

EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC RECORD

WARD A. ROUSE

LITIGATION ARCHIVE

Curated First Edition

A neutral, source-based selection of documented legal work

Edition field	Public information
Name	Ward A. Rouse • Ward Alan Rouse • Ward A. (Sam) Rouse • Sam Rouse
Edition date	August 13, 2026
Coverage	21 selected matters • documented legal work, 1991–2022
Website	www.rouselaw.us

Prepared as a public research edition. The master research database remains broader and contains internal verification notes not reproduced here.

About this edition

Scope of this edition. This archive is a curated, non-exhaustive selection and is not intended to list every matter Ward A. Rouse has handled. Rouse has represented civil plaintiffs and criminal defendants in many additional cases and practice areas not included here. The selected matters were chosen because reliable supporting sources are available and because, considered together, they provide context for the breadth, depth, and versatility of his litigation experience, including repeated work with nationally practicing firms and multi-firm legal teams. The omission of a matter does not reflect its significance or result.

This archive is a public record, not a résumé. Its purpose is to help readers understand Ward A. Rouse's documented legal work through primary records and carefully attributed public sources. Reputation is treated as a byproduct of accuracy.

Name and identity note

The lawyer documented in this archive is identified as Ward A. Rouse, Ward Alan Rouse, Ward A. (Sam) Rouse, and Sam Rouse. Rouse has been known as "Sam" since birth. The cross-reference is important because many people from his earlier life and professional history know him only as Sam. "Ward" was his mother's maiden name and is his legal first name.

Professional profile

Rouse practices in West Des Moines as founder and principal of Rouse Law P.C., founded in the mid-1990s and focused on personal-injury litigation and selected state and federal criminal-defense matters. As of August 5, 2026, Rouse is Of Counsel to Mueller, Schmidt, Mulholland & Cooling, P.L.L.C. (MSMC Injury Lawyers). MSMC's letterhead lists 12 lawyers, including Rouse, and its website describes Des Moines and Omaha offices and practices ranging from personal injury and workers' compensation to employment, criminal-defense, immigration, and disability matters. MSMC advertises results including \$10 million and \$5 million truck-accident settlements, \$2.75 million brain-injury and \$2 million wrongful-death settlements, other seven-figure recoveries, and \$450,000 and \$200,000 verdicts. These firm-advertised results contextualize Rouse's Of Counsel affiliation, but MSMC's firm-wide descriptions and results are not attributed to Rouse unless matter-specific evidence does so.

Rouse was selected to the Iowa Super Lawyers list in each year from 2019 through 2026. He was first awarded an AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell on August 26, 2005, and has maintained it continuously since.

Iowa Courts Online statewide results printed August 12, 2026 returned more than 200 case-association records and displayed the first 200. That subset contains 57 unique law-civil case numbers - identified by LACL or LACV - listing Rouse as attorney for plaintiff. This documented minimum excludes dissolution, administrative, and other non-law-civil categories. A separate Iowa Courts Online attorney-for-defendant search likewise returned more than 200 records and displayed the first 200; those listings identify Rouse in State of Iowa criminal and related cases. Southern District of Iowa CM/ECF reported 99 case records (54 civil, 41 criminal, and 4 magistrate; filed 1993-2024). A separate Northern District of Iowa NextGen query returned 22 cases associated with one Ward A. Rouse attorney record, with filing dates from 2000 through 2022. That Northern District result is not treated as a career total because additional matters may be associated with other or legacy attorney records. Together, the reports document sustained civil-plaintiff and criminal-defense practice in state and federal courts.

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Complex civil, class, and agricultural litigation

Audino v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa • 4:16-cv-00631-SMR-HCA • 2016

Documented role: Court-appointed Class Counsel

In *Audino v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, plaintiffs alleged that Chase improperly collected post-payment interest on certain FHA-insured loans. The court appointed Rouse Law PC, Paul LLP, and Gibbs Law Group LLP as Class Counsel and later confirmed those appointments when it finally approved an \$11.22 million class settlement. The November 19, 2018 judgment dismissed the released claims and action with prejudice.

Principal sources

- [Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement](#), S.D. Iowa (Doc. 91, pp. 3, 17-19).
- Order on Settlement Motions, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Doc. 101, pp. 14, 31, and 33-37; class-counsel appointment, final approval, fees, expenses, and service awards).
- Judgment in a Civil Case, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Doc. 102; dismissal with prejudice, attorney fees, expenses, and class-representative awards).

In re Meta Financial Group, Inc., Securities Litigation

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 5:10-cv-04108-MWB-LTS • 2010

Documented role: Iowa Local Counsel for Lead Plaintiff and the Class

Investors alleged that Meta Financial Group and several officers made materially false or misleading statements and omissions concerning the company's iAdvance lending program and an Office of Thrift Supervision investigation. The court denied defendants' motion to dismiss. On January 5, 2012, the parties filed a stipulation providing a \$2.1 million cash settlement. The court later approved the settlement and dismissed the action with prejudice. The settlement filing expressly identifies Rouse as Local Counsel for Lead Plaintiff and the Class; Kahn Swick & Foti served as Lead Counsel.

Principal sources

- Stipulation of Settlement — *In re Meta Financial Group, Inc., Securities Litigation*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Document 50, No. 5:10-cv-04108-MWB-LTS, filed January 5, 2012; pp. 2-3, 7-12, 35, and 38-39; \$2.1 million cash settlement, no-admission terms, and Rouse's local-counsel identification).
- Memorandum Opinion and Order Denying Defendants' Motion to Dismiss — *In re Meta Financial Group, Inc., Securities Litigation* (Document 41, No. 5:10-cv-04108-MWB-LTS; allegations, procedural history, and denial of motion to dismiss).
- Order and Final Judgment Approving Class Action Settlement — *In re Meta Financial Group, Inc., Securities Litigation* (Document 59, No. 5:10-cv-04108-MWB-LTS; final approval, dismissal, fee and expense awards, and no-admission treatment).

In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation

U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas • MDL No. 2591; 2:14-md-02591-JWL-JPO • 2014

Documented role: Co-counsel

Rouse appeared pro hac vice for Payload Trucking, Inc. and several other named plaintiffs in the Syngenta corn MDL. The court finalized a nationwide \$1.51 billion settlement.

Principal sources

- [In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation](#), 357 F. Supp. 3d 1094, D. Kansas (Counsel listings including Payload Trucking and other plaintiffs).

- [In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation, Nos. 21-3110 et al.](#), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (History of settlement at pp. 2-5).

Wapsie Farms v. Monsanto Company

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri • 1:18-cv-00162; MDL No. 2820 / 1:18-md-02820-SNLJ • 2018

Documented role: Counsel of record

Rouse represented Wapsie Farms in federal litigation involving alleged dicamba-related crop damage and Monsanto, associated with In re Dicamba Herbicides Litigation.

Principal sources

- [In re Dicamba Herbicides Litigation, 359 F. Supp. 3d 711](#), U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri (Published MDL opinion; appearance listing for Wapsie Farms).
- [Wapsie Farms v. Monsanto Company — public docket metadata](#), PACERMonitor (E.D. Mo. No. 1:18-cv-00162; plaintiff counsel listing).

Justin Hess v. Chad Lensch, DDS and Ankeny Family Dental Center, PLLC

Iowa District Court for Polk County • LACL152251 • 2021

Documented role: Co-counsel for plaintiff with Steven V. Lawyer

Justin Hess alleged that dentist Chad Lensch and Ankeny Family Dental Center failed to investigate changing gum pigmentation, delaying a diagnosis of malignant melanoma until 2021. Rouse and Steven V. Lawyer signed the December 30, 2021 petition as counsel for Hess. On January 2, 2024, Hess dismissed the claims with prejudice.

Historical context. Iowa Capital Dispatch reported in February 2025 that the Iowa Dental Board sanctioned Lensch over alleged competency issues, required him to complete a pathology course, and said the action appeared tied to Hess's treatment. The article reported that Lensch denied wrongdoing. The later regulatory account is not a civil adjudication of the petition's allegations.

Principal sources

- Petition at Law — Hess v. Lensch, Iowa District Court for Polk County (LACL152251; filed December 30, 2021; allegations and plaintiff-counsel signatures).
- Dismissal with Prejudice — Hess v. Lensch, Iowa District Court for Polk County (LACL152251; filed January 2, 2024; claims dismissed with prejudice).
- [Dentist sanctioned for 'competency' issues after patient loses jaw to cancer](#), Iowa Capital Dispatch (Clark Kauffman, February 25, 2025; later historical context).

Morris v. State of Iowa

Iowa District Court for Polk County and Iowa Court of Appeals • Polk County No. LACL119335; Iowa Ct. App. No. 14-1165 • 2010

Documented role: Plaintiff's trial and appellate counsel

Mary Morris sued the State after her incarcerated husband attacked her during a prison visit. Following a four-day bench trial held May 19-22, 2014, the district court awarded Morris \$174,000. The State appealed, challenging liability on discretionary-function-immunity, public-duty-doctrine, and foreseeability grounds. On October 14, 2015, the Iowa Court of Appeals rejected the State's challenges and affirmed the judgment. Van M. Plumb and Rouse represented Morris at the bench trial and on appeal.

Principal sources

- Ruling and Order Following Bench Trial, Morris v. State of Iowa, Iowa District Court for Polk County, No. LACL119335 (June 5, 2014; four-day bench trial, counsel distribution, and \$174,000 judgment).
- [Morris v. State, Iowa Court of Appeals No. 14-1165](#), Iowa Court of Appeals (Counsel listing; pp. 1-2 and disposition).

Olson v. Union Pacific Railroad Company

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 3:20-cv-03017-CJW-MAR • 2020

Documented role: Plaintiff's counsel with Steven V. Lawyer

Nathan Olson alleged that Union Pacific special agent Louis Miner shot him in the back while Olson was moving away during a November 29, 2018 encounter in Mason City, leaving him permanently paralyzed from the waist down. Rouse and Steven V. Lawyer filed the action for Olson in the Iowa District Court for Cerro Gordo County. Union Pacific removed it to the Northern District of Iowa on May 11, 2020. On September 13, 2021, Judge C.J. Williams entered an order stating that the court had been advised the case had settled and directing the parties to file closing documents. The case was later dismissed with prejudice and closed on October 5, 2021.

Historical context. The Associated Press reported that Jerime Mitchell's separate Cedar Rapids police-shooting case ended in a publicly announced \$8 million settlement in April 2021. That case involved different parties and facts; its amount provides no evidence of, and does not imply, any Olson amount or terms.

Principal sources

- Petition at Law — Olson v. Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company, Iowa District Court for Cerro Gordo County (LACV072150; file-stamped April 16, 2020; attached to the federal docket as Document 1-2; allegations and plaintiff-counsel signatures).
- Notice of Removal — Olson v. Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Document 1, No. 3:20-cv-03017-CJW-MAR, filed May 11, 2020; removal and counsel identification).
- Settlement Order — Olson v. Union Pacific Railroad Company, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Document 52, No. 3:20-cv-03017-CJW-MAR, filed September 13, 2021; court advised the case had settled; closing papers directed).
- [Olson v. Union Pacific Railroad Company — public docket metadata](#), CourtListener / RECAP (N.D. Iowa No. 3:20-cv-03017; filing and termination metadata).
- [Olson v. Union Pacific Railroad Company — PACER-derived docket listing](#), PACERMonitor (counsel listing and ECF No. 60 dismissal metadata).
- [Insurer to pay \\$8M to Black man paralyzed by Iowa officer](#), Associated Press (April 19, 2021; separate Jerime Mitchell matter, historical context only).

False Claims Act and qui tam local-counsel work

In these matters Rouse's documented function was Iowa local counsel or co-counsel within multi-firm relator teams. The recurring role supports a measured inference that nationally active qui tam counsel repeatedly selected him for Iowa participation. It does not establish that he originated the claims, conducted the underlying investigation, or personally obtained a recovery.

United States of America v. Healogs, Inc.

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 3:16-cv-03016-MWB • 2016

Documented role: Iowa local counsel / co-counsel for relator

Rouse served as Iowa local counsel and co-counsel for relator Laura McGraw, working with a multi-firm qui tam team in a False Claims Act matter concerning alleged improper Modifier 25 billing. Healogs paid \$398,162.69 to resolve the allegations without a determination of liability.

Principal sources

- [RECAP parties page: United States v. Healogs, Inc.](#), N.D. Iowa (Docket 3:16-cv-03016-MWB; parties metadata).
- [DOJ press release: Healogs False Claims Act settlement](#), U.S. Attorney's Office, N.D. Iowa (Case file 16-cv-3016-MWB).

United States of America v. Respiroics, Inc.

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 1:17-cv-00012-LTS-KEM • 2017

Documented role: Iowa local counsel / co-counsel for relator

Rouse served as Iowa local counsel and co-counsel for relator Craig Meyer, working with a multi-firm qui tam team in a False Claims Act matter involving an alleged interest-free loan guarantee. Respiroics paid \$1,283,825.40 to resolve the allegations without admitting liability.

Principal sources

- [RECAP parties page: United States v. Respiroics, Inc.](#), N.D. Iowa (Docket 1:17-cv-00012-LTS-KEM; parties metadata and intervention entry).
- [DOJ press release: Respiroics unlawful-kickback settlement](#), U.S. Attorney's Office, N.D. Iowa (Case file 17-cv-12-LTS-KEM).

United States ex rel. Caio Maciel, Munier Parsi, and Ram Azawi v. Maximus, Inc.

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 1:20-cv-00115-CJW-MAR • 2020

Documented role: Iowa local counsel / co-counsel for relators

Rouse served as Iowa local counsel and co-counsel for relators Caio Maciel, Munier Parsi, and Ram Azawi, working with a multi-firm qui tam team in a False Claims Act case concerning Maximus's 2020 Census call-center contract. The complaint alleged manipulation of call-quality scoring. Maximus agreed to pay \$8 million to resolve the allegations, and DOJ reported a \$1.2 million whistleblower share.

Principal sources

- [Complaint, United States ex rel. Maciel, Parsi, and Azawi v. Maximus, Inc.](#), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 1:20-cv-00115-CJW-MAR, Doc. 1; caption and signature block).
- [2020 Census Contractor Agrees to Pay \\$8,000,000 to Settle Fraud Allegations](#), U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Iowa (\$8 million settlement; \$1.2 million whistleblower share; allegations-only qualification).

United States ex rel. Patrick Sten v. Midwest Compounders, Inc., et al.

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • Resolutions announced in 2019

Documented role: Iowa local counsel / co-counsel for relator

Rouse served as Iowa local counsel and co-counsel for relator Patrick Sten, working with a multi-firm qui tam team in a Northern District of Iowa False Claims Act matter concerning pharmaceutical compounding and claims submitted to federal healthcare programs. In November 2019, the Department of Justice announced two resolutions tied to the Sten action. Midwest Compounders, Inc. and its owner, Troy DeLong, agreed to pay \$205,000 to resolve allegations involving Tricare claims; DOJ stated that Sten received a share of that recovery. Fagron Holding USA LLC separately agreed to pay \$22.05 million to resolve allegations concerning inflated ingredient prices and other compounding-pharmacy practices. DOJ reported that the whistleblowers in the Sten and Hueseman actions would receive a combined \$3.749 million plus interest, without publicly allocating that amount between the two actions.

Principal sources

- [Compounding Pharmacy and Its Owner Pay More Than \\$200,000 to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations](#), U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Iowa (United States ex rel. Sten v. Midwest Compounders, et al.; \$205,000 resolution).
- [Fagron Holding USA LLC to Pay \\$22.05 Million to Resolve False and Inflated Average Wholesale Price Allegations](#), U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs (Identifies Sten as one of two qui tam actions; \$22.05 million settlement and \$3.749 million combined whistleblower share).
- [United States of America et al. v. Medisca, Inc. — public docket metadata](#) (W.D. Tex. No. 5:20-cv-00375; listing identifies Patrick Sten represented by Michael F. Brady and Ward A. Rouse and identifies Midwest Compounders among the defendants).

United States ex rel. Blount International, Inc. v. TriLink Saw Chain, LLC and TriLink Global, LLC

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 1:20-cv-00058-LTS-KEM • 2020

Documented role: Iowa counsel / co-counsel for relator with Brady & Associates

Rouse served as Iowa counsel and co-counsel for relator Blount International, Inc., working alongside Brady & Associates in a Northern District of Iowa False Claims Act action. The complaint, filed June 3, 2020, alleged that TriLink misclassified imported chain-saw chains and blades and thereby avoided federal tariffs. In March 2022, TriLink agreed to pay \$525,000 to resolve the allegations.

Principal sources

- Complaint — United States ex rel. Blount International, Inc. v. TriLink Saw Chain, LLC, et al., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 1:20-cv-00058-LTS-KEM, Doc. 1, filed June 3, 2020; caption, allegations, relator identity, and counsel signatures at pages 1 and 17-18).
- [Chain Saw Chain and Blade Importer to Pay Over \\$500,000 to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations](#), U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa (March 17, 2022; \$525,000 resolution and no-liability qualification).

Criminal defense, suppression, trial, and appeal

United States v. Cassandra Plaza

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit • 4:04-cr-00311-RP-RAW / Nos. 06-1762 and 07-3590 • 2004–2008

Documented role: Defense counsel throughout

Rouse served as Plaza’s defense counsel continuously through the original district-court proceedings and sentencing, the Government’s first appeal, resentencing, and the Government’s second appeal. Although the advisory sentencing-guidelines range was 135 to 168 months, Plaza qualified for safety-valve relief and the Government filed a substantial-assistance motion. The district court initially sentenced her to twelve months and one day. The Government appealed and prevailed: the Eighth Circuit vacated the sentence because the required sentencing procedure had not been followed and remanded for resentencing. On October 12, 2007, the district court again imposed the identical sentence of twelve months and one day. The Government filed a second appeal but later moved to dismiss it. On January 9, 2008, the Eighth Circuit granted the Government’s motion, dismissed the appeal, and directed that its mandate issue immediately, leaving the resentencing judgment undisturbed.

Principal sources

- United States v. Plaza, 471 F.3d 928, Eighth Circuit (guidelines calculation, original sentence, and first appellate disposition).
- Appearance, Government Notices of Appeal, Amended Judgment, and Eighth Circuit Judgment dismissing Appeal No. 07-3590, United States v. Plaza, No. 4:04-cr-00311-RP-RAW, Southern District of Iowa (counsel identification, sentence on remand, and final disposition of the Government’s second appeal).

United States v. David Dean Millard and Julia Lynn Millard

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit • 4:95-cr-00138-SHL-WPK / No. 96-3749 • 1995–1998

Documented role: Counsel for Julia Lynn Millard in the district court and on appeal

David Dean Millard and Julia Lynn Millard were convicted of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and received life sentences. Southern District of Iowa CM/ECF attorney records identify Rouse as counsel for Julia Millard and Luis Herrera as counsel for David Millard. On appeal, the Eighth Circuit reversed Julia Millard’s conviction and remanded her case for a new trial, while affirming David Millard’s conviction and sentence.

Principal sources

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa CM/ECF attorney lists, United States v. Millard, No. 4:95-cr-00138-SHL-WPK (client-specific counsel assignments).
- United States v. Millard, 139 F.3d 1200, Eighth Circuit (counsel listing and disposition).

United States v. Laura Althouse

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa • 2:08-cr-01323-LRR-JSS • 2008

Documented role: Counsel of record

Laura Louise Althouse worked in Agriprocessors’ human-resources and payroll operations. She pleaded guilty in October 2008 to conspiracy to harbor undocumented workers for financial gain and aggravated identity theft. At that time, 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1) and (b)(2) mandated two years’ imprisonment on the aggravated-identity-theft count, consecutive to any sentence imposed for the underlying felony. Rouse filed a sentencing-variance motion on April 29, 2009. On May 4—the day the Supreme Court decided *Flores-Figueroa v. United States*—he separately moved to withdraw Althouse’s aggravated-identity-theft plea. Judge Linda R. Reade granted the motion on May 5.

The Associated Press reported that Rouse said the ruling effectively dismissed the charge, while U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Bob Teig disagreed, stating that the charge would remain pending until the government took further action. The government later dismissed the aggravated-identity-theft count. At sentencing on the remaining conspiracy count, Rouse recalls that the government urged imprisonment while he requested a downward variance. Judge Reade varied below the advisory Guidelines and sentenced Althouse to two years' probation.

Public context. The Agriprocessors investigation was later featured in the CNBC true-crime series *American Greed*, Season 5, Episode 9, "The Slaughterhouse," aired March 23, 2011.

Related context. Sholom Rubashkin, the Agriprocessors executive who directed Althouse's relevant hiring activity, later received a widely publicized 27-year federal sentence for financial fraud and related offenses. President Donald Trump commuted his prison term in December 2017 after he had served more than eight years; the White House stated that this was not a pardon and did not vacate the conviction.

Principal sources

- Defendant's Motion for Downward Variance, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 2:08-cr-01323-LRR-JSS, Doc. 191, filed April 29, 2009; states that the preliminary Guidelines calculation for Count 1 called for imprisonment and requests a noncustodial variance).
- Motion to Withdraw Plea of Guilty to Count 2, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 2:08-cr-01323-LRR-JSS, Doc. 194, filed May 4, 2009).
- Order Granting Motion to Withdraw Guilty Plea, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 2:08-cr-01323-LRR-JSS, Doc. 195, filed May 5, 2009).
- [Flores-Figueroa v. United States](#), 556 U.S. 646, Supreme Court of the United States (decided May 4, 2009; describes § 1028A's mandatory consecutive two-year prison term and construes its knowledge requirement).
- [Ex-worker at Iowa plant withdraws ID theft plea](#), Associated Press / Victoria Advocate (published May 5, 2009; reports the contemporaneous disagreement over the effect of the withdrawal order).
- [Cedar Rapids Gazette archive, December 5, 2009, p. 3](#), The Gazette / NewspaperArchive (reports a two-year probationary sentence).
- [Order on Motions for Judgment of Acquittal and New Trial, United States v. Rubashkin](#), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR, Doc. 854, filed March 1, 2010; records trial evidence that Rubashkin directed Althouse's relevant hiring activity).
- [American Greed: 'The Slaughterhouse'](#), CNBC series listing / Plex (Season 5, Episode 9; aired March 23, 2011).
- [President Trump Commutes Sentence of Sholom Rubashkin](#), White House (December 20, 2017; commutation after more than eight years served; expressly states that the action was not a pardon and did not vacate the conviction).

State of Iowa v. Richard Joseph Polak

Iowa District Court for Polk County • 05771 FECR250937 • 2011

Documented role: Co-counsel

Richard Joseph Polak was tried in Polk County on first-degree murder, attempted-murder, and intimidation charges. Iowa court records show jury acquittals on all three counts and identify a defense memorandum from Christine Branstad and Rouse.

Scope note. The docket establishes acquittals and identifies a joint defense filing; the complete appearance and verdict images remain archival follow-up items.

Principal sources

- [Iowa Courts Online docket: State v. Richard Joseph Polak](#), Iowa District Court for Polk County (Case 05771 FECR250937; summary, charges, D0135-D0136).

State of Iowa v. Jason Gene Carter

Iowa District Court for Marion County • 05631 FECR029316 • 2017
 Documented role: Trial co-counsel

Jason Gene Carter was prosecuted in Marion County for first-degree murder; trial was held in Pottawattamie County after a change of venue. The four-lawyer defense trial team comprised Christine E. Branstad, Rouse, Alison F. Kanne, and Nathan A. Olson. Their appearances establish their representation, and requested jury instructions filed during trial on March 21, 2019, identify all four as attorneys for Carter. Trial commenced March 5, 2019, and the jury returned a not-guilty verdict on March 21. Judge Brad McCall entered judgment of acquittal on March 22, dismissed the case, terminated Carter's pretrial-release conditions, and released and exonerated the cash bond. The case later received national television treatment in A&E programs titled *The Accused* and *The Farmer's Wife*.

Principal sources

- Appearances — *State of Iowa v. Jason Gene Carter*, Iowa District Court for Marion County (No. FECR029316; appearances identify Christine E. Branstad, Ward A. Rouse, Alison F. Kanne, and Nathan A. Olson as defense counsel; filed December 18–20, 2017, and September 18, 2018).
- Requested Jury Instructions by Defendant — *State of Iowa v. Jason Gene Carter*, Iowa District Court for Marion County (No. FECR029316, filed March 21, 2019; trial-stage filing identifying Christine E. Branstad, Ward A. Rouse, Alison F. Kanne, and Nathan A. Olson as attorneys for defendant).
- Judgment of Acquittal — *State of Iowa v. Jason Gene Carter*, Iowa District Court for Marion County (No. FECR029316, electronically signed March 22, 2019; not-guilty verdict, acquittal, dismissal, termination of release conditions, and bond exoneration).
- [Iowa Courts Online docket: State v. Jason Gene Carter](#), Iowa District Court for Marion County (Case 05631 FECR029316; D0076, D0310, D0314).
- [Jason Carter found not guilty in his mother's shooting death](#), KCCI (Contemporaneous acquittal report).
- [The Farmer's Wife — Jason Carter documentary](#), A&E (Season 1, episode 9; 43 minutes; aired February 11, 2021).
- [The Accused — Jason Carter documentary \(Parts 1–2\)](#), A&E (Season 1, episodes 6–7; aired May 26 and June 2, 2020).

