
[26] Resigned July 31, 1987.
[27] Appointed Jan. 31, 1979, to replace retiring Judge Spencer. Named chief justice Sept. 2, 1987, following resignation of Chief Justice Krivosha.
[28] Appointed Dec. 21, 1981, to replace retiring Judge Brodkey.
[29] Appointed March 24, 1983, to fill vacancy created by death of Judge Clinton.
[30] Appointed Sept. 1, 1983, to replace retiring Judge McCown.
[31] Appointed Nov. 13, 1987, to fill vacancy created when Judge Hastings was named chief justice.
[32] Appointed Oct. 14, 1992, to replace retiring Judge Grant.
[33] Resigned to serve on federal court bench.
[34] Appointed Jan. 27, 1994, to replace Judge Shanahan, who resigned to serve on federal court bench.
[35] Appointed Nov. 17, 1994, to replace retiring Judge Leslie Boslaugh.
[36] Appointed April 20, 1995, to fill vacancy created when Judge C. Thomas White was named chief justice.
[37] Voters removed Judge Lanphier from the bench in 1996.
[38] Appointed Jan. 27, 1997, to replace retiring Judge Farhnbruch.
[39] Appointed Jan. 28, 1997, to fill vacancy created when voters removed Judge Lanphier from the bench.
[40] Appointed chief justice Aug. 5, 1998, to replace retiring Chief Justice C. Thomas White.
[41] Appointed Aug. 5, 1998, to replace retiring Judge Caporale.
[42] Appointed Oct. 1, 2006, to replace retiring Judge Hendry.
[43] Resigned Feb. 2, 2012, to serve on federal court bench.
[44] Appointed April 26, 2012, to fill vacancy created when Judge Gerrard accepted an appointment to serve on federal court bench.

Supreme Court Officers

State Court Administrator

Office Address: Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

State Court Administrator: Corey R. Steel

Statutory Reference: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1

The Nebraska Constitution, as amended in 1970, vests general administrative authority over all courts in the Supreme Court and provides that the chief justice exercise this authority. It also provides that the chief justice serve as executive head of the courts and may appoint an administrative director.

The court administrator develops coordination within the judicial branch and with other agencies involved in programs affecting the courts. The administrator also develops statistics, prepares budgets, develops plans for judicial system improvement and serves as a central source for information about the courts.

Offices under the state court administrator include the Office of the Public Guardian, Judicial Branch Education, Division of Attorney Services, the JUSTICE System, Court Improvement Project, Counsel for Discipline and the Office of Dispute Resolution.

Office of Dispute Resolution

Office Address: State Capitol, Twelfth Floor, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-2766, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov

Director: Debora Denny

Statutory Reference: 25-2904

The 1991 Legislature created the Office of Dispute Resolution within the office of the state court administrator. The state office coordinates the development of mediation throughout the state and approves mediation centers, which serve as an alternative means to resolving problems. Mediators are neutral individuals who help conflicting parties resolve their problems mutually. The mediation centers can handle all types of civil cases, such as family and juvenile matters, landlord/tenant, employer/employee, community, environmental, welfare, business, education, public policy and small claims disputes. The mediation centers receive referrals from courts, agencies, legislatures, government agencies, organizations and individuals. Regional mediation centers serve all counties in Nebraska.

Dispute Resolution Advisory Council

Statutory Reference: 25-2905

When the Office of Dispute Resolution was created in 1991, the Legislature also created an advisory council to assist the office's implementation of the Dispute Resolution Act. The 11 council members are appointed by the state Supreme Court. Members include representatives from the Nebraska District Court Judges Association, Nebraska County Judges Association, Nebraska State Bar Association, Office of the Public Coun-

sel, social workers, mental health professionals, educators and other interested groups or individuals. Two nonvoting ex officio members are appointed to represent mediation centers. Members serve three-year terms. The council meets at least four times per year. Members are not paid but are reimbursed for expenses.

Member	Represents	Term Expires
Kristen Blankley, Lincoln	UNL College of Law	Dec. 31, 2017
Kimberly Booth, Omaha	Nebraska State Bar Association	Dec. 31, 2017
Robert Denton, Fremont	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2017
Timothy R. Engler, Lincoln	Attorney	Dec. 31, 2016
Lorin Galvin, Omaha	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2015
Bryan Hanson, Omaha	Creighton University School of Law	Dec. 31, 2015
Hon. Roger Heideman, Lincoln	Juvenile Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2016
Casey Karges, Omaha	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2016
Hon. Randall Lippstreu, Gering	District Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2015
Jane Martin-Hoffman, Fremont	Ex Officio	Dec. 31, 2015
Hon. Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha	Appeals Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2016
Hon. Randin Roland, Sidney	County Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2017
Chris Hanus Schulenberg, Lincoln	Health and Human Services	Dec. 31, 2017
Hon. Stephanie Stacey, Lincoln	District Court Judge	Dec. 31, 2015

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3739, website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov.

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals: Peggy J. Polacek

Statutory References: 24-211 and 24-1109

The reporter of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals is appointed by the Supreme Court and performs the following functions:

oversees editing of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions; has such decisions published in advance pamphlet form and bound volumes; has bound volumes of decisions copyrighted

supervises preparation and editing of annotations to the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and federal court decisions and has such annotations transmitted to the revisor of statutes

performs other functions as directed by the courts

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Office Address: Room 2413, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3731

Clerk of the Supreme Court: Teresa A. Brown

Statutory References: 24-211 and 24-1109

The state constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to appoint the clerk of the court. The clerk is custodian of the seal of the court and performs other duties as ordered by the court. The clerk of the Supreme Court also serves as the clerk of the Court of Appeals.

State Library

Office Address: State Capitol, Third Floor, P.O. Box 98931, Lincoln, NE 68509-8931, phone (402) 471-3189

State Librarian: Marie Wiechman

Statutory Reference: 51-101

The state library is the oldest public library in the state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of May 30, 1854, established a territorial library to be kept at the seat of state government, then in Omaha, for members of the government and others as prescribed by law.

The Legislature created the office of territorial librarian in March 1855. The library's collection grew to about 4,000 books by 1860. The territorial auditor and later the secretary of state served as librarian. In 1868, the library was secretly moved in the middle of the night from Omaha to the new Capitol in Lincoln. In 1871, the library was separated into two sections: law and miscellaneous. The clerk of the Supreme Court was responsible for the law books. The secretary of state retained the miscellaneous collection. Both collections were put under the supervision of the Supreme Court clerk in 1913. In 1968, the miscellaneous collection was given to other libraries, leaving only law books in the state library.

There are about 140,500 volumes housed in the library's quarters. The Supreme Court judges constitute the library's governing board.

Nebraska Territorial Supreme Court Officers, 1855-67*

Librarians

James S. Izard.....March 16, 1855
H. C. Anderson.....Nov. 6, 1855
John H. Kellom ..... Aug. 3, 1957
Alonzo D. Luce .....Nov. 7, 1859
Robert S. Knox.....June 1861

Clerks of the Supreme Court

J. Sterling Morton..... 1855
H. C. Anderson..... 1856
Charles S. Salisbury..... 1858
E. B. Chandler..... 1859
John H. Kellom 1861
William Kellogg, Jr..... 1865

*All dates listed indicate beginning of terms.

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2015

*State Librarians**

Thomas P. Kennard ..... June 22, 1867
William H. James ..... Jan. 10, 1871

*Clerk of the Supreme Court**

George Armstrong ..... June 11, 1867

Supreme Court Commissioners[1]

Robert Ryan 1893-1899
John M. Ragan 1893-1899
Frank Irvine 1893-1899
William G. Hastings 1901-1904
George A. Day 1901-1902
John S. Kirkpatrick 1901-1904
Willis D. Oldham 1901-1906
Samuel H. Sedgwick 1901-1902
Roscoe Pound 1901-1902
Edward Duffie 1901-1909
John H. Ames 1901-1907
I. L. Albert 1901-1907
Charles S. Lobingier 1902-1903
Richard C. Glanville 1902-1903
Charles B. Letton 1902-1906
John B. Barnes 1902-1904
Jacob Fawcett 1904-1908
N. D. Jackson 1905-1909
Ambrose C. Epperson 1906-1909
Edward E. Good 1907-1909
Elisha C. Calkins 1907-1909
Jesse L. Root 1908-1909
William C. Parriott 1915-1919
Grant C. Martin 1915-1919
Fred O. McGirr 1915-1919
Franklin Shotwell 1919-1919
Leonard A. Flansburg 1919-1920
William C. Dorsey 1919-1921
George W. Tibbets 1919-1921
1925-1929
William M. Cain 1920-1921
John C. Martin 1925-1929
Thomas F. Neighbors 1925-1927
William T. Thompson 1925-1929
Charles E. Sandall 1925-1929
Wilmer W. Wilson 1925-1931
Frederick L. Wolff 1927-1931
Claude A. Davis 1928-1931

Clerks and Reporters of the Supreme Court and State Librarians

Guy A. Brown ..... 1868-1889[2]
Walter A. Leese ..... 1889[3]
D. A. Campbell 1890-1900
Lee Herdman 1900-1904
Harry C. Lindsay 1904-1921

Clerks of the Supreme Court

Harry C. Lindsay 1921-1927
Charles B. Letton 1927-1932
George H. Turner 1932-1977
Larry D. Donnelson 1977-1983
Kenneth A. Wade ..... 1983-1987[4]
Lanet S. Asmussen 1987-2014
Teresa A. Brown 2014-

Reporters of the Supreme Court

J. M. Woolworth 1870*
Lorenzo Crounse 1873*
Henry P. Stoddart 1921-1944
Walter D. James ..... 1944-1945[6]
William E. Peters 1968-1971
H. Emerson Kokjer 1971-1977
Marvin L. Green 1977-1979
Jill Nagy 1980-1981
Don Patton 1981-1986
Kathleen Sollars ..... 1987-1989[7]
Steven R. Schroeder ..... 1989-1992[8]
Peggy J. Polacek 1992-

Nebraska State Supreme Court Officers, 1867-2015 (Cont'd.)

Reporter of the Supreme Court and Revisor of Statutes

Walter D. James.....1945[9]-1968[10]

* Dates listed indicate beginning of terms.
[1] The use of Supreme Court commissioners was terminated in 1931, at the request of the Supreme Court.
[2] Appointed clerk Aug. 8, 1868, and appointed librarian March 3, 1871. Appointed reporter 1875; died Oct. 27, 1889.
[3] Appointed Oct. 29, 1889.
[4] Appointed acting clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian 1983 and served until 1987.
[5] Appointed acting clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian Jan. 16, 1987, and became clerk of the Supreme Court and state librarian Sept. 1, 1987.
[6] Appointed reporter of the Supreme Court Dec. 1, 1944; served until Feb. 23, 1945.
[7] Appointed acting reporter of the Supreme Court Jan. 14, 1987, and became reporter of the Supreme Court Sept. 1, 1987.
[8] Appointed acting reporter of the Supreme Court April 1, 1989, and became reporter of the Supreme Court Sept. 1, 1989.
[9] In 1945, the Legislature provided that the reporter of the Supreme Court serve ex officio as revisor of statutes. The Legislature created the office of revisor of statutes within the Legislative Council effective July 1, 1967.
[10] Died Feb. 18, 1968.

Office of Probation Administration

Office Address: Room 1209, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-2141

Probation Administrator: Ellen Fabian Brokofsky

Statutory Reference: 29-2249

In 1957, under LB568, Nebraska adopted a general statewide system that provided for a planned, uniform system of presentence investigations, case studies and coordinated supervision of offenders eligible for probation under court suspension of sentence. Organizationally, the Nebraska District Court Judges Association was initially granted power to exercise general supervision over probation in all district courts. District judges within each probation district appointed chief probation officers who served at the pleasure of the judges. From 1958 to 1971, the statewide probation system functioned primarily for adult felons, and supervision of misdemeanants from the county courts was performed as a courtesy.

In 1971, the Legislature passed LB680 which: provided for administration of probation in district, county and juvenile courts, except for the separate juvenile courts; created the Office of Probation Administration and outlined the office's duties; created the Field Probation Service and outlined its duties as well as the procedures for discharging offenders from probation; and provided a mechanism for the supervision of offenders through the Interstate Compact. In 1972, LB1032 created a unified county court system and formally allowed for supervision of probation cases from the county court. In 1978, LB624 was enacted which prohibited county courts from appointing probation officers. In that same year, LB625 was enacted, creating the Nebraska Probation System Committee, which assisted the Office of Probation Administration and the Probation Administrator in developing policies and standards for Field Probation Service. In 1985, the Legislature passed LB13, which merged the municipal courts of

Lincoln and Omaha into the county court systems of Lancaster and Douglas counties and placed the probation personnel of these courts under the supervision of the Office of Probation Administration. The probation personnel of the separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties also were placed under the Office of Probation Administration.

By virtue of LB529, the Legislature placed probation for district courts under the authority of the Nebraska Supreme Court effective July 1, 1986. The bill called for the Nebraska Probation System Committee to serve as an advisory committee until its duties were taken over by the Nebraska Probation Advisory Committee on July 1, 1988. The committee's role was to provide advice to the Probation Administrator and Supreme Court regarding probation matters. This committee was abolished by the Supreme Court on May 14, 1998, when the court alternatively elected to designate a Supreme Court judge to serve as liaison to the probation system.

In 1990, the Legislature provided for the implementation of the Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) program. ISP is designed to serve as an intermediate sanction between traditional probation and jail or prison for adults or state commitment for juveniles Through utilization of a targeting tool, select offenders who have been deemed appropriate for this sanction may be sentenced to ISP. Organizationally, the state is divided into six ISP regions. Each region is staffed by a coordinator, line field staff and support personnel. Twenty officers were hired as part of the initial program in 1990. An additional five juvenile ISP officers were added in 1991 and five more ISP officers were added in July, 1995.

In 1997, the Legislature passed LB881, directing the Department of Correctional Services to develop and implement an incarceration work camp no later than Jan. 1, 2005, where adult criminal offenders can be placed as a condition of a sentence of probation (statutory reference: 83-4,142 through 83-4,147). LB881 outlined the work camp's structure and core programming and directed the court to target certain types of eligible felony offenders. Probation Administration's responsibility centers on assisting the court in identifying and assigning appropriate offenders to the work camp, responding to acts of noncompliance while offenders are in the work camp and performing an after care role once the offender completes the work camp and transitions back into the community. After several years of collaboration between the Department of Correctional Services and the probation system, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Work Ethic Camp became operational April 30, 2001.

In 2001, the Legislature passed LB451 to streamline the practice of juvenile intake and create a consistent and uniform method of decision making when law enforcement requests post-arrest detention/placement (statutory reference: 43-250, 43-253 and 43-260). The legislation solidified juvenile intake as an exclusive probation function. Seven juvenile intake probation officers were added to strengthen the Probation Administration's ability to successfully implement this new function statewide.

The practices of juvenile intake were further clarified in 2003 with the passage of LB43. The bill clarified that a peace officer retains temporary custody over a juvenile pending a probation officer's detention decision (statutory reference: 43-250). The law also was clarified so that a peace officer contacts the Department of Health and Human

Services, not the Office of Probation Services, when seeking temporary placement of a juvenile (statutory reference: 43-248).

The 2003 Legislature passed LB46, referred to as the Community Corrections Act, which created a number of criminal justice reforms that directly affected the administration of probation services. Key components of LB46 included:

• establishment of a Community Corrections Council within the Nebraska Crime Commission to oversee and ensure that a continuum of community corrections is developed for probationers and parolees (statutory reference: 47-1619 through 47-634)

• establishment of probation and parole enrollment and monthly programming fees to support enhanced programming and services, as well as establishing procedures and criteria for determining ability to pay and a Probation Program Cash Fund (statutory reference: 29-2262.06, 29-2262.07)

• establishment of a procedure and method of allowing probation officers to impose administrative sanctions for technical offender violations (statutory reference: 29-2266)

• elimination of presentence investigations in Class 3A misdemeanors and lower-class offenses and related traffic and city ordinances (statutory reference: 29-2261)

• development of sentencing guidelines by the Supreme Court. Guidelines for felony drug offenses are to be developed first and delivered to the Court by July 1, 2004 (statutory reference: 47-630)

• creation of a Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Fund that is administered by the executive director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, funded by the assessment of an additional $1 in court costs and used to support data integration efforts among criminal justice entities (statutory reference: 47-632)

• adoption of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (statutory reference: 29-2639)

• alignment of probation districts with judicial districts as of July 1, 2009

Depending on the respective field division involved, probation serves several functions for courts, offenders and communities.

Within the juvenile intake field division, probation officers are statutorily obligated to respond to law enforcement requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make decisions regarding detention, alternative placement or release of a juvenile held in temporary custody. This is accomplished through an assessment of the juvenile's background using a standardized instrument.

In the traditional probation field division, probation officers have a dual responsibility to provide thorough presentence and readjudication investigative reports to the courts and community-based offender supervision. Such supervision entails appropriate offender intervention and redirection, victim restitution, community service and regulated monitoring of offender behavior to ensure that offenders who are not in compliance with their probation orders are returned to court and held accountable for their actions. Within the supervision arena, probation officers are assisted by case managers who are responsible for a higher caseload of low-risk offenders.

In the intensive supervision probation (ISP) field division, probation officers provide a community-based intermediate sentencing sanction that is programmatically more restrictive than traditional probation. This sanction appropriately targets and intensely

supervises both adult and juvenile moderately high-risk offenders who might otherwise be incarcerated or committed to state custody.

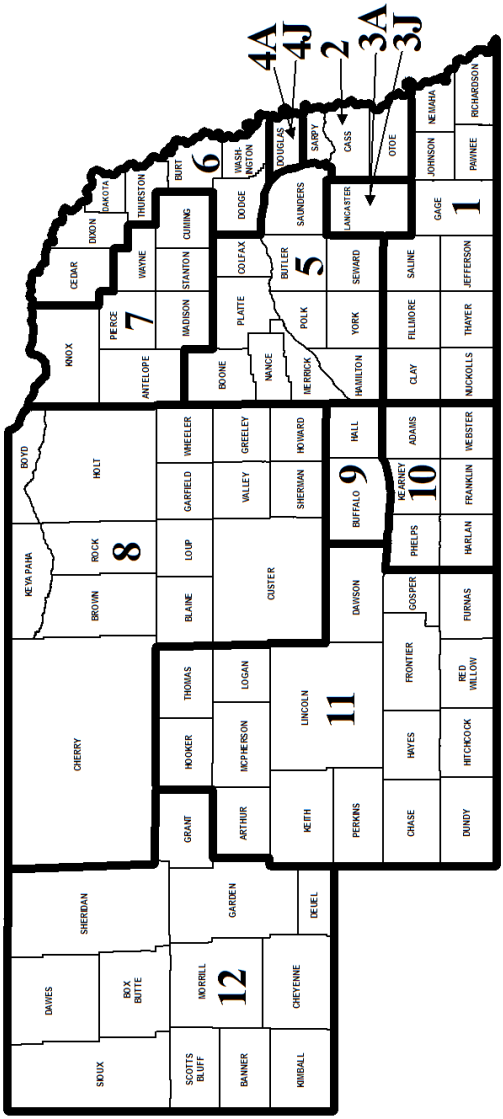
Nebraska Chief Probation Officers, 2015

District	Chief Probation Officer	Residence
1	Sarah Rinne	Beatrice
2	Jodi York	Papillion
3	Tim Perry (Acting)	Lincoln
3J[1]	Lori Griggs	Lincoln
4	Ron Broich	Omaha
4J[1]	Mary Visek	Omaha
5	Shane Stutzman	Columbus
6	Bob Denton	Fremont
7	Kathryn Liebers	Norfolk
8	Tara Sprigler-Price	O'Neill
9	Connie Hultine	Grand Island
10	Joe Budnick	Hastings
11	Lonnie Folchert	North Platte
12	Darren Duncan	Gering

[1] Juvenile-only district.

Nebraska Probation System*

Probation Districts[1]



*Source: Nebraska State Probation Administrator's Office.

[1] As of July 1, 2009, probation districts were aligned with District Court judicial districts. District numbers followed by the letter "J" indicate juvenile-only probation districts.

NEBRASKA COURT OF APPEALS

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-1101

The Nebraska Court of Appeals, an intermediate appellate court, was established on Sept. 6, 1991, as a result of a constitutional amendment approved by voters in the 1990 general election. The 1991 Legislature passed enabling legislation that determined the specifics of the court. The court was created to alleviate the increasing backlog of appeals pending before the Supreme Court and, ultimately, to expedite appellate review of decisions of lower courts and tribunals.

Criminal and civil appeals filed after Sept. 6, 1991, are heard by the Court of Appeals, except for cases involving a death sentence or life imprisonment or cases involving the constitutionality of a statute. Parties to the appeal may file a petition with the Supreme Court to bypass review by the Court of Appeals for direct review by the Supreme Court. Following a decision by the Court of Appeals, any party to a case may petition the Supreme Court for further review of the decision.

