



Hon. Emily Gould Chafa spent most of her legal career in state and local government practice, retiring in July 2019. She remains actively involved in numerous professional associations, including service as Chair of the ISBA Diversity & Inclusiveness Committee.

Emily attended Wartburg College for one year, and then received her B.A. degree from Drake University in 1982. She received her J.D. degree from Loyola School of Law in Chicago in 1987. She is licensed to practice law in Iowa and Illinois.

Emily is actively involved in a number of professional associations at the national, state and local level. These include: Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Blackstone Inn of Court, ABA Judicial Division National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary, ABA Civil Rights & Social Justice Section, National Association of Women Judges, and Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.

Emily is a long-time member of the Iowa Supreme Court's Interpreter Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Infinity Project, a multi-state group advocating for gender equity on the bench throughout the 8th Circuit.

Emily frequently presents CLE programs on a variety of topics, focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion; the importance of preserving the rule of law; voting rights history; language access; judicial ethics on and off the bench; and administrative hearing processes.