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Beyond the Walls of McCollum Hall:
Law College Connects
with University, Community

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S.T.I.R. Series Connects Faculty, Students
# Nebraska Law

*University of Nebraska*

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Professor Lawson’s teaching focuses on practical legal skills that every lawyer needs.

Recent Scholarship: Professor Ruser travels to Kosovo to participate in effort aimed at stabilizing clinical programs.

New S.T.I.R. speaker series introduced at College: Schmid Law Library introduces program that allows faculty members to share their research with students in informal setting.
This spring marks the end of my third year as dean of the College of Law. I started in the same year as the class that graduated on May 4, 2013, in the 123rd commencement exercises for the College of Law. So it seems like a logical time to take a moment and reflect on where we have come from and where we are going.

As I travel around the country talking with alumni, I have taken to saying that these are, to steal a phrase, the best of times and the worst of times.

These are the best of times for many reasons. We have a bigger and more diverse faculty, on many levels, than we have ever had. We have expanded our curricular offerings in the past few years to increase our strength and breadth in many areas, including intellectual property law, tax law, discrimination law, alternative dispute resolution, cyber law and externships. We have added a new clinic, the Entrepreneurship Clinic, in which students are advising Nebraska start-up businesses. And in 2014, we will introduce a new LL.M. in the U.S. Legal System for students with a non-U.S. law degree. Our students are highly qualified and engaged, both in the law school and the community, and they are finding jobs at a rate that is significantly higher than the national average. Our facilities are comfortable and attractive and, to top it all off, we moved up 28 points in the U.S. News & World Report’s law school rankings this year.

So what could possibly constitute the “worst of times?” Here’s the situation. Since 2004, applications to law schools nationally have declined by almost 50 percent. This has made the competition for students fierce among the law schools. As I wrote in this column last year, we are very well positioned to do well in this competition with our low tuition and our excellent program of education. But we are somewhat hindered by our geography (not everyone knows what a wonderful place Lincoln, Nebraska is), our relatively small staff, and our limited state funding.

There is no doubt that legal education is experiencing what some have called a “disruption” and others have called a “crisis.” My job is, to steal another phrase, not to let us waste this crisis. With our new ranking, our outstanding faculty and our broad and cutting-edge curriculum, we have the basic tools to continue to thrive. But, we need your help. Both the state of Nebraska, and the broader University, have their own financial issues with which to deal, and they are not going to be able to provide the financial support we need to help us get through this.
Please consider making a contribution to our scholarship funds, whatever amount you can. These funds allow us to recruit students, plain and simple.

If you have never given to the College, this is the perfect time to start, even if you want to start small. If you already give regularly, I thank you. It has never been more important.

Let’s work together to keep this Law College on the right track now, so that we can do even greater things in the future.

Sincerely,

Susan Poser
Dean and Richard C. & Catherine Schmoker Professor of Law
To Craig Lawson, Good Legal Writing Is Good Writing by Any Standard

By Joel Fulton, ’13

This is one of a series of articles about longtime members of the College of Law faculty. Past issues of the Transcript have featured articles on Richard Harnsberger, Josephine Potuto, Alan Frank, Marty Gardner, Roger Kirst and Rob Denicola.

Professor Craig M. Lawson met his wife Pippa in October, 1973, while teaching an advanced transcendental meditation course at a weekend retreat at Dominican College in San Rafael, Calif. The two married nine weeks later on a Thursday morning, after Lawson completed his final exams the prior afternoon at the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Lawson was born in Salem, Mass., in 1948, but grew up without roots in any one place, “My father was western regional vice president for General Electric and conducted military-related sales. By age 13, I had lived in 11 different places.” Despite the many moves, Lawson thinks of himself as Northern Californian because he learned to drive there. “I was a typical high school student, cruising El Camino Real and stopping for hamburgers at A & W.”

After graduating from law school, Lawson practiced at a general corporate and commercial firm in the Bay Area. He then decided to enter academia, and joined the Law College faculty in 1978. He and Pippa settled in Lincoln, established careers and raised their two children, Greg, 30, and Gwen, 27. Pippa travels across the country performing one-woman shows that she writes herself.

Currently, Lawson teaches Torts, Advanced Torts, Law and Medicine, Bioethics and Law, Health Care Finance and Law of Provider and Patient. In addition, Lawson directs the first-year Legal Writing Program (now called Foundational Legal Skills: Research, Writing, and Professionalism) and teaches Style and Composition in Legal Writing and Law and Literature.
There is no single secret to good legal writing, Lawson said. “Good legal writing is simply good writing by any standard. The best writing creates the least amount of space for interpretation.

“In the upper level course I teach on legal writing we don’t use a book designed for lawyers. We teach basic English composition. I find all my students need a lot of work on writing one clear sentence, then stringing sentences together to put together paragraphs with the proper structure,” said Lawson.

Winner of the 2011 Alumni Council Distinguished Faculty Award, Lawson also devotes significant energy to coaching the Law College’s Client Counseling team with Professor Alan Frank and has had great success. Since first competing in 1975, Nebraska Law has won 13 regional championships, four national championships, including one in 2012, and, in 2009, an international championship.

There’s a real art to rapport building and the occasional hand-holding.

Lawson’s recollection of one of his very first client interviews prompted him to accept Frank’s invitation to help coach client counseling. “It had left me at a complete loss.

“My client was a doctor, and we sat in an 18th floor conference room with a view of the Bay Bridge. I was trying to help him determine how he wanted to distribute his estate,” recalled Lawson.

“Every time I would ask this doctor questions about ‘What if your son dies first?’ he would stare out the window. He couldn’t answer anything. He could not engage with me. I could tell he was for the first time coming to grips with his own mortality,” Lawson said. “I never got out of him half of the things I needed from the interview. It never occurred to me that this would happen. I’m sure I acted sympathetic, but I had no training in client counseling. There’s a real art to rapport building and the occasional hand-holding.”

Another important and overlooked factor in client counseling is the ability to understand and develop the underlying facts. This is something not often discussed in law school that you have to be able do as a good lawyer, Lawson said.

“You are reading cases, and you get hypotheticals, and the facts tend to come canned. They are formulated for you. The facts could be different if the lawyer didn’t ask the right questions.”

Lawson has learned a lot about client counseling from Frank, whom he also considers a great friend.

“If I had been coaching with anyone else I’m not sure I would have continued it for 34 years,” Lawson said. “I certainly wouldn’t have learned as much from anyone else as I have from him.”
College of Law Professor Kevin Ruser is working to improve the legal education system in Kosovo. As a consultant for the Kosovo Legal Profession Program (KLPP), implemented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development, Ruser’s goal is to improve skills teaching in the master’s level programs at the University of Pristina Law Faculty in Pristina, Kosovo.

Kosovo is part of the former Yugoslavia and declared its independence from Serbia in 2008. But it is not recognized as an independent nation by the United Nations or the European Union. For that reason, Kosovo is very poor, with a dilapidated infrastructure. The United States is interested in helping Kosovo succeed in its independence, which is why the NSCS asked Ruser to contribute his expertise to this program.

For his part, Ruser was tasked with evaluating the Law Faculty’s current clinical programs and then making recommendations for strengthening and sustaining them. Because the students in these programs do not represent actual clients, “clinics” in Kosovo equate to skills courses in the United States. A grant from the American Bar Association’s Central and East European Law Initiative allowed the law faculty to adopt clinics in the areas of administrative law, criminal law and constitutional law. The grant runs through the end of 2014.

“The goal is that once the grant is over the clinics will live on,” Ruser said.

Ruser spent three two-week stints in Pristina, the third in March 2013. There may be a fourth trip down the road. Ruser’s first trip came in March 2012, which turned out to be purely a fact-finding mission.