The Court of Appeals consists of six judges, with one judge appointed through merit selection from each Supreme Court judicial district. Court of Appeals judges are subject to the same terms relating to selection, filling of vacancy, term of office, discipline, removal from office and retirement as other judges covered by Article V of the Nebraska Constitution. From the six Court of Appeals judges, a chief judge is appointed by the Supreme Court to serve a one-year renewable term. Each Court of Appeals judge may choose any site within the state for his or her office. Court of Appeals judges receive an annual salary totaling 95 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

For purposes of hearing and deciding appeals, Court of Appeals judges sit in panels of three. The membership of the panels is regularly rotated by the chief judge in order to provide each judge an opportunity to serve a proportionate amount of time with every other judge. Although the principal administrative office and courtroom for the Court of Appeals is in the State Capitol, the enabling legislation provides that the court also hears arguments at sites throughout the state by designation of the chief judge.

The enabling legislation for the Court of Appeals provides that the clerk of the Supreme Court and the reporter of the Supreme Court also acts in such capacity for the Court of Appeals. Rules of procedure before the Court of Appeals are to be promulgated by the Supreme Court.

The initial group of Court of Appeals judges took office in 1992 and began hearing cases the third week of February. The court typically schedules arguments for the third week of each month, except during August, when the court is in recess.

The written opinions of the court are available to the public in printed format in *The Decisions of the Nebraska Court of Appeals* and at the court's website — www.supremecourt.ne.gov. Those decisions which are permanently published are published in a bound volume entitled *Nebraska Appeals*.

Judge	Represents	Term Expires
Riko E. Bishop, Lincoln	District 1	January 2017
Everett O. Inbody, Wahoo	District 5	January 2017
John F. Irwin, Papillion	District 4	January 2021
Frankie J. Moore, North Platte (Chief Judge)	District 6	January 2017
Michael W. Pirtle, Omaha	District 2	January 2021
Francie C. Riedmann, Omaha	District 3	January 2017

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2015

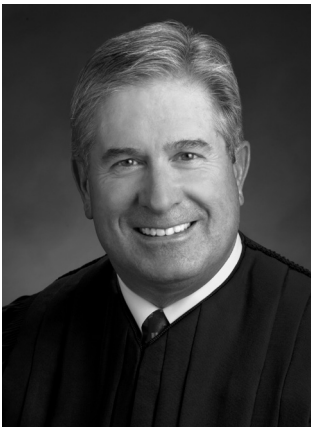
RIKO E. BISHOP — DISTRICT 1

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3732, fax (402) 471-4148; email address — riko.bishop@nebraska.gov

Took office as Court of Appeals Judge: Aug. 20, 2013, to replace Judge Richard D. Sievers, who retired

Biography: Born in Japan, 1956. Graduate of Kearney State College (B.A. in education and English), 1977; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D., with distinction), 1992. Married Jamie Bishop, May 1987; two sons: Eric and Jacob. Former: associate attorney then shareholder, Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, PC, LLO (1993-2013); law clerk, Nebraska Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard Sievers (1992-1993). **Member:** Order of Barristers; Nebraska Association of Trail Attorneys; Nebraska State Bar Association (1992 to present); American Bar Association (1992 to present); Supreme Court Committee on Practice and Procedure (1998 to present); Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission (2004 to present); Nebraska Mediation Association (2011 to present). **Former member:** board of trustees, Lincoln Bar Association (2000-08); Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) Advisory Council (2012-14); Parenting Act Mediator, ODR approved (2010). **Honors and awards:** Nebraska State Bar Association Award of Appreciation, 2006; Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow, 2000; member, National Moot Court Team, 1992 (national brief writing award; regional best oral advocate award; regional best brief award).

MICHAEL W. PIRTLE — DISTRICT 2



Office Addresses: 10730 Pacific St., Ste. 238, Omaha, NE 68114, email address — mike.pirtle@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: July 6, 2011, to replace Judge Theodore L. Carlson, who died; retained in office 2014

Biography: Born Feb. 22, 1953, in Houston, Texas. Graduate of Midland Lutheran College (B.A. in business), 1975; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1978. Married Kimberly A. Knoll, May 29, 2010; four children: Caroline "Callie" Knoll, Michaela "Kaela" Knoll, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Pirtle and Stacey Pirtle. Former director, Gross & Welch, 2006-11; senior staff attorney, American Family Insurance, 2000-06; associate and partner, Walentine, O'Toole, McQuillan & Gordon, 1986-2000; associate and partner, McCormack, Cooney, Mooney & Hillman, 1979-86; associate, Noren & Burns, 1978-79; law clerk, Pierson, Ackerman, Fitchett & Akin, 1976-78. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association; Sarpy County Bar Association; Order of Barristers. **Former member:** Midland University Board of Trustees, 2008-11. **Honors and awards:** Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow, 2010; Midland Warrior Athletic Hall of Fame, 1993; master teacher award, Midland College, 1993.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2015 (Cont'd.)

FRANCIE C. RIEDMANN — DISTRICT 3

Office Address: 216 Enterprise Drive, Ste. 1A, Gretna, NE 68028, phone (402) 332-0781, fax (402) 332-0785, email address — francie.riedmann@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: July 17, 2012, to replace Judge William B. Cassel, who was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court

Biography: Born Aug. 23, 1963. Graduate of Kearney State College (B.S.), 1985; Denver Paralegal Institute, 1986; Creighton University Law School (J.D., summa cum laude), 1993. Married Jim Weis, Nov. 5, 1988; three children: Lauren, Emma and Zachary. Former attorney, Gross & Welch. **Member:** Nebraska State Bar Association; Omaha Bar Association; co-chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships; JUSTICE County Court Automation Committee; JUSTICE District Court Automation Committee; Supreme Court Technology Committee; District and Juvenile Court Record Committee; St. Patrick's Catholic Church; Friends of the Library, Gretna Public Library; citizens' committee, Gretna Public Schools. **Former member:** amicus curiae committee, Omaha Bar Association; Nebraska Defense Counsel Association; board of directors, Black Student Catholic Scholarship Fund. **Honors and awards:** fellow, Litigation Counsel of America; fellow, Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

JOHN F. IRWIN — DISTRICT 4

Office Addresses: Nebraska Court of Appeals, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9038, email address — john.irwin@nebraska.gov

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 13, 1992; retained in office 1996, 2002, 2008 and 2014; served as chief judge, September 1998-September 2004.

Biography: Born May 25, 1952, in Omaha. Graduate of University of Nebraska at Omaha (B.A.), 1974; Creighton University School of Law (J.D.), 1977. Former: Chief Deputy Sarpy County Attorney, 1990-92; Deputy Sarpy County Attorney, 1981-90; private practice, 1977-81. **Member:** chair, Supreme Court Ethics Committee; co-chair, Supreme Court/Nebraska State Bar Association Minority Justice Committee. **Former member:** Sarpy County Bar Association (president); National Council of Chief Judges (president), 2004-05.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 2015 (Cont'd.)

EVERETT O. INBODY — DISTRICT 5

Office Addresses: 112 E. Seventh St., Wahoo, NE 68066, phone (402) 443-5180, fax (402) 443-5285; State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9039, email address — rinbody@ncs.state.ne.us

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: April 20, 1995, to replace Judge William M. Connolly, who was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court; retained in office 1998, 2004 and 2010; served as chief judge, September 2004-September 2014

Biography: Born Sept. 13, 1945, in Columbus. Graduate of University of Nebraska (B.S.), 1967; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1970; American Academy of Judicial Education: Diploma of Judicial Skills, 1990; Diploma of Humanities and Judging, 1999. Married Patricia A. (Lee) Inbody; three children: Bernard, Rebecca and Benjamin. Former: district judge, 5th Judicial District, 1991-95; county judge, 5th Judicial District, 1986-91; partner, Haessler, Sullivan and Inbody, 1974-86; associate, Haessler and Sullivan, 1970-74; director, Regions 4, 5 and 6 of the Nebraska State Crime Commission, 1970-78; deputy county attorney, Saunders County, 1970-75. **Member:** co-chair, Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Children in the Courts, 2004-present; Nebraska State Bar Association Judiciary Committee. **Former member:** president, Nebraska County Judges' Association, 1990-91; Judicial Nominating Commission, 1979-86; Nebraska State Bar Association Executive Committee, 1978-79; adjunct faculty member, John F. Kennedy College, 1970-71; chairman, Nebraska State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, member House of Delegates; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Nebraska District Judges' Association and Education Committee. **Honors and awards:** Nebraska Supreme Court award for Distinguished Judge for Improvement to the Judiciary, 2010.

FRANKIE J. MOORE — DISTRICT 6 (CHIEF JUDGE)

Office Addresses: 300 E. Third St., Suite 254, North Platte, NE 69101, phone (308) 535-8342, fax (308) 535-8344; State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-9037

Took Office as Court of Appeals Judge: Jan. 28, 2000, to replace Judge Wesley C. Mues, who died; retained in office 2004 and 2010

Biography: Born Aug. 13, 1958, in Lincoln. Graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University (B.A.), 1980; University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D.), 1983. Married Lowell J. Moore; two children: Erica and Sean. Former: judge, Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations, 1989-2000; partner, McCarthy, Gale, Moore & Hall, 1991-2000; Moore Law Office, 1990-91; associate, Kelley, Scritsmier & Byrne, 1983-1990. **Former member:** executive board, Nebraska State Bar Association Labor Relations and Employment Law Section; Legislation Committee; Ways, Means and Planning Committee; Task Force on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education; Task Force on Nebraska Judicial Nominating Commission; Federal Practice Committee, U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska.

Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges, 1991-2015

William M. Connolly.....1992[1]-1994[4]
Lindsey Miller-Lerman[3] .....1992[1]-1998[4]
John F. Wright.....1992[1]-1994[4]
Wesley C. Mues.....1994[5]-1999
Edward E. Hannon.....1992[1]-2004
Richard D. Sievers[2] .....1991[1]-2013[16]
John F. Irwin[7] .....1992[1]-
Everett O. Inbody[11].....1995[6]-
Theodore L. Carlson .....1998[8]-2011[12]
Frankie J. Moore[18] .....2000[9]-
William B. Cassel.....2004[10]-2012[14]
Michael W. Pirtle.....2012[13]-
Francie C. Riedmann .....2012[15]-
Riko E. Bishop .....2013[17]

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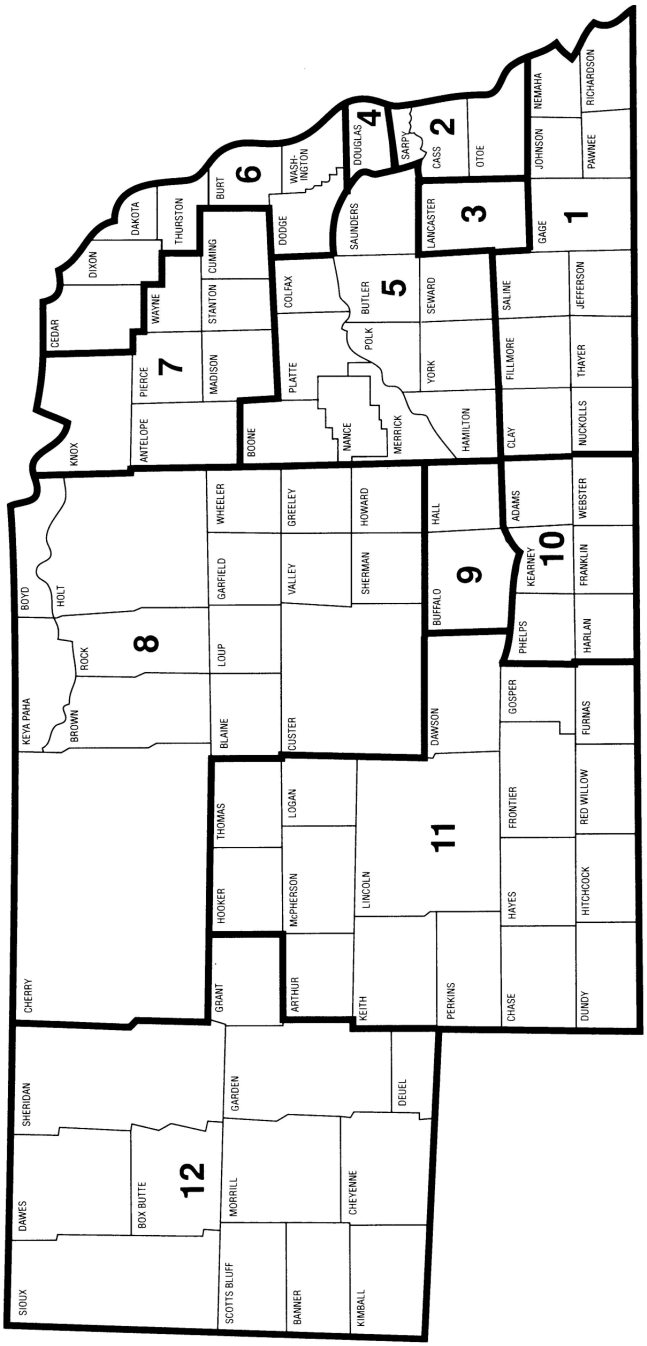
[1] Member of original Court of Appeals. Judges Sievers and Irwin were appointed Dec. 11, 1991; Judges Connolly, Miller-Lerman, Hannon and Wright were appointed Dec. 12, 1991.
[2] Chief judge, 1991-95.
[3] Chief judge, 1996-98.
[4] Resigned upon appointment to Nebraska Supreme Court.
[5] Appointed April 22, 1994, to replace Judge Wright.
[6] Appointed March 7, 1995, to replace Judge Connolly.
[7] Chief judge, 1998-2004.
[8] Appointed Nov. 2, 1998, to replace Judge Miller-Lerman.
[9] Appointed Jan. 28, 2000, to replace Judge Mues, who died.
[10] Appointed Dec. 10, 2003, to replace Judge Hannon.
[11] Chief judge, 2004-14.
[12] Died April 26, 2011.
[13] Appointed June 24, 2011, to replace Judge Carlson.
[14] Resigned April 26, 2012, upon appointment to Nebraska Supreme Court.
[15] Appointed July 17, 2012, to replace Judge Cassel.
[16] Retired May 31, 2013.
[17] Appointed July 19, 2013, to replace Judge Sievers.
[18] Chief judge, 2014-present.

Nebraska Judicial Districts — District Courts*



*Boundaries established by LB1207 in the 2004 legislative session.

DISTRICT COURTS

Statutory Reference: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1

The Organic Act of May 30, 1854, provided for three judicial districts in the newly created Nebraska Territory. These districts' courts were presided over by the Supreme Court judges, who were required to live in the districts they served. The first district covered Douglas and Dodge counties, the second district covered the territory south of the Platte River, and the third district covered Washington and Burt counties.

In 1855, the first session of these courts took place. In the same year, legislation redrew and enlarged district boundaries. The courts' functions were further defined in 1857.

The constitution of 1875 provided for six judicial districts and relieved the Supreme Court judges of district court duties. A 1920 constitutional amendment approved by voters provided that district judges must assist the Supreme Court when required. The 1961 Legislature provided that the Supreme Court may assign district judges to other districts when their services are needed. Nebraska has 12 districts served by 56 district judges.

District judges are selected to serve a specific district. The state establishes judges' and court reporters' salaries. The 1981 Legislature authorized the state to pay district judges 92.5 percent of the annual salary received by Supreme Court judges.

Clerks of the district court are county officers, elected and paid by the counties. District courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction and also rule on appeals from the county courts.

The 1965 Legislature passed the Conciliation Court Law to protect the rights of children, promote the public welfare by preserving and protecting family life and the institution of marriage, and to provide ways for spouses to reconcile and friendly ways to settle domestic and family problems. The law applies to counties in which the district court determines that the social conditions and number of domestic relations cases in the courts necessitate the consideration of such cases.

Nebraska District Judges, 2015*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1	Daniel E. Bryan Jr., Auburn	January 2021
	Vicky Johnson, Wilber	January 2019
	Paul W. Korslund, Beatrice	January 2021
2	David K. Arterburn, Papillion	January 2021
	Jeffrey J. Funke, Plattsmouth	January 2017
	Max Kelch, Papillion	January 2017
	William B. Zastera, Papillion	January 2019
3	Steven D. Burns, Lincoln	January 2019
	John A. Colborn, Lincoln	January 2017
	Andrew R. Jacobsen, Lincoln	January 2021
	Lori A. Maret, Lincoln	January 2019
	Paul D. Merritt Jr., Lincoln	January 2017
	Jodi Nelson, Lincoln	January 2017
	Robert R. Otte, Lincoln	January 2019
	Stephanie Stacy, Lincoln	January 2021
4	W. Mark Ashford, Omaha	January 2017
	Peter Bataillon, Omaha	January 2017
	W. Russell Bowie, Omaha	January 2017
	Timothy P. Burns, Omaha	January 2021
	J Michael Coffey, Omaha	January 2021
	J Russell Derr, Omaha	January 2019
	Duane C. Dougherty, Omaha	January 2021
	James T. Gleason, Omaha	January 2019
	Thomas A. Otepka, Omaha	January 2019
	Kimberly M. Pankonin, Omaha	January 2021
	Marlon A. Polk, Omaha	January 2021
	Gary B. Randall, Omaha	January 2021
	Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, Omaha	January 2019
	Gregory Schatz, Omaha	January 2017
	Shelly R. Stratman, Omaha	January 2021
	Joseph S. Troia, Omaha	January 2019
5	Rachel A. Daugherty, Aurora	January 2019
	Mary C. Gilbride, Wahoo	January 2021
	James C. Stecker, Seward	January 2019
	Robert R. Steinke, Columbus	January 2019
6	Geoffrey C. Hall, Fremont	January 2021
	John E. Samson, Blair	January 2019
	Paul J. Vaughan, Dakota City	January 2021
7	James G. Kube, Madison	January 2019
8	Mark D. Kozisek, Ainsworth	January 2021
	Karin L. Noakes, St. Paul	January 2017
9	John P. Icenogle, Kearney	January 2019
	Teresa K. Luther, Grand Island	January 2017
	William T. Wright, Kearney	January 2017
	Mark John Young, Grand Island	January 2019
10	Terri S. Harder, Minden	January 2021
	Stephen R. Illingworth, Hastings	January 2017
11	Richard A. Birch, North Platte	January 2021
	James E. Doyle, Lexington	January 2019
	Donald E. Rowlands II, North Platte	January 2021
	David Urbom, McCook	January 2017
12	Leo Dobrovolny, Gering	January 2017
	Randall L. Lippstreu, Gering	January 2021
	Travis P. O'Gorman, Alliance	January 2021
	Derek C. Weimer, Sidney	January 2019

*Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015*

Name	Residence	District	Term
Ach, Joseph	Friend	7	1961-1971
Adams, Ed L.	Minden	10	1900-1908
Albert, I.L.	Columbus	6	1898
Allen, William V.	Madison	9	1892-1893 1899 1917-1924
Ambrose, G.W.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Amdor, Michael W.	Omaha	4	1994-2002
Ankeny, Harry R.	Lincoln	3	1945-1961
Appleget, Thomas	Tecumseh	1	1887-1892
Ashford, W. Mark	Omaha	4	2000-
Babock, Albert H.	Beatrice	1	1892-1896
Baker, Benjamin S.	Omaha	4	1896-1902
Barnes, J.B.	Ponca	6, 7	1879-1884
Barron, P.J.	Gering	17	1922-1927
Bartlett, Edwin M.	Omaha	4	1904
Bartos, Stanley	Wilber	7	1941-1961
Bartow, Alfred	Chadron	15	1892-1896
Bartu, Bryce	Seward	5	1977-1996
Bataillon, Peter	Omaha	4	2000-
Bates, Edward	York	5	1891-1900
Battershell, John J.	McCook	11	1992-2006
Baxter, Irving F.	Omaha	4	1900-1904
Beal, Henry J.	Omaha	4	1941-1953
Beall, F.B.	Alma, Hastings	10	1892-1896 1896-1900
Beck, Clarence S.	North Platte	13	1961-1965
Begley, James T.	Plattsmouth	2	1913-1934
Birch, Richard A.	North Platte	11	2011-
Blackledge, Lewis H.	Hastings	10	1921-1941
Blair, J.H.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Blue, William D.	Lincoln	3	1972-1996
Boyd, James F.	Oakdale, Neligh	9	1900-1907
Boyles, Bartlett E.	Lincoln	3	1963-1972
Broady, Jefferson H.	Beatrice	1	1884-1892
Broady, Jefferson H.	Lincoln	3	1923-1952
Brodkey, Donald	Omaha	4	1961-1974
Brower, John M.	Fullerton	21	1980-1991
Brown, Ralph D.	Crete	7	1917-1925
Bryan, Daniel E.	Auburn	1	1999-
Buckley, James A.	Omaha	4	1970-1998
Burke, John C.	Omaha	4	1961-1980
Burkhard, Robert V.	Omaha	4	1980-2005
Burns, Steven D.	Lincoln	3	1997-
Burns, Timothy P.	Omaha	4	2011-
Bush, J.E.	Beatrice	1	1892-1896
Button, Frederick W.	Fremont	6	1915-1928
Cambridge, William G.	Hastings	10	1981-1988
Camp, Robert R.	Lincoln	3	1983-1988
Caniglia, Samuel P.	Omaha	4	1971-1985
Caporale, D. Nick	Omaha	4	1979-1982
Carlson, Theodore L.	Omaha	4	1983-1998
Carrigan, Edmund B.	Blair	4	1927
Carter, Edward F.	Gering	17	1927-1935
Case, Raymond J.	Plattsmouth	2	1974-1990
Cassel, William B.	Ainsworth	8	1992-2003
Cecava, Kristine R.	Sidney	12	1999-2008
Chadderdon, Norris	Holdrege	10	1958-1977
Chapmon, Samuel M.	Plattsmouth	2	1887-1895
Chappell, E.B.	Lincoln	3	1929-1943
Chase, Dewitt Clinton	Stanton	9	1924-1938
Chase, Jackson B.	Omaha	4	1946-1954 1957-1961
Cheuvront, Jeffre	Lincoln	3	1983-2011

*District served reflects realignment of districts passed as LB1059 in the 1992 legislative session.

