

**TIPS FROM THE IOWA COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY**

2021 IOWA ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS ANNUAL MEETING

PANEL: JUDGES: David May, Sharon Soorholtz Greer,  
Julie Schumacher and Paul Ahlers

**Mission of the Court**

“The principal role of the court of appeals is to dispose justly of a high volume of cases.”  
Iowa Ct. R. 21.11.

General observations, suggestions and tips:

A. The Briefs.

- Common mistakes.
- Using or abusing the record in the brief.
- Standard of Review and Preservation of Error concerns.
- Organization of the argument.
- Other content issues.
- Best practices.
- Attorney fee requests.

B. Oral Arguments.

- Effective oral argument and what wastes your precious time.
- Demeanor and other presentation tips.
- Oral arguments in the pandemic – best practices.

C. After 2020 - Court Update.

Year	Transfers	Opinions filed
2015	1118	1199
2016	1440	1389
2017	1334	1298
2018	1224	1223
2019	1234	1165
2020	1056	1170