State of Iowa v. Troy Thomas Lee

Iowa District Court for Webster County • 02941 FECR325670 • 2004
 Documented role: Co-counsel

Troy Thomas Lee faced first-degree-murder and first-degree-burglary charges in Webster County. Iowa records identify Rouse and William H. Habhab as co-counsel. The court found Lee guilty of involuntary manslaughter rather than first-degree murder and guilty of first-degree burglary.

Scope note. The result was not a complete acquittal: Lee was not convicted of first-degree murder but was adjudicated guilty of involuntary manslaughter and first-degree burglary.

Principal sources

- [Iowa Courts Online docket: State v. Troy Thomas Lee](#), Iowa District Court for Webster County (Case 02941 FECR325670; D0004, D0078, D0127, D0152).

United States v. Norman Wise, Jeremy Urban, and Robert Steel

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa • 4:05-cr-00170-REL-RAW • 2005
 Documented role: Defense counsel for Robert P. Steel

Robert P. Steel, Norman Wise, and Jeremy Urban challenged a second traffic stop and search of their Winnebago on Interstate 80. A filed August 19, 2005 appearance identifies Rouse as defense counsel for Steel. On March 2, 2006, Chief Judge Ronald E. Longstaff found the stop objectively unreasonable, the continued detention unlawful, Steel's consent ineffective to cure the illegality, and Wise and Urban entitled to challenge the motor-home search.

The court granted all three suppression motions, suppressing the cocaine discovered during the search. On May 10, 2006, the court denied the government's motion to reconsider those rulings and also suppressed post-Miranda statements by Wise and Urban. The United States later dismissed the indictment without prejudice as to all defendants expressly 'in view of' the suppression ruling.

Public context. Contemporary reporting attributed to Dallas County Sheriff Brian Gilbert identified the same seizure as 360 pounds of cocaine and described it as the largest cocaine bust in Iowa history. A later law-enforcement publication reported that the seized motor home became a sheriff's mobile command post. This edition does not yet state that it remains the same vehicle used at the Iowa State Fair because that present-day chain of identity has not been independently documented.

Scope note. The filed appearance independently establishes that Rouse represented Robert P. Steel. The official CM/ECF dismissal text confirms dismissal on the government's motion but does not display the original event date or document number.

Principal sources

- Appearance — United States v. Robert P. Steel, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Document 22, No. 4:05-cr-00170-REL-RAW, filed August 19, 2005; Rouse entered his appearance for Steel).
- United States v. Wise - Order Granting Defendants' Motion to Suppress, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Document 69, No. 4:05-cr-00170-REL-RAW, filed March 2, 2006).
- Plaintiff, United States' Motion to Reconsider Court's Ruling of March 2, 2006, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Document 71; reconsideration of cocaine suppression, post-Miranda statements, and standing).
- Order Denying Government's Motion to Reconsider and Granting Defendants' Motion to Suppress Statements, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (Document 83, No. 4:05-cr-00170-REL-RAW, filed May 10, 2006).
- Dismissal of Indictment, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (PDF displays overlapping docket stamps for Documents 87/89 and August 23/24, 2006; dismissal as to all defendants).
- CM/ECF full docket text — Dismissal of Counts on Government Motion, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (No. 4:05-cr-00170-REL-RAW; confirms dismissal as to Wise, Urban, and Steel).
- [Dallas County seizes record amount of drugs](#), Radio Iowa (May 7, 2005; attributes to Dallas County Sheriff Brian Gilbert the identification of 360 pounds of cocaine and the description of the seizure as the largest in Iowa history).
- [Police make largest-ever cocaine bust in Iowa](#), Sioux City Journal (May 8, 2005 article).
- [Drug-bust RV is Now a Sheriff's Command Post](#), National Sheriffs' Association Weekly Update / MultiBriefs (October 9, 2008; summarizes October 7 Des Moines Register report).

State of Iowa v. Shawn Patrick Shelton

Iowa state court; retrial summarized in later official opinions • Trial case number to confirm; Iowa Ct. App. No. 0-866 / 08-1962 • 1991 — second trial

Documented role: Co-counsel at retrial

Shawn Shelton's first convictions for first-degree murder and attempted murder were reversed and remanded for a new trial. An official Iowa appellate opinion states that Peter Berger and Ward Rouse represented Shelton at the second trial and advanced self-defense. The second jury convicted Shelton on both counts. This entry is included because a neutral archive records significant work regardless of whether the result favored the client.

