

**JUDGE JOEL I. PASTERNAK**  
**Born June 18, 1920    Died January 13, 2005**

The Honorable Judge Joel I. Pasternak of Des Moines, Iowa died January 13, 2005. Judge Pasternak was appointed to the Polk County District Associate bench in 1979 and served with honor and distinction until his retirement in 1992.

Judge Pasternak was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 18, 1920 the son of Russian immigrant parents, Phillip and Rose Pasternak. He attended the University of Iowa where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees. He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Later, he moved to Des Moines, Iowa where he was in the private practice of law until his appointment to the bench. He was a member of the Iowa Judges Association and the Iowa Bar Association.

Judge Pasternak and his wife, Bernice had two children, Patty and Joseph. Patty lives in Des Moines, Iowa and is married to Mark Tripp. Joseph is married to Barbara Trommer and they along with their children reside in Chicago, Illinois. Judge Pasternak had four grand children, Joe and Matt Tripp, and Emily and Rebecca Pasternak.

Judge Pasternak was a man of honesty and integrity. He always told it like it was and was not afraid to speak plainly and honestly to those who appeared in front of him. He was firm when necessary but compassionate and fair. He also had a very sharp, funny and quick wit.

Judge Pasternak loved his family and was deeply devoted and loyal to them as well as his friends. He loved sports, especially his beloved Dodgers and the Iowa Hawkeyes. Judge Pasternak also raised collies and kept five over his life as pets albeit not all at once. Their names were easy to remember because each one was named Major. He also enjoyed talking politics and

was always ready to debate a political issue with vigor. Judge Pasternak was preceded in death by his wife who passed away in 1987.

Judge Joel Pasternak loved serving the law and the people of Iowa and he did it exceptionally well. He will be greatly missed by all.