

Historical Timeline
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Iowa

- 1800** Article I, Section 8, Clause 45 of the United States Constitution empowered Congress “to establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States.” Congress exercised this power by enacting bankruptcy statutes in 1800, 1841 and 1867 to deal with the effects of specific economic downturns. These laws were only temporary and were repealed once economic conditions stabilized.
- 1845** Congress organized Iowa as one judicial district and authorized one judgeship for the district court. The U.S. district court in Iowa, not being assigned to a judicial circuit, was granted the same jurisdiction as U.S. circuit courts, except in appeals and writs of error, which were the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- 1846** Iowa admitted as a state.
- 1862** Congress repealed the circuit court jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the District of Iowa, established a U.S. circuit court in the district, and assigned the district to the Ninth Circuit.
- 1882** Iowa divided into two judicial districts, the Northern and the Southern, with one judgeship authorized for each district. Congress designated Keokuk, Des Moines and Council Bluffs as seats for the Southern District.
- 1891** Congress established U.S. circuit courts of appeals for each of the nine judicial circuits and assigned the sitting judge of the U.S. Circuit Courts for the Eighth Circuit to sit also on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, effective June 16, 1891. The act also authorized an additional judgeship for the Eighth Circuit’s new court.
- 1896** Congress assigned Utah to the Eighth Circuit.
- 1898** The Bankruptcy Act of 1898 the first comprehensive bankruptcy statute, gave district courts exclusive jurisdiction over bankruptcies. The Act established the position of referee to be appointed by the district court judges and to serve as administrator for bankruptcy cases.
- 1907** Congress assigned Oklahoma to the Eighth Circuit.
- 1912** Congress assigned New Mexico to the Eighth Circuit.
- 1920** Referees in Bankruptcy were appointed as follows: A.M. Antrobus, Burlington; William J. Roberts, Keokuk; F.A. Cooper, Davenport; J.W.

Kridlebaugh, Chariton; D.W. Bates, Albia; Ingalls Swisher, Iowa City; Fremont Benjamin, Council Bluff; Frank J. Cooper, Des Moines.

- 1929** Congress divided the Eighth circuit into two circuits, reorganizing the judicial districts of Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota as a new Eighth Circuit and Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming as the Tenth Circuit.
- 1933** John D. Denison appointed Referee.
- 1936** Roy C. Fountain appointed Referee. He served until 1942 when he was called to active duty during World War II. Phillip Cless acted on a temporary basis until Referee Fountain returned from the War.
- 1938** Chandler Act established relief chapters in bankruptcy. The Act expanded the judicial responsibilities of the referees who assumed more and more of the bankruptcy work of the district judges.
- 1946** Referees were paid from fees collected. A fixed salary in keeping with the fulltime duties of the referee's position replaced this method in 1946.
- 1951** Gibson C. Holliday appointed Referee.
- 1962** Richard F. Stageman appointed Referee.
- 1973** On April 20, 1973 William C. Hanson, Chief Judge of the Southern District of Iowa ordered, "The Referee in Bankruptcy of the United States District Court in the Southern District of Iowa shall be known as and designated 'Bankruptcy Judge'." Richard F. Stageman was designated Bankruptcy Judge.
- 1978** The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 passed by Congress. The Act established a system of bankruptcy courts separate from the U.S. district courts. Bankruptcy referees who had been selected by the district court judges were designated Article I judges. The reform act also revised and codified Title 11 of the U.S. Code, which contained the substantive and procedural laws of bankruptcy.
- 1979** Marguerite F. Lary appointed Bankruptcy Clerk of Court
- 1984** The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act becomes law. Congress declared bankruptcy courts to be units of the U.S. district courts and provided for the appointment of bankruptcy judges by the U.S. Court of Appeals.

William C. Stuart, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court entered an order on June 28, 1984 in response to the Supreme Court's decision in Northern Pipeline Construction Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co. All cases under title 11 of the U.S. Code were ordered to be referred "to the magistrates of this district who have been authorized to handle bankruptcy matters."

On July 12, 1984 Judge Stuart appointed Judge Richard F. Stageman as a full-time Magistrate Judge specially authorized to handle all bankruptcy matters. On July 30, 1984 another order was entered that deemed Judge Stageman to be fulfilling the office of full-time bankruptcy judge of this district.

- 1986** Judge Stageman retired. On September 26, 1986, Donald P. Lay, chief Judge, 8th circuit Court of Appeals ordered Judge Stageman to serve as a recalled judge.
- Lee M. Jackwig appointed Bankruptcy Judge on November 3, 1986. Judge Stageman stepped down as a recalled judge on November 3, 1986.. Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Act passed. This legislation made the U.S. Trustee system (formerly a pilot program operating only in a few jurisdictions) national in scope, with the exception of North Carolina and Alabama. The 1986 amendments also enacted Chapter 12 to deal with the adjustment of debts of a family farmer with regular annual income.
- 1987** Russell J. Hill appointed Bankruptcy Judge on November 2, 1987. Judge Jackwig appointed Chief Judge. Mary M. Weibel appointed Clerk of Court on July 6, 1987.
- 1994** Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994 enacted. These amendments established the bankruptcy appellate panel (BAP) in each judicial circuit, increased compensation for trustees in chapters 7 and 11 cases, and increased the debt limits in chapter 13 cases and clarified the authority of bankruptcy judges to conduct jury trials.
- 1995** The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa relocates to the new United States Court House Annex.
- 2000** Judge Lee M. Jackwig appointed to an additional fourteen year term.
- 2001** Chief Judge Russell J. Hill retired effective November 1, 2001. Appointed Recall Judge on November 2, 2001 for the period of one year and a day..
- 2002** Eighth Circuit Judicial Council approved the request for a recall of Bankruptcy Judge Russell J. Hill for the period of one year and one day, commencing November 2, 2002.

- 2003** Iowa Southern Bankruptcy Court transitions to full electronic filing via the internet using the Federal Judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files system.
- 2004** Judge Russell J. Hill fully retired on November 4, 2004.
- 2005** The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) enacted April 20, 2005.
- 2009** Anita L. Shodeen appointed Bankruptcy Judge on August 26, 2009.
- 2013** Judge Anita L. Shodeen appointed Chief Bankruptcy Judge on August 26, 2013. Mary M. Weibel retired as Clerk of Court on December 31, 2013.
- 2014** Judge Lee M. Jackwig appointed to an additional fourteen-year term. Virginia L. Satterstrom appointed as Acting Clerk of Court on January 1, 2014 and appointed Clerk of Court on April 14, 2014.
- 2016** Congressional funding is approved for a new U.S. Courthouse in Des Moines, Iowa. Location for building and selection of architects begins.
- 2017** Iowa Southern Bankruptcy Court and Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Court enter into a three-year Judicial Conference Pilot Study on Horizontal Consolidation. The clerk's offices will operate in a high level of shared services arrangement. The districts are not consolidated, only the clerk's offices. The pilot study starts upon the retirement of Virginia Satterstrom on July 31, 2017. On August 1, 2017 Jean Hekel becomes the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for both Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa.
- Iowa Southern and Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Courts transition to NextGen Case Management/Electronic Case Files system.
- 2018** Jean Hekel retires as Clerk of Court on August 30, 2018. Megan R. Weiss becomes Acting Clerk of Court on September 1, 2018.
- 2019** Megan R. Weiss is appointed Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for both Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa on September 16, 2019.
- 2020** Iowa Southern Bankruptcy Court and Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Court complete the three-year Judicial Conference Pilot Study on Horizontal Consolidation on July 31, 2020. The two courts return to separate operations on August 1, 2020 and Megan R. Weiss remains Clerk of Court for the Southern District of Iowa. Judge Lee M. Jackwig is appointed Chief Bankruptcy Judge on August 26, 2020.