“It ended up being more of a challenge than expected,” Ruser said. “There was no baseline data about what was going on. Depending on whom you talked to, there wasn’t even a regular schedule. No class syllabi. Maybe the professor would be there, maybe the professor wouldn’t. Imagine taking trial advocacy and not having to go to class. That doesn’t work very well. These are the challenges we face in making improvements.”
Ruser recommended the law faculty create a centralized office of clinical studies to support all clinic programs. Recommendations to improve resource management and teacher training and self-assessment were also made. The law faculty adopted these recommendations last September, and the dean approved them. That in and of itself, according to Ruser, was a major accomplishment.

Also during that September visit, Ruser conducted training in clinical teaching methods and helped the faculty create syllabi for their clinical courses in time for the fall semester.

Ruser was impressed with the law faculty members with whom he worked, whose educational systems operate on shoestring budgets. Facilities lack funding for things that we take for granted, Ruser said. For instance, the heat at the school was shut off while the temperature in the classrooms was about 50 degrees Fahrenheit during Ruser’s visit.

The major achievement of this program thus far has been the creation of the office of clinical studies, Ruser said.

“They are interested in sustainability. They have had programs come in, that then collapse when a key person leaves. This office holds great promise to develop as a resource that could be self-sustaining.”

In his most recent visit, Ruser was embedded in the Office of Clinical Studies. “They want me to get it running,” he said.

Ruser has prior experience working abroad on legal education reform projects. From 2000 to 2005, he was involved with another ABA-CEELI program that was focused on clinical teaching in several countries of the former Yugoslavia, most notably in Montenegro and Serbia. But Ruser never visited Kosovo during that time and jumped at the chance to be involved in the KLPP.

“I want my passport to have a stamp from every country from the former Yugoslavia,” Ruser quipped.
Professor Jack Beard presented “Cyber Warfare – The Present and Future” at Nebraska Law’s 5th Annual Space and Cyber Law Washington, D.C., Conference. He was named co-chairman of the International Law Weekend (ILW) of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) in New York City. The ILW is a major international law event that attracts an audience of more than one thousand practitioners, academics, diplomats, members of the governmental and nongovernmental sectors, as well as foreign policy and law students who are learning about the range of practice and career opportunities. He also spoke on a panel at a session entitled “The Raid on Bin Laden and the Consequences for Sovereignty and the U.N. Charter” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law in Washington, D.C. Beard co-taught with professors Matt Schaefer and Brian Lepard the new required 1L course, International Legal Perspectives.

Professor Eric Berger published two new articles. The first, “Deference Determinations and Stealth Constitutional Decision Making,” was published at 98 Iowa Law Review 465. The second, “Lawrence’s Stealth Constitutionalism and Same-Sex Marriage Litigation,” was published in the William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal in April 2013. Berger presented this second article at the Big Ten Junior Law Faculty Conference at the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University and at the Third Annual Loyola Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Berger also presented a new paper, “Originalism’s Pretenses,” at a symposium on “Textualism and Originalism in Constitutional Interpretation” at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The paper will be published in the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law in late 2013. He also was a panelist in a town-hall discussion about gun violence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union moderated by Law College Dean Susan Poser. In addition, Berger started teaching Federal Courts to upperclass law students in spring 2013.

Professor Kristen Blankley’s article, “Adding by Subtracting: How Limited Scope Agreements for Dispute Resolution Representation Can Increase Access to Attorney Services,” will be published this spring by the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution. “Adding by Subtracting” weaves together concepts in ADR, access to justice, unbundled legal services and ethics to present a new take on lawyering. Blankley presented her paper “Adding by Subtracting” at a colloquium at the University of Missouri School of Law’s Center of Dispute Resolution. At the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution’s annual meeting, Blankley presented “Arbitration Case Law Update” and moderated a panel on “Teaching Collaborative Law.” She presented “Ethical Issues in Online Mediation” at the Nebraska Mediation Association’s annual meeting. Blankley also moderated a webinar sponsored by the ABA Section of Labor and Employment and presented “Mediation Advocacy for Mediators” at the Heartland Region-
al Conference of Mediators in Kansas City. Blankley was approved as a public, i.e., non-industry, arbitrator by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). With this appointment, Blankley will be eligible to arbitrate cases involving disputes in the securities industry, including disputes among investors, brokerage firms and individual brokers.

C. Steven Bradford
Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law

Professor Steve Bradford has published two new CALI lessons on accounting for lawyers: “Accounting for Contingencies” and “Lawyers' Responses to Audit Inquiries.” The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) is a consortium of law schools that develops computer-mediated legal education materials. Bradford spoke about crowdfunding at a meeting of the Omaha chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and in New York City at a PLI program on “Private Placements and Other Financing Alternatives.” He also spoke at the University of Colorado School of Law at the 2013 Silicon Flatirons Annual Entrepreneurship Conference on The Future of Entrepreneurial Finance and at a colloquium on “Recurring Themes in the Regulation of Securities Offerings: The Crowdfunding Exemption.”

Eve M. Brank
Associate Professor of Psychology and Courtesy Professor of Law

Professor Eve Brank received two grants from the National Science Foundation for research being conducted with Jennifer Groscup, ’00, and her student, Leroy Scott, ’12. Brank and her law-psychology students, Leroy Scott, Lori Hoeter, Lindsey Wylie and Josh Haby, presented several presentations and posters at the annual American Psychology-Law Society meeting in Portland, Ore.

Beth Burkstrand-Reid
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid's work, “Dirty Harry Meets Dirty Diapers: Masculinity, At-Home Fathers and Making the Law Work for Families,” was published at 22 Texas Journal of Women and the Law 1. Her article, “From Sex for Pleasure to Sex for Procreation: How the Law Manufactures Mothers,” is forthcoming in the Hastings Law Journal. The article focuses on how reproductive and sexual health law and policy casts all women as mothers regardless of whether they have or intend to give birth. Burkstrand-Reid also presented her research at “Gender Matters: Women, Social Policy and the 2012 Election” at American University in Washington, D.C., and will present at Emerging Family Law Scholars at Brooklyn Law School. She was also quoted by law360.com on recent legal issues concerning contraception.

Robert C. Denicola
Margaret Larson Professor of Intellectual Property Law

The 11th Edition of Professor Rob Denicola's textbook on Copyright Law was published this spring by Foundation Press.

Marcia Dority Baker
Assistant Professor of Law

Library and Access Services Librarian

Professor Marcia Dority Baker wrote the chapter “Social Software in Law Libraries” for the forthcoming book,
Law Libraries in the Digital Age, edited by Ellyssa Kroski to be published by Scarecrow Press (Fall 2013). She is currently serving as chair of the Communications Committee of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and chair of the Library School Liaison Committee for the Mid-American Association of Law Libraries (MAALL).

Professor Rick Duncan continues his national speaking tour of American Law Schools. This year alone he will speak at more than ten percent of all the law schools in the United States, including highly ranked law schools such as Wisconsin, North Carolina and Florida. His scholarly topics include Federalism, Religious Liberty, Chief Justice Roberts’ recent opinion in the health care decision, and “Originalism vs. the Living Constitution.” Duncan’s 2013 spring break speaking marathon included visits to Faulkner Law, Alabama Law, Ole Miss Law, North Carolina Law, Cincinnati Law and Wayne State Law. The 2012 revised edition of the book The Law and Practice of Secured Transactions: Working with Article 9, written by Duncan and professors Bill Lyons and Catherine Wilson, was published by Law Journal Press.

