

In the Iowa Supreme Court**In the Matter of Establishing the
Iowa Rules of Evidence Substantive
Review Task Force and
Appointment of Members****Order**

The Iowa Supreme Court establishes the Iowa Rules of Evidence Substantive Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend substantive updates to the Iowa Rules of Evidence. The Iowa rules adopted in 1984 were patterned after the Federal Rules of Evidence, albeit with some substantive differences, but the rules were not thereafter amended to track various carefully vetted amendments to the corresponding federal rules.

The court adopted a restyled Iowa Rules of Evidence in chapter 5 of the Iowa Court Rules effective January 1, 2017. The restyling effort made the Iowa rules more consistent with the restyled federal rules that had become effective in 2011, and achieved a more consistent, easier-to-use, and plain English oriented set of rules. A main challenge during the restyling effort was to preserve Iowa's substantive differences from the federal rules while adopting federal restyling conventions. The restyling effort carefully avoided any amendment to rules that could be construed as a substantive change.

The court recognizes that the Iowa Rules of Evidence substantively differ from their federal counterparts in a number of ways. Indeed, during the restyling process, the working group identified more than a dozen Iowa evidence rules that substantively differ from their federal counterparts. The restyling working group recommended that the court consider whether to adopt these aspects of the federal rules during a later substantive review of the rules.

The court believes it is an appropriate time to undertake a substantive review of the Iowa Rules of Evidence. The court has assembled a task force of experienced judges, attorneys, and law professors to conduct this review in a thorough and efficient manner and make recommendations for amendments to the rules for the court's consideration.


The court establishes the Iowa Rules of Evidence Substantive Review Task Force and appoints the following persons to serve on the Task Force:

- Honorable Thomas Waterman, Justice, Iowa Supreme Court, Pleasant Valley, *Chair*
- Honorable Sharon Greer, Judge, Iowa Court of Appeals, Marshalltown, *Vice-Chair*
- Laurie Doré, Professor, Drake University Law School, Des Moines, *Reporter*
- Honorable Mark Bennett, Retired Federal Judge, Institute for Justice Reform & Innovation at Drake University Law School, Des Moines
- Honorable Linda Fangman, Judge, Iowa District Court, Waterloo
- Honorable Shawn Showers, Judge, Iowa District Court, Washington
- Derek Muller, Professor, University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City
- Brian Galligan, attorney, Des Moines
- Michael Giudicessi, attorney, Des Moines
- Aaron Hawbaker, attorney, Waterloo
- Martha Lucy, attorney, Des Moines
- Jeffrey Noble, attorney, Des Moines
- Michael Reilly, attorney, Council Bluffs
- Amanda Richards, attorney, Davenport
- Patrick Sealey, attorney, Sioux City
- Sheryl Soich, attorney, Des Moines
- Steven Wandro, attorney, Des Moines
- Timothy Eckley, attorney, Iowa Supreme Court, Allen Township, *Ex Officio*

Task Force Members may be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable travel expenses according to Iowa Court Rules 22.16 through 22.21. The court requests that the Task Force report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the court by June 1, 2022.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2021.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice