



United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

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Lavenski R. Smith
Chief Judge

April 30, 2018

Greetings, Lawyers and Judges,

I invite you to attend the 2018 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 15 - 17. The Program Committee has assembled an excellent educational program covering current legal topics.

We are very pleased that the Honorable Neil M. Gorsuch, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Honorable Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States, will address the conference on Friday, August 17. The agenda features many other distinguished speakers, including Stephen J. Rapp, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice in the Obama Administration, Theodore B. Olson of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, Vikram Amar, Dean of the University of Illinois College of Law, and Duke University professor Nita Farahany, an appointee of President Obama to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. Our luncheon speakers will be two native Iowans: Internationally-renowned opera star Simon Estes and Medal of Honor recipient Sal Giunta.

A welcome reception will take place at the new Hilton Des Moines Downtown Hotel on Wednesday evening, August 15. Thursday night will feature a reception, co-hosted by the Eighth Circuit Bar Association, at Iowa's spectacular World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. The internationally-acclaimed Iowa State Fair will be underway throughout the conference for those who wish to visit during their free time.

I encourage you to attend what is sure to be an informative and memorable conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lavenski R. Smith".

Lavenski R. Smith
Chief Judge
Eighth Circuit