Professor Alan Frank received two awards from the Nebraska mediation community. In November, at the Mediation Center’s 20th anniversary celebration, he received the center’s first annual Master Mediator Award for his two decades of service to the center, including his instrumental role in founding the center and his service on the center’s board of directors for 18 years. The Mediation Center is the only nonprofit organization in the Lincoln community where efforts are devoted exclusively to the resolution of conflict. In April, he was honored by the Nebraska Mediation Association with its first ever Outstanding Member Award. The Outstanding Member Award recognizes a person who has made a major contribution to the Nebraska Mediation Association through his or her efforts, leadership or professional involvement in the field of mediation. Frank is a founding member of the association and was recognized for his work with the association, The Mediation Center, the Law College, the Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution Advisory Board and as chair of the Parenting Act Mediator Training and Education Committee. This spring, Frank served as administrator of the regional Representation in Mediation Competition hosted by the Law College. He also served as an administrator, judge and client at the 2013 Brown-Mosten International Client Consultation Competition held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Martin R. Gardner’s casebook, Children and the Law, which he wrote with the late Anne Dupre, was published by Lexis/Nexis. Gardner presented his paper, “The Categorical Distinction Between Adolescents and Adults: Constitutional Implications for Regulating Teenage Sexual Activity,” at the Symposium on Contemporary Issues Regarding Marriage and Children held at Brigham Young University. The pa-
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Colleen E. Medill  
Robert and Joanne Berkshire  
Family Professor of Law

Professor Colleen Medill’s first-year Property textbook, *Contemporary Property* (4th ed. 2013) (with Grant S. Nelson, Dale A. Whitman and Shelley Ross Saxer) has been published by West. Her supplemental textbook, *Developing Professional Skills: Property* (West 2011), received highly favorable reviews and is now being adopted by professors who want to integrate professional skills training into the first-year Property course. The book contains ten exercises for students that involve legal drafting, advocacy, client counseling and negotiation skills. She is currently writing the fourth edition of her law school textbook, *Introduction to Employee Benefits Law: Policy and Practice*, which will be published by West in 2014.

Richard E. Moberly  
Associate Dean for Faculty and  
Professor of Law

Professor Richard Moberly was promoted to full professor, effective September 2012. His article, “Sarbanes-Oxley’s Whistleblower Provisions – Ten Years Later,” was published as the lead article in Volume 64 of the *South Carolina Law Review*. The article examines the impact of SOX’s whistleblower provisions ten years after their highly publicized passage. Also, the U.S. Secretary of Labor appointed Moberly to serve on the newly-created Whistleblower Protection Advisory Committee, which advises, consults with and makes recommendations on ways to improve the fairness, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s whistleblower protection programs. Moberly also served as a panelist for a discussion of “Human Rights and the Boundaries of Speech: Whistleblowing, Leaks, Threats, Violent Videos and Hate Speech.” The discussion was hosted by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the NYU School of Law. Finally, Moberly has been active on Twitter (@Richard_Moberly), regularly tweeting about whistleblowing, retaliation law and the law of secrecy.

Harvey S. Perlman  
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Harvey  
& Susan Perlman Professor of Law

Chancellor Harvey Perlman was “roasted” at the Omaha Press Club as part of the unveiling of his Face on the Barroom Floor. Perlman has been the chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 2001, overseeing a campus of 24,207 students. Perlman has received a lot of publicity over his starring role in a series of humorous YouTube videos promoting the University called “Perls of Knowledge,” during which Perlman debates the meaning of YOLO, refuses to do the Harlem Shake and protects students from the Zombie Apocalypse. Perlman was also the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Service Award from the Law College’s Alumni Council.

Sandra B. Placzek  
Professor of Law Library and  
Associate Director of the  
Schmid Law Library

Professor Sandy Placzek was asked to serve on EBSCO Publishing’s Legal Advisory Board. She recently
attended the inaugural meeting of the board at EBSCO headquarters in Ipswich, Mass. Placzek also has an article on building relationships slated to be published in the July issue of the AALL Spectrum.

**Susan Poser**
Dean and Richard C. & Catherine Schmoker Professor of Law

Dean Susan Poser published “Inside the Star Chamber: A Dean’s Reflections on Central Administration,” 43 Toledo Law Review 355. Poser served as the moderator of a debate, “The Death Penalty: Justice, Retribution and Dollars,” at UNL’s Lied Center for the Performing Arts. The debate was part of the Charles & Linda Wilson Dialogue, EN Thompson Forum on World Issues. She also moderated a seven-person panel of experts for a conversation on gun violence called “Point Blank: A Conversation about Gun Violence.” The panel was sponsored by the College of Journalism, the College of Law and The Daily Nebraskan. Poser also co-chaired the ABA Deans Workshop Conference in Tempe, Ariz. In November, Dean Poser presented a paper entitled “Tort Liability Issues for Music Executives” with Dr. John Richmond at the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music.

**Professor Josephine (Jo) Potuto**

Professor Josephine R. Potuto received the National Football Foundation/Fidelity Award for Service as Faculty Athletic Representative for her efforts in fostering excellence among the student-athletes as exemplified by 2012 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Rex Burkhead. She published “The NCAA State Actor Controversy: Much Ado about Nothing,” in 23 Marquette Sports Law Review 1, and “They Take Classes Don’t They?: Structuring A College Football Post Season,” in 7 Maryland Journal of Business and Technology Law 311. Potuto also delivered a lecture, “University Oversight and Structures of Control: A Case Study and Recommendations,” at the 19th annual Texas Higher Education/Law Conference. She also spoke on “Disciplinary Issues in College Athletics,” at the Santa Clara Law College Ethics and Sports Institute, where she also was a panel respondent to keynote speeches by Joe Nocero, New York Times columnist, and Wally Renfro, senior consultant to the NCAA. Among her other presentations were “Institutional Control” to the Nebraska Board of Regents and “Current Legal Issues in Sports Law” to Jim Rose’s Sports Journalism class. She also started a blog, Potuto’s Points of Sports_Law, and tweets @PtsofSports_Law.

**Kevin L. Ruser**
Hevelone Professor of Law & Director of Clinical Programs

Professor Kevin Ruser was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by the Law College’s Alumni Council at a luncheon in April. Ruser returned to Pristina, Kosovo, for two weeks to be “imbedded” in the Office of Clinical Studies, which was created during his last trip. For more on Ruser’s Kosovo project see the article at page 6 of this issue of The Nebraska Transcript. Ruser was a panelist on the legal education reform efforts in Kosovo at the Niagara Foundation Luncheon at the College of Law. He also presented a S.T.I.R. talk entitled “Why We Should (Mostly) Stop Teaching Doctrine After the First Year of Law School.” Ruser and his wife, Vanessa Pertusa, ’00, adopted Ellie on January 4, 2013, and brought
planned, organized and moderated the four panels at the Law College’s 5th Annual Washington, D.C. Space and Cyber Law Conference focusing on cyber warfare, cyber legislation and commercial space legislation. Schaefer assisted in designing and recruiting legal speakers for the interdisciplinary Clayton Yeutter International Trade Scholars Seminar created through a U.S. Department of Commerce grant to the College of Business Administration and moderated the legal panel at the year-end conference. Schaefer co-taught with Professors Jack Beard and Brian Lepard the new required 1L course on International Legal Perspectives. He also administered the successful launch of the Law College’s new online version of the Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law LL.M.

Steven J. Schmidt
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

Professor Steve Schmidt represented the Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court at the Celebration of Excellence ceremony held in the Great Hall of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Schmidt is the president of the chapter, which was awarded the highest level of recognition for mastering effective practices in administration, communications, programs, mentoring and outreach. Schmidt has been elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for American Inns of Court. He also presented at the National Leadership Summit for American Inns of Court in New Orleans in May. In collaboration with the Forensic Science department, Schmidt arranged for students in the Forensic Science capstone course to be questioned by Criminal Clinic students in a mock trial scenario based on their collection and analysis of forensic evidence from a mock crime scene. Schmidt has received a courtesy appointment to the Forensic Science department faculty.

Robert F. Schopp
Robert J. Kutak Professor of Law and Psychology

Professor Bob Schopp has authored “Mental Illness, Police Power Interventions, and the Expressive Functions of Punishment” currently in press in the New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement. He will make a presentation based on the paper this July in Amsterdam at the Congress of the International
Academy of Law and Mental Health. Schopp also presented “Integrating Psychological Research and Testimony Regarding Dangerousness with Relevant Legal Doctrine” to the Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society in Portland, Ore.