Scope note. The official opinion establishes second-trial counsel and result. The venue description remains outside the published summary until the venue order is acquired.

Principal sources

- [Shelton v. State, Iowa Court of Appeals No. 0-866 / 08-1962](#), Iowa Court of Appeals (Background section identifying second-trial counsel and retrial result).
- [Shelton v. Mapes, Eighth Circuit Nos. 15-1015, 15-2540, and 15-2733](#), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (Procedural history of first reversal, second trial, convictions, and sentences).

United States v. Franklin Clarence Edmonds, II

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa • 4:14-cr-00096-JEG-CFB • 2014

Documented role: Defense counsel for Franklin Clarence Edmonds, II

Rouse represented Franklin Clarence Edmonds, II in a Southern District of Iowa federal firearm prosecution arising from a July 2014 traffic stop. On November 21, 2014, Rouse moved to suppress the handguns, arguing that the stop was unlawfully prolonged and that the vehicle and luggage were searched without consent, probable cause, or a warrant. In January 2015, he applied to secure co-defendant Bryan Levon Terrell as a first-hand witness for a March 2 court proceeding, stating the defense's belief that Terrell would provide exonerating testimony. An April 13 docket order scheduled the trial period to commence June 1. On Wednesday, May 27, 2015—with the two-week trial period scheduled to commence the following Monday, June 1, and only two intervening business days remaining—the United States dismissed the indictment against Edmonds without prejudice, and Judge James E. Gritzner granted leave. The dismissal filing states no reason.

***Scope note.** The dismissal filing gives no reason. Its proximity to the scheduled trial period is stated as chronology only, not as a finding about the government's motive.*

Principal sources

- Motion to Suppress, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (No. 4:14-cr-00096; filed through ECF November 21, 2014; signed by Ward A. Rouse as attorney for defendant).
- Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum for Bryan Levon Terrell, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (No. 4:14-cr-00096; application for Terrell's appearance March 2, 2015 before Judge Ronald E. Longstaff).
- Edmonds dismissal and trial-setting records, S.D. Iowa (Doc. 87 and ECF No. 80).

Source and publication notes

Evidence hierarchy

The archive generally gives greatest weight to court orders, judgments, filed pleadings, official dockets, and published opinions. Official government releases are used for public settlement terms and stated allegations. Contemporaneous journalism supplies public context and facts not recited in judicial records, with attribution. Rouse's recollection is used to identify research leads but is not presented as an adjudicated fact.

Corrections and versioning

This edition reflects the record reviewed through August 13, 2026. Later editions may add newly acquired primary documents, correct errors, refine role descriptions, or add newly verified matters after they pass the publication gate. The archive is designed to preserve those changes transparently rather than silently replacing the research history.

Professional profile, recognition, and affiliation sources

- [Super Lawyers attorney profile](#)
- [Super Lawyers selection process](#)
- [Martindale-Hubbell ratings and reviews](#)
- [Lawyers.com profile identifying the AV Preeminent rating](#)
- [Rouse Law attorney profile \(principal; West Des Moines office\)](#)
- MSMC firm letterhead dated August 5, 2026 (identifying Rouse as Of Counsel).

- [MSMC firm website](#)
- [MSMC about page](#)
- [MSMC firm-advertised results page](#)
- Iowa Courts Online statewide attorney-for-defendant search report (Aug. 12, 2026; listings identify Rouse in State of Iowa criminal and related cases; query returned more than 200 records; interface displays the first 200).
- Iowa Courts Online statewide attorney search results (Aug. 12, 2026; query returned more than 200 records and displayed the first 200; subset contains 57 unique LACL/LACV law-civil case numbers listing Rouse as attorney for plaintiff; excludes dissolution, administrative, and other non-law-civil categories; documented minimum, not a total).
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa CM/ECF attorney query (Aug. 11, 2026)
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa NextGen query for one Ward A. Rouse attorney record (Aug. 11, 2026)

Editorial cautions

- This document is historical and informational, not legal advice.
- Allegations are not findings. Settlements without admissions are described accordingly.
- An outcome in one matter does not predict or guarantee an outcome in another.
- Firm-wide results published by MSMC are not attributed to Rouse without matter-specific evidence.
- Confidential settlement amounts and protected information are not estimated, triangulated, or implied.

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