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Church, A.H.	North Platte	10, 13	1889-1892
Clark, John E.	Omaha	4	1972-1994
Clarkson, Joseph R.	Omaha	3	1888-1892
Clements, Edwin P.	Ord	11	1921-1941
Clements, Elliott J.	Lincoln	3	1919-1923
Coady, Orville L.	Hebron	1	1971-2003
Cochran, James E.	McCook	11, 14	1887-189
Coffey, J. Michael	Omaha	4	1998-
Coffin, E.M.	Ord	11	1891-1892
Colborn, John A.	Lincoln	3	2000-
Colby, Lenard W.	Beatrice	18	1921-1924
Colwell, William F.	Pawnee City	1	1963-1981
Cones, Douglas	Pierce	8	1899-1900
Corcoran, George F.	York	5	1908-1925
Cornish, Albert J.	Lincoln	3	1896-1916
Corrigan, Lawrence J.	Omaha	4	1983-1999
Cosgrave, P. James	Lincoln	3	1912-1918
Crawford, J.C.	West Point	7	1884-1888
Crites, A.W.	Chadron	15	1891-1892
Crites, Albert W.	Chadron	16	1959-1966
Daugherty, Rachel A.	Aurora	5	2014-
Davidson, Samuel P.	Tecumseh	1	1882-1884
Davis, Herbert J.	Omaha	4	1891-1896
Davis, Stephen A.	Omaha	4	1982-2002
Day, George A.	Omaha	4	1902-1921
Day, L.B.	Omaha	4	1921-1929
Day, W.A.	Omaha	4	1936-1957
DeBacker, Richard L.	Grand Island	11	1980-1984
Derr, J Russell	Omaha	4	2002-
Dickinson, Charles T.	Tekamah	4	1896-1904
Dickson, Robert R.	O'Neill	15	1912-1941
Dierks, John M.	Nebraska City	2	1952-1964
Dilworth, William A.	Holdrege	10	1919-1928
Dineen, Frank M.	Omaha	4	1929-1950
Dittrick, George W.	Norfolk	9	1961-1977
Doane, George W.	Omaha	3, 4	1888-1892
Dobrovolny, Leo P.	Gering	12	2007-
Dorsey, William C.	Bloomington	10	1917-1919
Dougherty, Duane C.	Omaha	4	2011-
Dougherty, Sandra L.	Omaha	4	1999-2009
Doyle, James E.	Lexington	11	2001-
Duffie, E.R.	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Dunbar, Thomas E.	Nebraska City	2	1944-1952
Dungan, Harry	Hastings	0	1908-1917
Eldred, Charles E.	McCook	14	1919-1945
Ellis, Cloyde B.	Beatrice	18	1937-1958
Empson, Paul D.	Chadron	12	1980-2007
Endacott, Donald E.	Lincoln	3	1979-2000
English, James P.	Omaha	4	1913-1917
English, James T.	Omaha	4	1945-1959
Ensz, Robert B.	Wayne	7	1991-2012
Estelle, Lee S.	Omaha	4	1891-1892 1900-1921
Evans, Arthur J.	David City	5	1904-1908
Evans, Robert E.	Dakota City	8	1896-1900
Fahrnbruch, Dale E.	Lincoln	3	1972-1987
Falloon, Virgil	Falls City	1	1937-1963
Fawcett, Jacob	Omaha	4	1896-1904
Feidler, Ted R.	Scottsbluff	17	1961-1977
Ferguson, A.N.	Lincoln	4	1886-1892
Field, Allen W.	Omaha	2, 3	1921-1961
Finn, Robert T.	Auburn, Beatrice, Tecumseh	1	1981-1999
Fitzgerald, James M.	Lincoln	4	1918-1919
Flansburg, Leonard A.	Scottsbluff	3	1961-1977
Flory, Robert D.	Columbus	6	1949-1965
Flory, Robert L.	Fremont	6	1961-1977

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Flowers, Karen B.	Lincoln	3	1996-2013
Foster, Charles E.	Omaha	4	1929-1933
Frost, Lincoln	Lincoln	3	1898-1912 1924-1925
Frum, Sidney T.	South Sioux City	8	1941-1955
Fuhrman, Mark J.	Fremont	6	1977-1998
Funke, Jeffrey J.	Plattsmouth	2	2013-
Garden, Richard P.	Norfolk	7	1979-2000
Garrotto, Paul J.	Omaha	4	1961-1971
Gaslin, William Jr.	Kearney	5, 8, 10	1876-1892
Gilbride, Mary C.	Wahoo	5	1998-
Gillan, George C.	Lexington	13	1923-1925
Gitnick, Jerry M.	Omaha	4	1978-1992
Gleason, James T.	Omaha	4	2002-
Gless, Alan G.	Wahoo, Seward	5	1995-2013
Good, Benjamin F.	York, Wahoo	5	1900-1912
Good, Edward E.	Wahoo	5	1912-1923
Goss, Charles A.	Omaha	4	1921-1927
Gossett, F.A., III	Fremont	6	1998-2003
Grant, John T.	Omaha	4	1974-1983
Graves, Guy T.	Pender	8	1900-1924
Green, W.L.	Kearney	12	1896-1897
Griffey, Thomas L.	Dakota City	6	1876-1877
Grimes, Hanson M.	North Platte	13	1895-1921
Grimison, James A.	Schuyler	6	1899-1904
Groff, Lewis A.	Omaha	3	1887-1892
Gutterson, Charles L.	Broken Bow	12	1903-1904
Hall, Charles L.	Lincoln	3	1891-1898
Hamer, Frances G.	Kearney	10, 12	1884-1892
Hamilton, Donald J.	Omaha	4	1965-1992
Hanna, James R.	Greeley, Grand Island	11	1904-1921
Hannon, Edward	O'Neill	15	1983-1991
Harder, Terri S.	Minden	10	2000-
Harrington, James J.	O'Neill	15	1900-1912
Harrison, T.O.C.	Grand Island	9, 11	1887-1894
Hartigan, John D., Jr.	Omaha	4	1991-2011
Hastings, Lovell S.	David City	5	1923-1947
Hastings, William C.	Lincoln	3	1965-1979
Hastings, William G.	Wilber, Omaha	7, 4	1892-1900 1923-1937
Hayward, M.L.	Nebraska City	2	1886
Hendrix, Jack H.	Trenton	14	1969-1991
Hickman, Paul J.	Omaha	4	1978-1993
Hippe, Robert O.	Gering	12	1977-2007
Hobart, Ralph W.	Mitchell, Gering	16, 17	1911-1922
Holcomb, Silas A.	Broken Bow	12	1892-1894
Hollenbeck, Conrad	Fremont	6	1898-1914
Holmes, Edward P.	Lincoln	3	1894-1908
Hopewell, Melville R.	Tekamah, Omaha	3, 4	1887-1896
Horth, Ralph T.	Grand Island	11	1931-1934
Hostetler, Bruno O.	Kearney	12	1904-1941
Howard, Keith	Omaha	4	1979-1991
Huber, Walter G.	Blair	6	1972-1980
Hubka, Ernest A.	Beatrice	18	1958-1971
Hurd, Leslie G.	Harvard	7	1904-1917
Icenogle, John P.	Kearney	9	1990-
Illingworth, Stephen R.	Hastings	10	1988-
Inbody, Everett O.	Wahoo	5	1991-1995
Irons, Fred R.	Hastings	10	1971-1981
Irvine, Frank	Omaha	4	1891-1892
Irwin, George W.	Bridgeport	17	1935-1939
Jackson, Lyle E.	Neligh	9	1941-1961
Jackson, N. D.	Neligh	9	1892-1896
Jacobsen, Andrew R.	Lincoln	3	2011-
James, J.W.	Hastings	10	1928-1934
Jessen, Paul	Nebraska City	2	1900-1908

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Johnson, Earl E.	Broken Bow	20	1973-1977
Johnson, Vicky	Wilber	1	2003-
Kanouff, Howard V.	Wahoo	5	1971-1977
Kelligar, William H.	Auburn	1	1904-1908
Kelly, James R.	Broken Bow	20	1977-1984
Kelly, Lloyd Jr.	Grand Island	11	1972-1980
Kendall, A.A.	St. Paul	11	1894-1900
Kennedy, Howard Jr.	Omaha	4	1904-1913
Keysor, W.W.	Omaha	4	1892-1902
Kieck, W.G.	Plattsmouth	2	1937
Kinkaid, Moses P.	O'Neill	12, 15	1887-1900
Knapp, John D.	Kimball	12	1974-1999
Kneifl, Francis J.	South Sioux City	8	1975-1984
Kokjer, Emerson	Wahoo	5	1947-1971
Korslund, Paul W.	Beatrice	1	1998-
Kortum, Alfred J.	Gering	12	1972-1995
Kozisek, Mark D.	Ainsworth	8	2004-
Krell, Lawrence C.	Omaha	4	1959-1978
Kroger, E.G.	Grand Island	11	1934-1961
Kube, James G.	Norfolk	7	2009-
Kuns, John	Kimball	13, 19	1949-1974
Lamberty, Patricia A.	Omaha	4	1998-2011
Landis, Harry D.	Seward	5	1925-1956
Leslie, Charles	Omaha	4	1912-1945
Letton, C.B.	Fairbury	1	1896-1903
Lightner, Louis	Columbus	6	1923-1949
Likes, Mary G.	Omaha	4	1992-2002
Lippstreu, Randall L.	Gering	12	1998-
Livingston, James D.	Grand Island	9	1992-2014
Livington, D.W.	Nebraska City	2	1934-1937
Luther, Teresa K.	Grand Island	9	1994-
Lynch, Patrick W.	Omaha	4	1954-1979
Manasil, William F.	Burwell	11, 20	1958-1973
Maret, Lori A.	Lincoln	3	2014-
Marsh, Joseph	Dakota City	8	1967-1975
Marshall, William	Fremont	4, 6	1887-1898
Martin, Joseph D.	Grand Island	9	1978-1994
McFadden, Eugene D.	Norfolk	9	1977-1979
McGill, Michael	Omaha	4	1991-2000
McGinn, Bernard J.	Lincoln	3	1981-2005
Merritt, Paul D. Jr.	Lincoln	3	1988-
Messmore, Fred W.	Beatrice	18	1929-1937
Meyer, Earl L.	Alliance	6	1926-1959
Miller, Matt	David City	5	1891-1892
Mitchell, J.L.	Nebraska City	2	1885-1886
Moran, Gerald E.	Omaha	4	1993-2010
Moran, Robert R.	Alliance	16	1966-1992
Morning, William M.	Lincoln	3	1917-1924
Morris, William H.	Crete	5, 7	1883-1884 1887-1892
Moss, William Jefferson	Fairbury	18	1924-1929
Mounts, Dayton R.	Atkinson, O'Neill	15	1941-1961
Mullen, J. Patrick	Omaha	4	1985-2012
Mullery, Edward A.	Omaha	4	1961-1962
Munday, Frank J.	Red Cloud	10	1933-1958
Munn, C.A.	Ord	11	1900-1901
Murphy, James M.	Omaha	4	1977-1997
Murphy, John E.	Omaha	4	1961-1978
Murphy, John P.	North Platte	11	1983-2011
Neville, James	Omaha	3	1883-1888
Neville, William	North Platte	13	1892-1894
Newkirk, L. Ross	Omaha	4	1953-1961
Newton, John E.	Ponca	8	1957-1967
Nimtz, Frank G.	Omaha	4	1961-1964
Nisley, I.J.	North Platte	13	1925-1961
Norris, G.W.	McCook, Beaver City	14	1896-1903

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Norris, W.F.	Ponca	7, 8	1888-1896
Norton, William H.	Osceola	5	1977-1991
Norval, T.L.	Seward	6	1883-1890
Nuss, Edmund	Hastings	10	1941-1971
James O'Brien,P.	Omaha	4	1961-1977
O'Gorman, Travis P.	Alliance	12	2011-
Ogden, Charles	Omaha	4	1892-1896
Olberding, Ronald D.	Burwell	8	1984-2006
Oleson, Andrew R.	Wisner	9	1915-1917
			1929-1937
Orr, Robert C.	Hayes Center, McCook	14	1903-1912
Otepka, Thomas A.	Omaha	4	2003-
Otte, Robert	Dakota City	6	1985-1993
Owens, Michael J.	York, Aurora	5	1996-2014
Paine, Bayard H.	Grand Island	11	1917-1931
Pankonin, Kimberly M.	Omaha	4	2011-
Patton, James M.	Omaha	4	1949-1961
Paul, James N.	St. Paul	11	1901-1917
Pemberton, Leander M.	Beatrice	1, 18	1908-1921
Perry, Claibourne G.	Gering	17	1939-1957
Perry, Ernest B.	Cambridge	14	1912-1919
Polk, John L.	Lincoln	3	1937-1965
Pollock, Fay H.	Stanton	9	1943-1969
Post, Alfred M.	Columbus	4, 6	1880-1892
			1919-1923
Post, George W.	York	4	1876-1880
Pound, Stephen B.	Lincoln	2	1876-1888
Powell, Clinton N.	Omaha	4	1896-1900
Powers, Isaac Jr.	Norfolk	7, 9	1887-1892
Proudfit, Robert M.	Friend	7	1925-1941
Quist, Darvid D.	Blair	6	1980-2010
Rait, James E.	Omaha	4	1927-1929
Ramsey, B.S.	Plattsmouth	2	1896-1900
Randall, Gary B.	Omaha	4	1997-
Raper, John B.	Pawnee City	1	1906-1937
Raun, Alfred D.	Walthill	8	1955-1957
Read, Guy R.C.	Omaha	4	1902-1904
Reagan, Ronald E.	Papillion	2	1972-2005
Redick, William A.	Omaha	4	1904-1912
			1915-1936
Redmond, Maurice S.	Dakota City	6	1993-2005
Reed, Eldridge G.	Kearney	12	1941-1961
Reeder, James G.	Columbus	6	1904-1908
Rehmeier, Randall L.	Nebraska City	2	1990-2013
Reimer, Henry F.	O'Neill	15	1974-1983
Retelsdorf, Leigh Ann	Omaha	4	2009-
Rhoades, Herbert	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1927-1961
Richling, Theodore L.	Omaha	4	1970-1983
Riley, William H.	Grand Island	11	1984-1992
Rine, John A.	Omaha	4	1937-1944
Rist, William B.	Beatrice	1	1971-1998
Robertson, William A.	Plattsmouth	2	1944
Robinson, J.S.	Madison	9	1895-1899
Robinson, Russell A.	Fremont	6	1945-1961
Rogers, Patrick	Randolph	7	2001-2009
Ronin, Herbert A.	Lincoln	3	1961-1981
Rowlands, Donald E., II	North Platte	11	1986-
Ryan, Mark J.	Pender	8	1925-1941
Samson, John E.	Fremont	6	2003-
Savage, James W.	Omaha	3	1876-1883
Savidge, Samuel L.	Kearney	10	1883-1884
Schatz, Gregory	Omaha, Waterloo	4	2000-
Scheele, Elmer M.	Lincoln	3	1961-1972
Schmidt, Victor H.	Papillion	2	1964-1972
Scott, C.R.	Omaha	4	1892-1900
Sears, Willis G.	Tekamah, Omaha	4	1904-1923
			1933-1949

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
Sedgwick, S. H.	York	5	1896-1900
Sharp, Betty P.	Nebraska City	2	1972-1976
Shepherd, Frederick E.	Lincoln	3	1917-1945
Sidner, S.S.	Kearney	12	1961-1976
Silverman, Brian C.	Scottsbluff, Alliance	12	1992-2010
Sinclair, H.M.	Kearney	12	1895-1896
Slabaugh, W.W.	Omaha	4	1896-1904
Smith, Jerome H.	Aurora	6	1890-1892
Smith, Robert L.	Omaha	4	1961-1965
Smith, Walter H.	Plattsmouth	2	1965-1974
Smith, William C. Jr.	Ainsworth	15	1961-1974
Sornborger, S.H.	York	5	1900-1904
Spear, Frederick L.	Fremont	6	1928-1945
Spencer, Harry A.	Lincoln	3	1952-1961
Spethman, Richard J.	Omaha	4	1992-2005
Spikes, William. F.	St. Paul	11	1941-1958
Sprague, Bernard	Red Cloud	10	1977-1999
Stacy, Stephanie	Lincoln	3	2011-
Stalmaster, Irvin	Omaha	4	1928-1929
Stanley, George H.	Syracuse	2	1976-1983
Stauffer, Carroll	Oakland	4	1921-1925
Stauffer, Carroll O.	Omaha	4	1950-1961
Stecker, James C.	Seward	5	2013-
Steinke, Robert R.	Columbus	5	1991-
Stewart, Charles H.	Norfolk	9	1928-1941
Stewart, Willard E.	Lincoln	3	1908-1929
Stratman, Shelly R.	Omaha	4	2012-
Strode, Jesse B.	Lincoln	3	1892-1894
Stuart, Hugh	North Platte	13	1965-1986
Stubbs, George W.	Superior	7	1900-1904
Stull, J.S.	Auburn	1	1896-1904
Sullivan, Homer M.	Broken Bow	12	1897-1903
Sullivan, J.J.	Columbus	6	1892-1897
Sutton, Abraham L.	Omaha, South Omaha	4	1904-1914 1925-1927
Tesar, Rudolph	Omaha	4	1964-1979
Tewell, J.L.	Sidney	13	1921-1949
Thomas, George H.	Columbus, Schuyler	6	1908-1919
Thompson, George A.	Papillion	2	1983-2006
Thompson, J.R.	Grand Island	11	1892-1904
Thomsen, Arthur C.	Omaha	4	1929-1961
Tibbets, A. S.	Lincoln	3	1891-1896
Tiffany, Fayette B.	Albion	9	1883-1892
Travis, Harvey D.	Plattsmouth	2	1908-1913
Troia, Joseph S.	Omaha	4	1991-
Troup, Alexander C.	Omaha	4	1904-1929
Tuttle, Samuel J.	Lincoln	3	1898
Valentine, E. K.	West Point	6	1877-1878
Van Pelt, Samuel	Lincoln	3	1972-1983
Van Steenberg, Richard M.	Mitchell	7	1957-1961
Vaughan, Paul J.	Dakota City	6	2011-
Wakeley, Arthur C.	Omaha	4	1917-1927
Wakeley, Eleazer	Omaha	3, 4	1883-1892
Walton, W.C.	Blair	4	1892-1896
Warren, Merritt C.	Creighton	9	1969-1991
Weaver, A.J.	Falls City	1	1876-1882
Weaver, Donald H.	Grand Island	11	1961-1978
Weimer, Derek C.	Gering	12	2009-
Welch, Anson A.	Wayne	9	1907-1928
Welty, D.T.	Cambridge	14	1892-1896
Wenke, Adolph E.	Stanton	9	1938-1943
Westermark, Victor	McCook	14	1946-1969
Westover, William H.	Rushville	15, 16	1896-1926
Wheeler, Mason	Lincoln	3	1925-1929
Wheeler, Robert	Osceola	5	1892-1896
White, C. Thomas	Columbus	6, 21	1965-1977

Nebraska District Judges, 1876-2015 (Cont'd.)