Professor Anna Shavers traveled to Mysore, India, where she served as a delegate to the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) conference, “The Role of Law Schools and Human Rights.” As a delegate, Shavers submitted her paper, “Course Development as the Nexus for Contributing to Human Rights.” While there, Shavers visited alumnus Glen Th. Parks, ’02, who is currently living in Ooty, India, and teaching at Christ University Law School in Bangalore, India. Shavers served as a visiting scholar at Christ University and delivered a lecture, “A Civil Action: The Right to Jury Trial and U.S. Civil Procedure,” to the graduating class. She also used this trip to develop internship opportunities for College of Law students. Shavers also spoke to Nebraska’s social studies teachers about “Critical Issues in Immigration” at the 15th Annual Nebraska Capitol Forum Pre-Forum Planning Meeting. She was featured in Notice and Comment, a blog by the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. Shavers is the current vice chair of the section.

Professor Christal Sheppard advanced to become chair of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC)’s finance subcommittee that reviews the budget and expenditures of the USPTO. As part of her role with PPAC, she hosted a roundtable in Dallas for the USPTO and PPAC to gather input from stakeholders on the underlying reasons for requests for continued examination filings and viable alternatives. Sheppard was invited to submit written testimony to the United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary on “Abusive Patent Litigation: The Impact on American Innovation & Jobs, and Potential Solutions.” Sheppard also joined four other law professors in a federal appeal brief in the case of Apple v. Motorola regarding the appropriate remedies when standard-essential patents are litigated. Lastly, she shared her expertise as a member of the Copyright Alliance Advisory Board, a non-profit, non-partisan public interest and educational organization that represents artists, creators and innovators.

Professor Jessica Shoemaker delivered a S.T.I.R. talk, “No Sticks in My Bun-sie: The Indian Land Tenure Problem,” to the Nebraska Law community.

The Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic, established and directed by Professor Brett Stohs, opened its doors to law students and clients in January 2013. The clinic’s growing client list contains a balanced mix of high growth and lifestyle businesses located throughout the State of Nebraska. In addition to providing direct representation to these clients, the clinic’s initial group of eight students have taken part in a semester-long
seminar addressing key legal topics faced by startups, as well as critical legal skills that are necessary for the effective practice of transactional law. The students have also prepared and given presentations on pertinent legal topics to various University organizations who support the local entrepreneurship ecosystem, including the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program, the College of Business Administration Center for Entrepreneurship, NUtech Ventures and the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management.

Adam Thimmesch
Assistant Professor of Law

First-year faculty member Professor Adam Thimmesch was named the Professor of Year by the upperclass students at SBA’s annual “Meeting of the Minds.” His op-ed, “Misleading Claims Muddle Debate over Internet Sales Tax,” appeared in the Sunday, April 14 edition of the Omaha World-Herald.

Alan Tomkins
Director, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and Professor of Psychology and Law

Professor Alan Tomkins published “Combating Food Shortages in Least Developed Countries: Current Development Assistance Approaches,” 5 Law & Development Review 26, an article informed by his 2011-2012 fellowship activities in the U.S. Department of State, Office of Global Food Security. Primarily, Tomkins has been researching trust and confidence in governmental institutions and examining how public input into policymaking can enhance trust and confidence, a program of research funded by the National Science Foundation as well as governmental funding from the City of Lincoln and the State of Nebraska: “Citizen Satisfaction Survey Data: A Mode Comparison of the Derived-Importance Performance Approach,” 42 American Review of Public Administration 66; “Deconstructing Public Confidence in State Courts,” 3 Journal of Trust Research 11; “Public Input Methods Impacting Confidence in Government,” 6 Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy 92; and “Public Participation, Procedural Fairness and Evaluations of Local Governance: The Moderating Role of Uncertainty,” 22 Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory 815. Collaborators in the Public Policy Center’s interdisciplinary program of research include Dr. Brian Bornstein (Law and Psychology) and Joe Hamm (doctoral candidate, Psychology, and MLS student), among others.

Frans von der Dunk
Harvey & Susan Perlman Alumni/Othmer Professor of Space Law

Dr. Frans von der Dunk served as legal expert for the Government of Curacao for the purpose of drafting local regulation handling private commercial spaceflight from the island of Curacao, which is planned to take off in 2014 with U.S.-manufactured XCOR Lynx vehicles marketed by SXC. He advised, in particular, how regulating such flights would most appropriately fit in existing international treaties, as well as the current U.S. and Dutch national regimes for regulating such flights. At the International Astronautical Congress in Naples, Italy, he presented two papers, one on the subject of private commercial spaceflight from Curacao referenced above, and one on the recent Austrian national act on space activities, in particular addressing private space activities linked to Austria. Von der Dunk also spoke at the UNL-organized conference in Washington, D.C., on issues such as the developments within the US pertaining to recent state-level immunity legisla-
tion for private commercial spaceflight operators. In November, von der Dunk participated in the United Nations/Argentina Workshop on Space Law in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he addressed such issues as international responsibility and liability for space activities and legal aspects of satellite navigation. The Practitioners’ Forum of the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL), held in Paris, was coordinated and chaired by von der Dunk. It addressed current issues of registration of satellites with the United Nations, registration of radio frequencies of satellites with the International Telecommunication Union and the policies of the European Space Agency, the European Union and France in this context. In the series Studies of Space Law with Martinus Nijhoff publishers at Brill, which von der Dunk serves as the series editor, Volume 7 saw the light of day, dealing with issues concerning satellite observation data serving as legal evidence.

Professor Steve Willborn chaired a panel at a conference on legal education at Washington University Law School in St. Louis. The symposium was “The Law School in the New Legal Environment.” His paper from the conference, “Legal Education as a Private Good,” will be published in the Washington University Journal of Law and Policy. He organized a panel on the politics of rural school consolidation for a conference, “School Consolidation in the Great Plains: Efficiencies, Change, and Community Identity,” held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. His paper from the conference, “The Inevitable Politics of Rural School Consolidation,” will be published in the Great Plains Quarterly. Willborn also taught a short-course on Labor Law in Prato, Italy, through a program sponsored by Monash University in Australia.

Steven L. Willborn
Judge Harry A. Spencer Professor of Law

Professor Catherine Wilson testified before the Nebraska Unicameral’s Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee on a highly technical amendment (LB 146) to the Uniform Commercial Code. The 2012 revised edition of the book The Law and Practice of Secured Transactions: Working with Article 9, written by Wilson and professors Bill Lyons and Rick Duncan, was published by Law Journal Press.

Catherine L. Wilson
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Sandi Zellmer published a book, Comparative Environmental & Natural Resources Law (Carolina Academic Press) and co-authored an article with Robert Glicksman, “Improving Water Pollution Antidegradation Policies,” 3 George Washington Journal of Energy & Environmental Law 1. She spoke on “Congress’s Apathy toward the Environment” at the Notre Dame Symposium on Congressional Gridlock and at a Law College S.T.I.R. talk. Zellmer also presented a paper on “Water Law, Conservation and Climate Adaptation” at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Korea. She placed an editorial on preserving stream flows through the public trust doctrine, “Living Rivers: The Lifeblood of Our State,” in the Lincoln Journal Star and has done several interviews and blogs about the Keystone XL Pipeline. She remains actively involved with the Center for Progressive Reform and the ABA, and has been named the vice chair of the ABA’s Section on Environment, Energy and Resources-Public Lands Committee.

Sandra B. Zellmer
Robert B. Daugherty Professor of Law
College of Law Assistant Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid was one of the 11 speakers at the inaugural TEDxUNL event held Friday, September 14, 2012, in the Sheldon Museum of Art. Burkstrand-Reid’s TEDx talk, “Nebraska: Center of the Country, Center of the Controversy,” addressed how Nebraska plays a lead role in the development of social policies relating to reproductive and marital rights.

The first annual TEDxUNL featured speakers from every corner of the University. The event seeks to inspire ideas to make Nebraska a better place. Burkstrand-Reid was nominated to speak by Dean Susan Poser.

TEDxUNL is an independent event organized by the student government of UNL, and was inspired by the increasingly popular TED conferences, named for bringing together people from the worlds of Technology, Entertainment and Design. TED talks address a wide range of topics, with the primary goal to spread ideas worth spreading. Key to the success of TED has been its celebrated format. Speakers are given 18 minutes to present their ideas in innovative and engaging ways to foster learning and inspiration.

“It’s an opportunity to start a conversation,” Burkstrand-Reid said. “The point of my talk was for people to see that, when it comes to controversial things like birth control, abortion or same-sex marriage, what we do in Nebraska impacts the country, not just the state. Sometimes we forget that we have this great ability to influence social policy and that other states watch us, for better or worse.”

For example, the decision in the Supreme Court case Stenberg v. Carhart (2000) invalidated a Nebraska law that criminalized partial-birth abortions. The court’s decision came in part because it found the Nebraska ban to include ambiguous language that could potentially be applied to other abortions as well. Therefore it imposed an undue burden on a woman’s ability to choose.
an abortion. In 2003, Congress drafted its own partial-birth abortion ban, using the Nebraska experience as a guide, Burkstrand-Reid said. When that law was challenged in Gonzales v. Carhart (2007), the Supreme Court upheld it, in part because the law used clear language that it applied to only a specific form of abortion and therefore was not an undue burden.

“Congress learned from our mistakes and was able to succeed,” Burkstrand-Reid said.

Burkstrand-Reid said there is a need for good, honest conversation about these controversial topics, yet we rarely have them.

“They are hard conversations to have,” Burkstrand-Reid said. “It’s easier for people to talk about them in sound bites and to get angry without really considering everyone’s ideas.”

“It’s an opportunity to start a conversation. The point of my talk was for people to see that, when it comes to controversial things like birth control, abortion or same-sex marriage, what we do in Nebraska impacts the country, not just the state.”

That is why Burkstrand-Reid opened her talk by breaking the ice by simply saying, “Sex.” But for Burkstand-Reid, her TEDxUNL talk was not a place for advocacy.

“People really want to know if you are going to have a conversation or if you are going to preach at them,” Burkstrand-Reid said. “I think it is important to know you can have a conversation about sex and the law without having an argument. The law both reflects and amplifies norms. It is the clearest expression of what we as a state think is right and wrong in terms of reproduction and sexuality in general.”

For things to watch on this front, Burkstrand-Reid pointed to the fact that Lincoln City Council adopted the Fairness Ordinance, which added workplace discrimination protection for lesbian, gay and transgender people. Recent Nebraska trends show support for same-sex unions and gay rights, she said.

Birth control issues like abortion are evergreen topics and will continue to evolve.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if a Nebraska law pushed the Supreme Court to take another hard look at abortion rights because we have done it before,” she said.
As part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s recent move to the Big Ten Conference, Nebraska Law faculty are reaching out to the faculties at other Big Ten law schools to introduce the College. Associate Dean for Faculty Richard Moberly organized a series of faculty colloquia inviting Big Ten faculty members to present their research in a workshop-like setting to the Law College faculty. According to Moberly, this is a way of tapping into the sizable intellectual resource that is the Big Ten.

“It is part of seeing the Big Ten as an opportunity. We can show off our Law College’s great faculty, facilities and programs. And, hopefully, Big Ten faculty members come here and get to know Nebraska Law - its faculty, programs and scholarship. It’s a more effective introduction than sending one of our professors to speak at another school.”

A colloquium is an informal creative process. Theories are tested, logical holes are exposed and the presenter leaves with a sense of how his or her project can be improved. Any time you get a group of 20 to 25 law professors in a room together, thinking about laws from different perspectives, your work becomes much stronger, Moberly said.

Four faculty colloquia took place this academic year and five are planned for next year. Professor Matthew W. Finkin from the University of Illinois presented the first colloquium of the series. He shared a paper he is developing about the potential for an employee to deal with disputes with his or her employer in an individual rather than collective capacity.

Law Professors Richard W. Painter from the University of Minnesota Law School, Daniel P. Tokaji from The Ohio State University’s Moritz College of Law and David Fidler from Indiana University Maurer School of Law participated in colloquia this spring.
“It is part of seeing the Big Ten as an opportunity. We can show off our Law College’s great faculty, facilities and programs. And, hopefully, Big Ten faculty members come here and get to know Nebraska Law - its faculty, programs and scholarship. It’s a more effective introduction than sending one of our professors to speak at another school.”

Another part of the Law College’s effort to expand its community and share the school with people, while inviting them to bring their own ideas, was this year’s series of endowed speakerships.

Last fall, former Solicitor General of the United States Paul D. Clement delivered the Winthrop and Frances Lane Foundation Lecture. (See page 26 for an article about his lecture.)

The Law College also hosted three more speakerships this spring. Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Randall R. Rader was the Cline Williams Jurist In Residence. Constitutional expert and University of Texas Law School Professor Sanford Levinson delivered the Roscoe Pound Lecture. Deputy director and chief counsel of the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, Pa., and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Marsha Levick presented the Perry Fuller Trial Skills Lecture. Look for articles about these speakers in the fall edition of The Nebraska Transcript.
When dean Susan Poser returned to the College of Law as dean in May 2010, after three years as associate to the chancellor, one of her goals was to begin a complete curriculum review, and to find ways to enhance the connections that the Law College has to the rest of the University of Nebraska and to find opportunities to create more of these connections. Two overarching purposes were tied to this goal. First, modern lawyers are working in a complex environment, no matter where they practice or what they practice. By opening the doors of the College so that more faculty and students from other disciplines can participate in the College’s programs and so that law students can explore how other disciplines might enhance their own legal studies and preparation, our students can round out their legal education and the College can diversify the curriculum available.

Second, because of the national decline in applications to law schools and the subsequent need for additional support from their universities, many law school deans around the country are being asked by their campus administrations what value their law school brings to the university. Although support for the College of Law at Nebraska has always been and remains strong, it is critical that the College demonstrates its central place at the University of Nebraska. “We are proud of our history as part of a land grant university and are committed to serving the state and the University,” said Poser. “We have worked hard to create partnerships that not only serve our students well, but demonstrate that commitment.”
The law faculty is currently engaged in this multi-year review of the curriculum. Thus far, the faculty has added a required, first-year course in International Law, created a new Entrepreneurship Clinic for 3Ls, increased offerings in Intellectual Property, Tax, and international subjects, and expanded courses offered in the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Program.

In addition, there are new programs that are providing students with the opportunity to learn beyond the walls of McCollum Hall and allowing non-law students to learn from the law faculty. As the faculty continues to evaluate the curriculum, it continues to consider how to connect the College and its students to other programs outside the Law College.

New Clinic Connects Law Students with Student and Community Entrepreneurs

In January 2013, the College opened the doors to the Entrepreneurship Clinic. This new clinic is directed by Professor Brett Stohs, who was hired to create, direct and teach the clinic. Eight students spent the spring semester advising and representing startup business clients in a variety of early-stage legal matters, including entity formation, contract drafting and review, intellectual property protection, real estate, financing, regulatory compliance and other transactional matters. The Entrepreneurship Clinic has established relationships with the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program at UNL’s Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Raikes School and the College of Business Administration at UNL. Law students advise students from those programs who come to the clinic ready to start a business. The Entrepreneurship Clinic is also taking clients from Invest Nebraska, a state-funded organization with the mission to provide seed money to start-up businesses in Nebraska. Look for a more in-depth article about the Entrepreneurship Clinic in the fall edition of The Nebraska Transcript.

Law & Gerontology Degree with the University of Nebraska at Omaha

The College of Law has partnered with the University of Nebraska at Omaha to offer a dual degree program in law and gerontology. Students can pursue a Juris Doctor/Master of Arts or a J.D. with a certificate in Gerontology. This dual degree program is designed for law students who desire to develop expertise and knowledge in the field of elder law or who are considering an administrative position in the area of gerontology and seek to bring a legal perspective to their administrative work. It is designed for law students who desire a broader perspective on the social, psychological and health issues that confront the elderly and the social programs and services that are available to support the needs of the elderly population.
Law & Public Health Degree with the University of Nebraska Medical Center

Public health, public policy and biomedical ethics are at the forefront of issues in America today. Ongoing efforts at health care reform by policymakers require lawyers with health care expertise to generate legal solutions for issues such as health care access and quality, patient protection and privacy. In response to this growing need for legal expertise as it relates to health, the College of Law partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to offer students the opportunity to pursue a J.D./Masters of Public Health.

Rural Futures Institute and the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources

In September 2012, the University of Nebraska launched its Rural Futures Institute, an organization whose mission is in part to bring University resources and expertise to address the issue of rural economic development from a multidisciplinary perspective. The College of Law is participating in the law and policy aspects of addressing these issues. A recent hire, Professor Jessica Shoemaker, an expert in rural economic development and energy law, is the College’s liaison to the Rural Futures Institute. In addition to lending her expertise to this University-wide effort, Shoemaker is also working with the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Rural Practice Initiative, which encourages new lawyers who are considering a legal career in rural Nebraska.

Yeutter International Scholars Program Brings Three Colleges Together

In 2012-13, five students from the Law College participated in a joint program with the College of Business Administration and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Clayton Yeutter International Trade Program. The Yeutter program was funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration. Students from each of these three colleges attended classes and lectures as part of this premier training program in international trade, negotiations and finance.

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Program Connects with Political Science

The Law College has recently strengthened its ties with the University’s Forsythe Family Program on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (HRHA Program). Law College students and faculty, including Professor Brian Lepard and Professor Anna Shavers, have participated in HRHA Program-supported events, such as the annual Hu-
man Trafficking Conference held at the University. Law College students now have the option of pursuing a program of concentrated study in international human rights law, which can include taking certain courses taught outside the Law College as part of the graduate specialization offered by the HRHA Program.

Water for Food Institute (WFI)

The Water for Food Institute (WFI) was established in April 2010 with a $50 million founding gift commitment from the Robert B. Daugherty Charitable Foundation. The WFI conducts research, policy analysis and educational programs on the efficiency and sustainability of water use in agriculture and the human issues that affect the water decision-making process. WFI partnerships with both government and academic institutions will enable development of internships and other opportunities with U.S. and international partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) in the Netherlands, the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, and the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Law Professor Sandi Zellmer, an expert in environmental and water law, has been a member of the WFI Faculty Advisory Board since 2010 and was co-director of its predecessor, the Water Resources Research Initiative, since 2004. She regularly participates in the WFI conferences and is exploring opportunities for law students in the WFI programs and internships.

The Legal and Business Side of Creative Activity for UNL Undergraduates

Called “Art-Biz-Law” for short, this course introduces students to the basic legal and business principles governing creative endeavors, including: “pitching” and protecting ideas, securing representation (lawyers, agents, managers), basic principles of contract, copyright and intellectual property laws, clearing and licensing rights, and how not to get sued or taken advantage of while creating, borrowing and collaborating with other artists and entrepreneurs.

The goal is to teach artists and entrepreneurs how to protect themselves and their projects and ideas, until success provides the wherewithal to secure professional representation from agents, lawyers, managers, investors and business partners. As such, the course should also appeal to students who may be interested in careers as talent representatives, producers or investors in the arts. This new course is cosponsored by UNL’s Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and is taught by best-selling author, Professor Rick Dooling.

Hot Topics in the Law for Honors Undergraduates at UNL

In fall 2013, Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid will introduce a group of UNL undergraduate honors students to hot topics in the law. As part of this undergraduate honors course, she will teach the undergraduates basic legal analysis skills. The honors students will use these skills to understand cases and policy related to some of the most controversial legal issues of the day, including reproductive health, gay marriage, environmental and national security law, for example. Other Law College faculty and guest speakers will join the class frequently to discuss their areas of expertise.
Around the College

Recent Scholarship & Activities

Former U.S. Solicitor General Clement Delivers Lane Foundation Lecture, “The Roberts Court Comes of Age”

By Joel Fulton, ’13

According to “the best lawyer of this generation,” the Roberts Court has become the most pro-First Amendment court in history. Whether in the context of military funerals, violent video games, animal cruelty or lying about military service, the Roberts Court has shown a commitment to First Amendment doctrine. Former solicitor general of the United States Paul D. Clement discussed this and other significant trends in Chief Justice John Roberts’ court jurisprudence when he delivered the Winthrop and Frances Lane Foundation Lecture on September 28, 2012, to a near capacity audience in Hamann Auditorium.

Clement, who served as the 43rd solicitor general from 2004 to 2008 and clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia following graduation from Harvard Law School, has argued more than 60 cases before the U. S. Supreme Court, including seven in the 2012 term.

“People across the political spectrum have called Clement the best lawyer of his generation,” Dean Susan Poser said. “He has been referred to as the tenth justice because of his influence upon the Supreme Court.”

Clement began his lecture, titled “The Roberts Court Comes of Age,” by discussing the recent Affordable Care Act (ACA) case, in which Clement advocated for the challengers.

In the beginning, the lawsuit was labeled as frivolous, Clement said. When lower courts began to strike down the law, people took the suit more seriously. Then people began to notice, at nearly a one-to-one ratio, judges appointed by a Republican president struck down the law while judges appointed by a Democratic president upheld the law.

But decisions at the court of appeals level were “something better for the rule of law,” Clement said. Prominent conservative judges upheld the law, whereas U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit Judge Frank Hull, appointed by Bill Clinton, struck down the law.

When the Supreme Court took the case, it did something unprecedented. It scheduled six hours of oral arguments.
“When it started, people treated it as frivolous,” Clement said, “But the Supreme Court of the United States didn’t treat it that way.”

To invalidate the law, Clement needed to prove the ACA was unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause, the Necessary and Proper Clause and under Congress’s Taxing Power. To Clement, it was conventional wisdom that, based on past opinions of the court, “in the quest for five votes, the government started with four.

To win the challenge on each theory, the challengers needed to run the table and get 15 out of 15 votes,” Clement said. “The good news for my client is we got 14 out of the 15.

At the end of the day, the Supreme Court struck down the individual mandate to buy insurance as unconstitutional, Clement said.

“In upholding the law they construed it as something slightly different – a tax on those who are uninsured.”

The “sleeper issue” of the decision, that might have the greatest long-term significance, Clement said, is the court’s spending power holding that struck down as unconstitutional the provision that withdrew Medicaid funding from states that refused to expand health care.

“This is the first time the court has set a spending power limit on Congress,” Clement said. “If Congress is coercive, the law can be struck down.”

In the second half of his lecture, Clement discussed trends of the Roberts Court, seven years after John Roberts was sworn in as chief justice.

The most controversial decision of the Roberts Court, other than the healthcare case, is the Citizens United (2010) decision in which the court recognized that the First Amendment robustly protects corporate speech during elections, Clement said.

Though Citizens United, as a campaign finance case, was a 5-4 decision, other First Amendment decisions by the Roberts Court have been more lopsided, Clement said. For example, cases like Snyder v. Phelps (2011) (picketing of a military funeral) and United States v. Stevens (2010) (overturning a law that banned trafficking in depictions of animal cruelty) were 8-1 decisions.

Clement also observed that the Roberts Court cares a great deal about federalism, as evidenced by five votes in the healthcare case for some limit on Congress’s commerce power. Clement also stated the Roberts Court has been generally pro-business. However, there has not been an employment discrimination case decided by the Court in which the employer has won, Clement noted.

“People across the political spectrum have called Clement the best lawyer of his generation,” Dean Susan Poser said. “He has been referred to as the tenth justice because of his influence upon the Supreme Court.”

“People across the political spectrum have called Clement the best lawyer of his generation,” Dean Susan Poser said. “He has been referred to as the tenth justice because of his influence upon the Supreme Court.”
Alumnus James L. Young, ’81, a graduate of both the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering and the College of Law, visited the Law College on November 19th and presented “The Value of A Patent? Why Bother to Get One, and How to Read It If You Do.” The audience was comprised of both law students and engineering students, and was a joint effort between the two colleges.

Young is a partner with Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A. in Minneapolis, Minn., and has over 30 years of experience obtaining, licensing, evaluating and enforcing patents. Patents are like a contract between an inventor and the government, Young said. They provide an inventor with the right to exclude others from making, using or selling the patented invention for a limited period of time.
To obtain a patent, an applicant must file a patent application that meets certain disclosure requirements with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The USPTO issues three different types of patents: utility, design and plant. Utility patents are issued for machines, articles of manufacture, compositions of matter and processes. Design patents are issued for the ornamental appearance of articles of manufacture. Plant patents are issued for asexually reproduced plants. A design patent is issued for 14 years from the date the patent is granted. Utility and plant patents are issued for a maximum of 20 years from the date the patent application was filed.

Once a patent expires the public is free to practice the invention. “A patent is personal property,” Young said. “A patent is like a car. You can sell it, you can rent it.” But the only right you gain with a patent is the right to exclude others. So how do we value patents?

One way to determine the value of a patent is to look at patent infringement actions that resulted in multi-million dollar judgments. For example, in 2007 a federal jury in San Diego ordered Microsoft to pay $1.5 billion in a patent dispute over MP3 audio technology used in Windows. But while these hefty-sized verdicts are eye-popping, they represent a small minority of the patents granted by the USPTO, Young said. “The average cost of fully litigating a patent case is around $2 million.”

The fundamental value of a patent is the significant advantage that accompanies the right to exclude others. In the United States, other than keeping an idea confidential and relying on trade secret protection, obtaining a patent is the only way to protect an idea, Young said.

The fundamental value of a patent is the significant advantage that accompanies the right to exclude others. In the United States, other than keeping an idea confidential and relying on trade secret protection, obtaining a patent is the only way to protect an idea.

Attaining legal “exclusivity” with a patent protects the investment made in developing a new invention. This right is akin to injunctive relief preventing competitors from providing the same invention or its equivalent. The competitor is forced to design around the patented invention, which gives the patent owner a significant head start in the market. In addition, “when a competitor is forced to design around the product, the product is often produced in a way that isn’t as elegant or marketable,” Young said.

Young also noted that companies that obtain patents promote the “progress of science.” All of society is benefited once these innovative ideas are made publicly available.
To Law College alumnus Senator E. Benjamin Nelson, ’70, before making a policy decision you must first ask how that decision affects your family, your community, your state and your country. This was the guiding theme for Nelson during his time in the United States Senate.

“If it isn’t good for each of those interests, it probably isn’t good,” Nelson said.

Nelson spoke with approximately 120 members of the College of Law community in a Question & Answer session held in Hamann Auditorium Friday, November 2, 2012, four days before Deb Fischer was elected as Nelson’s successor. Attendees spoke with Nelson about his public service both as governor of the State of Nebraska and as a representative of Nebraska in the Senate. The conversation was driven by audience questions, which raised a number of issues regarding the current state of the federal government.

The issue most prevalently discussed was the growing trend of partisanship. Nelson said when he became senator in 2001 there was a spirit of cooperation.

“We were able to bridge the gap for the sake of the country,” Nelson said. “My job was to do what was best for the State of Nebraska. All people, both parties.”

After awhile Nelson began to encounter stalemates created by ideological divide. Nelson identified a shift in media practices as one of the causes of these impasses. Today, as a society, we become informed by news outlets that disseminate information that serves polarized political agendas, Nelson said.

“It’s hard to get straight news based on fact,” Nelson said. “Not impossible, but hard.”
Nelson said unless you attempt to listen to all sides to a story you are going to get a skewed view.

In addition to news outlets, special interest groups have contributed to the increase in partisanship. Nelson pointed to *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), the Supreme Court case that determined the government may not prevent unions or corporations from financing political campaigns, as evidence of the trend. These groups spend large sums of money to promote their own interests rather than focusing more broadly on what is best for the country, Nelson said. “Until *Citizens United* is modified, or a Constitutional amendment is passed that identifies money as property, not speech, this form of spending will only increase.”

That is why it is important when voting to keep in mind family, community, state and country, according to Nelson.

Sitting in front at the talk were Nebraska Supreme Court justices and College of Law graduates Kenneth Stephan, ’73, and John Wright, ’70. Nelson shook hands with the justices and said he was proud that he had appointed them to the state’s high court.

In his remarks, Nelson acknowledged that in deciding not to run for re-election his life was headed in a new direction, one which he and his family were looking forward to.
One of the wonderful things about the Law College is the extraordinary breadth of our faculty. However, because of the structure of the curriculum and class schedule many of our faculty are known by our students as experts in only one basic field. For example, most students know Professor Rob Denicola as an expert in contracts law because he has been teaching Contracts for years. Many students may graduate without ever knowing that Denicola is well known nationally as an expert in copyright law.

One of the goals of the law library is to share information about our collection and the Law College. Traditionally, we do this through newsletters, new books lists and exhibits. Last year, however, we stumbled upon a new method for sharing information about our faculty.

Schmid Law Library Director Richard Leiter brought the concept to the law library faculty and the dean’s office where it was met with enthusiasm and interest. We decided that the idea could be best executed by strictly adhering to a time limit and by offering the talks in a casual setting. Thus the concept of S.T.I.R. (Share. Think. Inspire. Relax) Talks was born. The talks are limited to 15 minutes and are on a topic that is of current general interest and one that is in the faculty member’s area of expertise beyond the classes that they may teach.

However, in looking through the events, we noticed that the talks had grown to be an hour or more long and had become quite formal presentations of scholarly research. The talks were held in a ceremonial reception room with theater seating and a podium at the front of the room, and they were an average of 45 minutes long. We were intrigued by the idea and decided to see if we could improve upon it.

An article published in Spectrum, the newsletter of the American Association of Law Libraries, described a program called “Tarlton Talks” at the University of Texas School of Law’s Tarlton Law Library. The program was modeled on TED Talks and featured talks by UT faculty about their work. The program was popular and the talks were recorded and made available on the law library’s website.
By limiting the talks to 15 minutes, we’ve been able to keep them pithy and interesting, and by holding them in the late afternoon, most students can spare 15 minutes for a quick, interesting talk on a current law topic. The talks are held in the student lounge and we offer refreshments of various light snacks, beer and soft drinks. Each talk is also recorded and published on the Law College’s YouTube channel.

To date, we’ve offered eight S.T.I.R. Talks, about one per month throughout the school year. We plan to continue offering them once a month for the foreseeable future.

Kristen Blankley

Here is a list of the talks presented during the 2012-2013 academic year. Videos of all the talks may be found at http://www.youtube.com/nebraskalaw.

