*Assistant Linn County Attorney Kelly Kaufman grew up in Cherokee, graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, and received her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. She started her law career in 1996 with the Iowa State Public Defender’s Office in Mason City. She then had the opportunity to take an assistant prosecutor’s position with the Linn County Attorney’s Office, where she prosecuted misdemeanors in the Adult Division before moving to the Juvenile Division in 2000, where she initially wanted to be.*

*Kelly Kaufman has been working in the office’s Juvenile Division for over 25 years. Kelly feels it is where she feels she can make a difference — either through early rehabilitation to prevent youths committing crimes or saving a child from an unsafe or unhealthy environment. Kelly was promoted to be head of the Juvenile Division following Lance Heeren’s retirement in late-2023. She is the first woman with the formal title of division head in the office.*

