

The Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference for bench and bar will convene at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 15 – 17, 2018. The Conference was last held in Iowa in July 1995. The event offers attorneys the opportunity to learn alongside circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges from the Eighth Circuit.

The Conference will include a number of speeches and panel discussions on court-related topics of interest to lawyers who practice in the federal courts. Plenary session topics include: *Competing Approaches to Constitutional Interpretation*, *Prosecution of International War Crimes*, *Department of Justice Priorities*, *Supreme Court Update*, and *Neuroscience and the Law*.

The Conference will feature an appearance by the Honorable Neil M. Gorsuch, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Several other distinguished speakers and panelists are confirmed, including Stephen J. Rapp, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Vikram Amar, Dean of the University of Illinois College of Law, and Alan Ellis, past President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. An ethics and sanctions discussion is scheduled with attorney Gregory P. Joseph, past President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Professor Emily Hughes, University of Iowa College of Law.

Two native Iowans will join the conference as luncheon speakers: Internationally renowned opera star Simon Estes will address attendees on Thursday, August 16. Salvatore “Sal” Augustine Giunta, a former U.S. Army soldier and the first living person since the Vietnam War to receive the U.S. military’s highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor, will speak on Friday, August 17.

Breakout sessions will provide attendees the opportunity to choose civil, criminal and bankruptcy CLE classes.

The Conference will kick off with a welcome reception 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.

Conference registration is expected to open in April at [www.yesevents.com/8thcircuitjc](http://www.yesevents.com/8thcircuitjc).