Name	Residence	District	Term
White, Paul W.	Lincoln	3	1953-1963
Whitehead, John C.	Columbus	5	1977-1998
Wilson, Ralph	Lincoln	3	1943-1952
Wilson, W.W.	Nebraska City	2	1937-1944
Windrum, Keith	Gothenburg	13	1972-1986
Witthoff, Earl J.	Lincoln	3	1988-2008
Wolf, DeWayne	Kearney	12	1976-1990
Wright, Fred A.	Omaha	4	1929-1932
Yeager, John W.	Omaha	4	1933-1940
Young, Mark John	Grand Island	9	2014-
Zastera, William B.	Nebraska City, Papillion	2	1997-
Zeilinger, John D.	York	5	1956-1977

Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

Territorial[1]

D.S. McGary ..... May 10, 1855[2]
Jonathan H. Smith ..... June 9, 1855
S.A. Strickland ..... June 11, 1855
John M. Latham ..... Nov. 6, 1855
Jacob Safford ..... Nov. 6, 1855
William Kline ..... Nov. 6, 1855
James G. Chapman ..... Aug. 3, 1857
William McLellan ..... Aug. 3, 1857
George W. Doane ..... Aug. 3, 1857
U.C. Johnson ..... Oct. 11, 1859

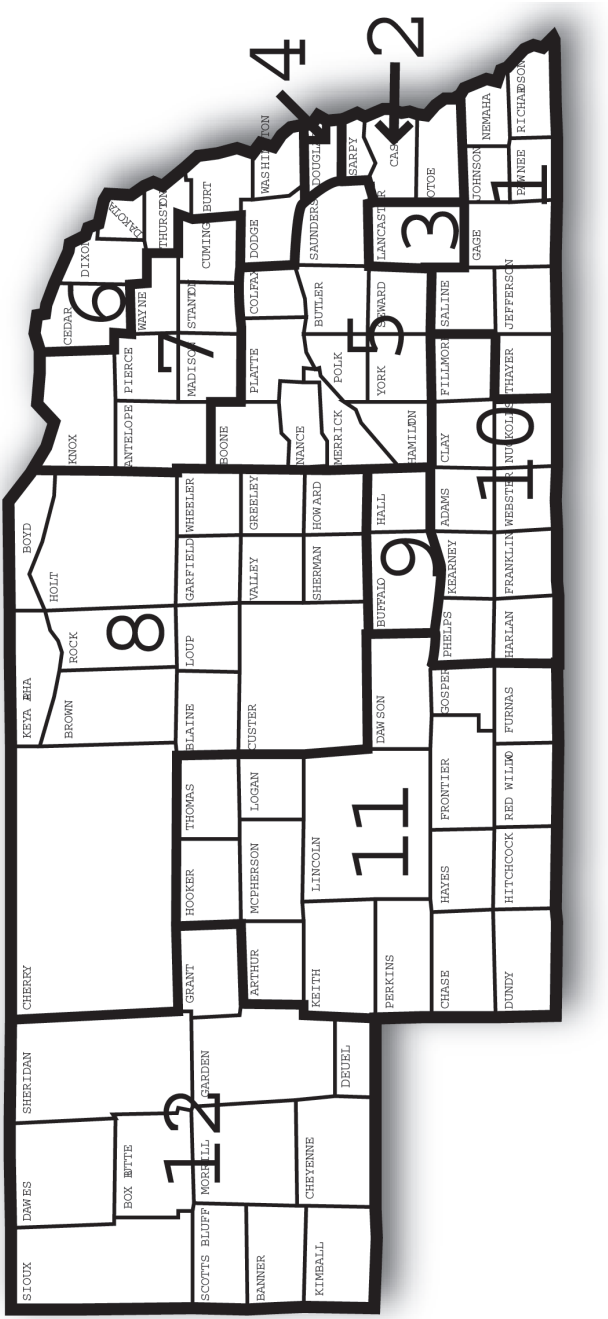
Nebraska District Attorneys, 1855-1885

State[3]

Name	Residence	District	Elected
Hewitt, O.B.	Brownville	1	1868, 70
Cown, J.C.	Omaha	2	1868, 70
Gray, E.F.	Fremont	3	1868, 70
Weaver, A.J.	Falls City	1	1872
Connell, William J.	Omaha	2	1872, 74
		3	1875
Hoxie, Melville B.	Fremont	3	1872, 74, 75
Dilworth, C.J.	Plum Creek	1	1874, 75, 76
Eller, J.W.	Omaha	1	1875
Broady, J.H.	Beatrice	2	1875
Barnes, John B.	Ponca	6	1875, 76
Maule, J.P.	Fairmont	1	1876, 78
Smith, George S.	Plattsmouth	2	1876
Buckingham, E.H.	Omaha	3	1876
Greene, C.J.	Omaha	3	1876
Reese, M.B.	Wahoo	4	1876, 78, 80
Watson, John C.	Nebraska City	2	1878, 80
Ferguson, A.N.	Omaha	3	1878
Scofield, T.D.	Hastings	5	1878
McNish, C.C.	Wisner	6	1878, 80
Morris, William H.	Crete	1	1880
Burnham, N.J.	Omaha	3	1880
Bierbower, V.	Sidney	5	1880
Sabin, Robert W.	Beatrice	1	1882
Strode, J.B.	Plattsmouth	2	1882, 84
Godwin, Park	Omaha	3	1882
Roberts, Jacob C.	David City	4	1882
Bemis, George W.	Sutton	5	1883
Darnell, Thomas	St. Paul	6	1882, 84
Bryant, Wilbur F.	Ponca	7	1882
Morlan, W.S.	Arapahoe	8	1882, 84
Coffin, E.M.	Ord	9	1883[4]
Bixler, J.W.	North Platte	10	1883[4]
Osgood, Daniel	Tecumseh	1	1884
Estelle, Lee S.	Blair	3	1884
Marshall, William	Fremont	4	1884
Savage, Manford	Hebron	7	1884
Wilbur, Guy R.	St. Helena	7	1884
Jackson, N.D.	Neligh	9	1884
Sinclair, H.M.	Plum Creek	10	1884

[1] Office abolished by act of Jan. 11, 1861, and revived June 11, 1867.
[2] All dates listed for territorial attorneys indicate beginning of terms.
[3] An 1885 act provided for county attorneys rather than district attorneys beginning March 10 of that year.
[4] Appointed.

Nebraska Judicial Districts — County Courts*



*Boundaries established by LB1059 in the 1992 legislative session.

County Courts

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 1; and 24-502

A county court serves each Nebraska county. The court has:

• civil jurisdiction in cases involving less than $52,000

• criminal jurisdiction in all misdemeanor cases, including violations of city and village ordinances

• jurisdiction in all probate, estate administration and guardianship matters

• exclusive jurisdiction in juvenile cases, except in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties

• jurisdiction in domestic relations cases

The present county court system, established in 1972, combines the previous functions of the 93 county courts, several hundred police courts and several hundred justices of the peace. The 1972 change was the first major restructuring of Nebraska's courts of limited jurisdiction since statehood was attained.

The 58 county judges serve in Nebraska's 12 county court judicial districts. Judges were elected to four-year terms on a nonpolitical ballot in 1972. The 1974 Legislature included county judges in the merit plan system of judicial selection. County judges each receive an annual salary totaling 85 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

A clerk magistrate is appointed in each county, except in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties, where judicial administrators are appointed. In most counties, the clerk magistrate is not a lawyer.

The state pays county judges and county court employees. Each county pays for the cost of facilities, supplies and equipment.

Appeals from the county courts are taken to district court, based on the record made in county court, except when the county court is acting as a juvenile court.

Nebraska County Judges, 2015*

District	Judge	Term Expires
1	Linda A. Bauer, Fairbury	January 2019
	Curtis L. Maschman, Falls City	January 2021
	Steven B. Timm, Beatrice	January 2021
2	Todd J. Hutton, Papillion	January 2021
	Stefanie A. Martinez, Papillion	January 2019
	John F. Steinheider, Nebraska City	January 2019
	Robert C. Wester, Papillion	January 2017
3	Matthew L. Acton, Lincoln	January 2017
	James L. Foster, Lincoln	January 2017
	Thomas W. Fox, Lincoln	January 2017
	Holly Jo Parsley, Hickman	January 2019
	Timothy C. Phillips, Lincoln	January 2021
	Susan Strong, Lincoln	January 2017
	Laurie J. Yardley, Lincoln	January 2017
4	Lawrence E. Barrett, Omaha	January 2017
	Susan Bazis, Omaha	January 2017
	Joseph P. Caniglia, Omaha	January 2021
	Thomas K. Harmon, Omaha	January 2021
	Marcena M. Hendrix, Omaha	January 2021
	John E. Huber, Omaha	January 2021
	Marcela A. Keim, Omaha	January 2021
	Sheryl L. Lohaus, Omaha	January 2021
	Darryl R. Lowe, Omaha	January 2021
	Jeffrey Marcuzzo, Omaha	January 2017
	Craig Q. McDermott, Omaha	January 2021
	Derek R. Vaughn, Omaha	January 2019
5	Linda S. Caster Senff, Aurora	January 2021
	Patrick R. McDermott, Schuyler	January 2021
	C. Jo Petersen, Seward	January 2019
	Frank J. Skorupa, Columbus	January 2017
	Stephen R.W. Twiss, Central City	January 2017
6	Douglas L. Luebe, Hartington	January 2019
	Kurt Rager, Dakota City	January 2017
	C. Matthew Samuelson, Blair	January 2021
	Kenneth Vampola, Fremont	January 2021
7	Michael L. Long, Madison	January 2017
	Ross A. Stoffer, Pierce	January 2017
	Donna Taylor, Neligh	January 2019
8	Alan L. Brodbeck, O'Neill	January 2019
	James J. Orr, Broken Bow	January 2021
	Tami K. Schendt, Broken Bow	January 2021
9	Gerald R. Jorgensen Jr., Kearney	January 2019
	Philip M. Martin Jr., Grand Island	January 2019
	John P. Rademacher, Kearney	January 2019
	Arthur S. Wetzel, Grand Island	January 2021
10	Michael P. Burns, Hastings	January 2021
	Timothy E. Hoeft, Holdrege	January 2017
11	Anne Paine, McCook	January 2017
	Michael Piccolo, North Platte	January 2021
	Edward D. Steenburg, Ogallala	January 2021
	Kent D. Turnbull, North Platte	January 2021
	Jeffrey M. Wightman, Lexington	January 2019
12	Russell W. Harford, Chadron	January 2021
	Kris D. Mickey, Gering	January 2021
	Randin Roland, Sidney	January 2017
	Paul G. Wess, Alliance	January 2019
	James M. Worden, Scottsbluff	January 2021

* Source: Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office.

Separate Juvenile Courts

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 27; and 43-2,111

Separate juvenile courts are courts of record and handle matters pertaining to neglected, dependent and delinquent children. These courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with district courts in all matters concerning the care, support, custody or control of mentally deficient children younger than 18. Separate juvenile court judges each receive an annual salary totaling 92.5 percent of a Supreme Court judge's salary.

There are 11 juvenile judges — five in Douglas County, four in Lancaster County and two in Sarpy County.

County	Judge	Term Expires
Douglas	Elizabeth G. Crnkovich, Omaha	January 2017
	Vernon Daniels, Omaha	January 2017
	Douglas F. Johnson, Omaha	January 2017
	Christopher Kelly, Omaha	January 2017
	Wadie Thomas, Omaha	January 2017
Lancaster	Roger Heideman, Lincoln	January 2019
	Linda S. Porter, Lincoln	January 2021
	Reggie L. Ryder, Lincoln	January 2017
	Toni G. Thorson, Lincoln	January 2017
Sarpy	Lawrence D. Gendler, Papillion	January 2021
	Robert B. O'Neal, Papillion	January 2019

Workers' Compensation Court

Office Address: State Capitol, P.O. Box 98908, Lincoln, NE 68509-8908, phone (402) 471-6468, toll-free phone (800) 599-5155, email address — newcc@wcc.ne.gov, website — www.wcc.ne.gov

Administrator: Glenn W. Morton

Statutory Reference: 48-152

Publications: Annual Report; court rules; annual Occupational Safety and Health Survey; various information pamphlets.

The Workers' Compensation Court administers and enforces the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, including original jurisdiction of claims for workers' compensation benefits resulting from industrial accidents or occupational diseases. All disputed claims must be submitted to the court for finding, award, order or judgment. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Appeals.

The first Nebraska Workers' Compensation Law was passed in 1914. From then until 1917, several state district courts administered the act. In 1917, the Legislature created the Compensation Division in the Department of Labor, and the commissioner of labor was designated compensation commissioner. The 1935 Legislature transferred Compensation Division functions to the Workers' Compensation Court.

Compensation court judges are selected and serve terms pursuant to a merit plan. Each judge's salary is 92.5 percent of the salary set for the chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court. Compensation court judges have statewide jurisdiction and travel throughout the state to hold hearings in county seats in disputed cases. The

court administers the Workers' Compensation Court Trust Fund (formerly the Second Injury and Vocational Rehabilitation Trust fund). The court reviews qualifications of employers who want to be self-insured. Other court duties include certifying vocational rehabilitation providers, administering the medical, surgical and hospital fee schedules, providing the independent medical examiner system, certifying managed care plans, creating publications and providing informal dispute resolution. The court also maintains a statewide toll-free information line. To perform its duties, the court is organized into two operating divisions and seven operating sections. The adjudication division, under the direction of the presiding judge, includes the judges and the Office of the Clerk of the Court. The administration division, under the direction of the administrator, includes Administration, Rehabilitation, Legal, Public Information Services and Coverage and Claims sections.

All reportable industrial accidents and occupational diseases are required to be reported to the court. The court maintains a computer database of work-related injuries and all payments reported, as well as employers' insurance coverage.

Judge	Term Expires
James R. Coe, Omaha	January 2017
J. Michael Fitzgerald, Lincoln	January 2019
Daniel R. Fridrich, Omaha	January 2021
John R. Hoffert, Lincoln	January 2017
Julie A. Martin, Omaha	January 2019
Thomas E. Stine, Lincoln	January 2021
Laureen K. VanNorman, Lincoln (Presiding)	January 2021

Workers' Compensation Court Judges, 1935-2015

Judge	Term of Service
Lawrence F. Welch	June 8, 1935-July 1, 1941
	Dec. 15, 1965-March 31, 1973
Franklin M. Coffey	June 8, 1935-July 1, 1943
Paul L. Hoffman	July 1, 1941-July 1, 1945
Charles E. Jackman	June 8, 1935-July 30, 1951
Joe P. Cashen	Oct. 8, 1951-Jan. 31, 1956
O.M. Olsen	July 1, 1943-Dec. 31, 1960
Albert Arms	July 1, 1945-Dec. 31, 1964
William H. Riley	Jan. 1, 1965-June 1, 1969
Richard N. Johnson	Jan. 1, 1965-June 1, 1969
Richard S. Willes	June 1, 1969-Sept. 1, 1977
Ted W. Vrana	Sept. 15, 1975-April 30, 1993
James P. Monen	Sept. 1, 1977-August 31, 1993
Mark A. Buchholz	Aug. 1, 1972-Feb. 28, 1994
Ben Novicoff	Feb. 1, 1956-Jan. 31, 1996
Paul E. LeClair	April 4, 1973-Oct. 20, 1997
Joseph S. Ramirez	Nov. 1, 1993-June 30, 2001
Michael P. Cavel	Oct. 5, 1983-Sept. 30, 2011
James R. Coe	Oct. 7, 1988-
Laureen K. VanNorman	July 6, 1993-
Ronald L. Brown	April 8, 1994-Aug. 2, 2012
J. Michael Fitzgerald	April 12, 1996-
Michael K. High	Jan. 8, 1998- Nov. 30, 2014
John R. Hoffert	Oct. 4, 2001-
Thomas E. Stine	Sept. 13, 2011-
Daniel R. Fridrich	Sept. 18, 2012-
Julie A. Martin	Dec. 23, 2014-

Judicial Commissions

Judicial Resources Commission

Contact Person: Corey R. Steel, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory Reference: 24-1201

When a district or county judge dies, retires, resigns, is removed from office or is not retained in office, or if there is a need to change the boundaries or number of district or county judicial districts or the number of judgeships, the Judicial Resources Commission holds a public hearing in the affected district or districts. The commission determines whether a judicial vacancy exists and the location of that vacancy, whether the judicial district boundaries or number of districts should be changed or whether the number of district or county judges should be changed. After reaching a decision, the commission makes a recommendation to the Legislature.

Commission members include:

• a district judge, a county judge, a juvenile judge and a Supreme Court judge, all of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court judge serves as commission chairperson.

• six members of the Nebraska State Bar Association, one from each of the six Supreme Court districts, who have practiced law in the state for at least 10 years and who are appointed by the association's executive council

• seven governor-appointed citizens, one from each of the six Supreme Court districts and one appointed at large, who are not judges (active or retired), Nebraska State Bar Association members or immediate family members of any other member

All members of the commission serve six-year terms. Members are reimbursed for expenses.

Member	Position	Term Expires
Richard Carter, Bellevue	Citizen, District 4	July 1, 2016
Mike Day, Omaha	Citizen, District 2	July 1, 2016
William Dittrick, Omaha	Attorney, District 4	July 1, 2020
Timothy Engler, Lincoln	Attorney, District 1	July 1, 2020
Jayne Mann, Aurora	Citizen, District 5	July 1, 2016
Michael J. McCarthy, North Platte	Attorney, District 6	July 1, 2020
Michael McCormack, Lincoln (Chairman)	Supreme Court Judge	July 14, 2016
Patrick McDermott, Schuyler	County Judge	July 14, 2016
Robert O'Neal, Papillion	Juvenile Judge	Oct. 31, 2019
Robert J. Parker, Hastings	Attorney, District 5	July 1, 2020
Brian Phares, North Platte	Citizen, District 6	July 1, 2016
John Samson, Fremont	District Judge	July 14, 2016
Lori Scherer, Beemer	Citizen, District 3	July 1, 2016
Amy Schlichting, Lincoln	Citizen, At Large	July 1, 2016
Mark M. Sipple, Columbus	Attorney, District 3	July 1, 2020
Robert Slovek, Omaha	Attorney, District 2	July 1, 2020
Darlene Starman, Lincoln	Citizen, District 1	July 1, 2016

Judicial Nominating Commission

Contact Person: Corey R. Steel, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 21; and 24-801

Once a determination is made that a judicial vacancy exists and a location is selected for the judge's home court, a judicial nominating commission holds a public hearing to interview candidates for the position.

Judicial nominating commissions are local bodies composed of four lawyers selected by the Nebraska State Bar Association and four nonlawyers appointed by the governor. No more than two lawyers may be from the same political party. Commission members serve four-year terms.

After each judicial nominating commission public hearing, the commission selects at least two qualified candidates for consideration by the governor. Generally, the governor selects the new judge. If the governor does not make an appointment in 60 days, the chief justice of the Supreme Court makes the appointment from the commission's list of candidates.

By Sept. 1 of each year, the clerk of the Supreme Court determines whether vacancies exist on any commission and reports the status of each commission to the governor. The governor must promptly fill vacancies of members that he or she appointed. Vacancies of commission lawyer members must be filled promptly by a special election, conducted by the Supreme Court clerk.

Commission on Judicial Qualifications

Contact Person: Corey R. Steel, State Court Administrator, Room 1213, State Capitol, P.O. Box 98910, Lincoln, NE 68509-8910, phone (402) 471-3730

Statutory References: Nebraska Constitution, Article V, Section 28; and 24-715

The 1967 Legislature created the Commission on Judicial Qualifications pursuant to Article V, Sections 28 to 31 of the Nebraska Constitution, as adopted at the 1966 general election.

Any citizen may file a complaint with the commission about judges' acts, activities or qualifications. The commission conducts investigations after receiving complaints or requests for action. The commission can subpoena witnesses, hold hearings, require the judge to submit physical or mental examination findings by medical experts, appoint special masters to conduct hearings and conduct special investigations. The commission may recommend to the Supreme Court that a judge be either reprimanded, disciplined, censured or suspended. Actions calling for such punishment include:

- willful misconduct in office
- willful disregard of or failure to perform duties
- habitual intemperance
- conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude
- disbarment from the legal profession
- conduct that harms the administration of justice and the integrity of the judicial office

A constitutional amendment adopted in 1980 provides that commission membership include:

• a district judge, a county judge and a judge of any other court except the Supreme Court, all of whom are appointed by the chief justice

• three members of the Nebraska State Bar Association who have practiced law in the state for at least 10 years and who are appointed by the association's executive council

• three citizens who are not judges or Nebraska State Bar Association members and who are appointed by the governor

• the chief justice, who serves as the commission chairperson

Members serve four-year terms. The commission meets three to five times a year. Members are not paid but may be reimbursed for their expenses.

Member	Position	Term Expires
Tammy Allen, Grand Island	Citizen	March 31, 2017
Hon. Alan L. Brodbeck, O'Neill	County Judge	March 31, 2017
Douglas Dolezal, Lincoln	Citizen	March 31, 2017
Hon. Terri S. Harder, Minden	District Judge	March 31, 2017
Margaret Hornady, Grand Island	Citizen	March 31, 2017
D. Steven Leininger, Grand Island	Attorney	March 31, 2017
Mandy Strigenz, Omaha	Attorney	March 31, 2017
Hon. Wadie Thomas, Omaha	Juvenile Court Judge	March 31, 2017
Terry R. Wittler, Lincoln	Attorney	March 31, 2017
Hon. Michael G. Heavican, Lincoln (Chair)	Chief Justice	Nonexpiring