

Iowa Bankruptcy Attorney Announces Plans to Take On Incumbent Senator

Tom Fiegen has practiced bankruptcy law for 21 years. He is used to a very methodical approach: help clients one at a time, straighten them out and then move on to a few more. Now, he has decided to try for a career change that could allow him to tackle problems facing all Iowans at the highest level.

Tom Fiegen has announced his intentions to run for the U.S. Senate.

“Basically, I’m where the rubber meets the road in the economy,” Fiegen told the Sioux City Journal. “If we could solve the national problem with fiscal policy it would help all of my clients, all of those other Iowa farms that are struggling and would be faster and more efficient than trying to help them one at a time.”

Fiegen, a Democrat from Clarence, Iowa, will run for the right to challenge incumbent Chuck Grassley, a Republican, who Fiegen calls the “incumbent farmer.” The [Chapter 7 bankruptcy](#) attorney previously served in the state senate, and said he believes the skills of his profession put him in a better position to have an immediate impact on the country’s economy than those of Grassley.

“I will bring my experience to the U.S. Senate. I will be a U.S. Senator from Iowa who is on the same side as working Iowans, not Wall Street.”

This is commentary on what Fiegen perceives to be Chuck Grassley’s tendency to protect his wealthiest contributors with his policy work. Fiegen told the Quad City Times Grassley consistently voted for deregulation of the financial sector, a strategic choice that many believe contributed to the current financial crisis. The bankruptcy attorney did not approve of Grassley’s vote in favor of the TARP bailout of the financial sector, saying that Wall Street “took our economy and country hostage.”

One measure that the Democrat envisions: an expansion of the bankruptcy protection given to small farmers, allowing individuals to utilize the farmer process, which is more easily used to reorganize debt. Not surprisingly, Fiegen also took Grassley to task for supporting the 2005 bankruptcy law that many attorneys and analysts believe has made filing for bankruptcy a more difficult process for Americans.

Beth Levine, a spokesperson for Grassley, said that the senator has ushered tax cuts, trade agreements, and a prescription drug bill through Congress. She also said the senator believes the bankruptcy bill he voted for strikes the right balance between offering some people a fresh start while making sure those who can pay their bills do so.

Fiegen seems ready to fire up a Democratic base that resented the established Grassley’s staunch Republican policies since his election in 1980. “I am committed to doing all I can to remove him as a roadblock to progress,” he said.

Before that can happen, Fiegen will need to run in the primary. Several other contenders have emerged, but Fiegen has stuck to the style he used before: Inviting all comers to a series of forums and debates before the primary in June 2010.