- Professor Eric Berger, “Lawrence at Ten: Same-Sex Marriage and Stealth Constitutional Determinations.”
- Professor Sandi Zellmer, “Treading Water, Just Barely: Congressional Apathy Toward the Nation’s Environment.”
- Professor Frans von der Dunk, “Fly Me to the Moon – or at least to Tokyo in 90 Minutes, Soon.”
- Professor Kevin Ruser, “Why We Should (Mostly) Stop Teaching Doctrine after the First Year of Law School.”
- Professor Jessica Shoemaker, “No Sticks in My Bundle: The Indian Land Tenure Problem.”
- Professor Kristen Blankley, “How to Get More Clients! Thinking About Unbundling Legal Services to Settle Cases.”
- Professor Brian Bornstein, “Mental Health and Well-Being in the Legal Profession.”
Professor John Gradwohl, '53, and Judge Janice Gradwohl, '54, along with the Multi-Cultural Legal Society/Black Law Students Association (MCLS/BLSA), have created an annual event where law students, faculty, local attorneys and judges can socialize in a relaxed setting outside of school. Each year the Gradwohls host the event in their Lincoln home and have done so for at least a dozen years, Jan Gradwohl said.

It’s an event that celebrates multiculturalism with food, festivities and fun, according to Aasim Cheema, ’13, vice president of MCLS/BLSA. The Gradwohls typically hold the event in the fall as a welcome back, and to allow 1L students to make new acquaintances within the Law College community and the legal community of Lincoln.

This year the event was held on September 21 and began with a social hour. Dinner was catered by Taj Mahal Cuisine of India, which included murg tikka, murg goa, taj naan, tandoori roti, veggie samosas, saffron rice, shortbread cookies, ginger snap and vanilla meringues.

College of Law faculty members look forward to this event as much as the students do.
“I love getting to interact with our students outside of the classroom when everyone is a bit more relaxed,” said Associate Dean Richard Moberly.

Local judges are also known to attend this event. Judge Vernon Daniels, ’83, of the Douglas County Juvenile Court was in attendance this year.

After some mingling and light networking, 14 teams of three formed to compete in a trivia contest that tested the group’s knowledge of history, sports and music. For example, who was the first human in space? Hint: He wasn’t American. Answer: Yuri Gagarin. Or, in which New York City borough was Hip Hop created? Answer: The Bronx.

The event has a different cultural theme each year, Gradwohl said.

“It’s important to celebrate diversity in the legal community and to share traditions from varying cultures with people in our law school and the Lincoln community,” said Sara McCue, ’14, president of MCLS/BLSA.

Events held in past years have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, and have had Mardi Gras and luau-themed socials, Jan Gradwohl said.

“The Gradwohls have given so much to the Nebraska Law community, and their on-going support of this event exemplifies that generous support.”

A group of 1L students showed their support for Team Jack, an organic movement across the state supporting Jack Hoffman, a pediatric brain cancer patient.
In 2012, the Nebraska Unicameral created a task force to investigate human trafficking in Nebraska. Section 81-1430 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes established the State Task Force on Human Trafficking, which investigates the extent to which human trafficking is prevalent in Nebraska, the efforts being taken to prevent human trafficking and the services available to victims of human trafficking, among other things.

Last fall, the College of Law played host to a panel discussing the pervasiveness of human trafficking in Nebraska and around the world. “The Global and Local Perspective on Human Trafficking” was part of a larger University conference that focused on human trafficking issues. Professor Anna Shavers moderated the panel, which was comprised of Senator Amanda McGill, who sponsored LB 1145, the bill that ultimately led to the creation of the state task force; Assistant Attorney General John Freduenberg, '95, a member of the task force; and, chief of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons Unit, Kristiina Kangaspunta.

The program began with a showing of the trailer of the film “Not My Life,” which portrays the realities of the multi-billion dollar global human trafficking industry.

Kangaspunta opened the presentation with a discussion on the global status of legislative and criminal justice responses to human trafficking. Today, more than 90 percent of countries have laws listing human trafficking as a criminal offense, Kangaspunta said. This is a substantial increase from the 35 percent of countries that had such laws in 2003. According to Kangaspunta, about 40,000 victims of human trafficking have been identified worldwide. This number suggests an increase in detection of the crime, because from 2003 to 2006 the number of known victims was in the mid-ten thousands, she said. Kangaspunta said the United States is generally in compliance with international protocol against trafficking in persons and is seeing an increase in convictions.

Human trafficking in Nebraska is an underground problem, McGill said, which requires an increase in education and understanding from law enforcement. McGill said victims of human trafficking are sometimes young children who run away from home. Runaways are often picked up by a trafficker within the first 24 hours, she added.
The public needs to be educated on human trafficking, Freudenberg said. For example, McGill pointed out that the current perception is that prostitution does not include victims of human trafficking, because it is viewed as a life choice. But, once a stripper or prostitute is picked up by a pimp, there is no longer a choice.

“People’s opinions can change with awareness,” Freudenberg said. “Around 1995, the perception was that child sex abuse was to be dealt with by the family and that children shouldn’t be put on the stand. That perception has changed due to a long, dedicated education of the public.”

Another problem the task force faces is definitional, Freudenberg said. Human trafficking includes different individual forms of trafficking, like child and adult sex trafficking or child and adult labor trafficking. Each problem has a different social cause.

One key way to address those causes is to protect at-risk populations, like people with mental illnesses or the homeless.

“We need to help the at-risk populations first and foremost to make sure they are not put in that position,” Freudenberg said.
The Saga of Darrel Parker’s Wrongful Conviction

By Joel Fulton, ’13

In the October 10, 2012 program cosponsored by the College of Law’s American Constitution Society and Student-Innocence Project, Lincoln tort lawyer Dan Friedman explored the history of Darrel F. Parker’s 1956 wrongful conviction and 56-year wait to be exonerated and compensated by the State of Nebraska.

Friedman is the son and law partner of Herb Friedman, ’60 who saw portions of Parker’s trial as a law student.

In 1954, Parker, now 81 years old, was hired as Lincoln city forester. He had graduated from Iowa State University, where he met his wife Nancy, who joined Parker in Lincoln the next year. The two lived in a remote home near Antelope Park.

On December 14, 1955, Parker came home from work for lunch. He found Nancy in their bedroom, brutally raped and murdered.

Nancy’s killer was convicted rapist and murderer Wesley Peery, Friedman said, who scouted the Parker home as part of a crew that had erected a fence there.

But Lancaster County Attorney Elmer Scheele believed this was a crime of passion, Friedman said.

On December 20th, while staying with Nancy’s parents in Windsor Heights, Iowa following her funeral, Parker received a call from Scheele asking him to return to Lincoln to assist with the investigation. Parker left early the next morning. When Parker arrived at about 11 a.m. he met John E. Reid, a former FBI interrogator, who Scheele had brought in from Chicago for the express purpose of getting a confession from Parker, Friedman said.

In the landmark Supreme Court case Miranda v. Arizona (1966), Reid’s interrogation manual is cited several times as a basis for the court’s holding that custodial interrogations are inherently coercive.

Reid interrogated Parker until about 10 p.m. when he cracked and gave a false confession to Nancy’s murder. Parker recanted the confession the next day. After a three-and-a-half week trial, Parker was found guilty of first-degree murder on May 3, 1956.
“Darrel was sentenced to life. Thank God he wasn’t sentenced to death,” Friedman said.

After Parker spent nearly 14 years in prison, the Eighth Circuit ruled that Parker’s confession was involuntary. Parker was released on bond. Ten months later, the Supreme Court remanded Parker’s case to the district court, with instructions to conduct a Jackson-Denno hearing, a proceeding to determine the voluntariness of a confession.

“Parker was petrified,” Friedman said. “This was the same court that originally tried his case. Only now, Parker’s former prosecutor, Scheele, served on the bench.”

To avoid the significant risk of returning to prison, Parker had his attorney, Richard Buckner, negotiate a settlement agreement to convert Parker’s sentence to a term of years and grant Parker parole in exchange for withdrawing his challenge to the voluntariness of his confession.

In 1988, before dying in prison, Peery confessed to the rape and murder of Nancy.

With new evidence of his innocence, Parker pursued a pardon. The Board of Pardons unanimously granted Parker’s pardon in 1991. But a pardon is not a recognition of innocence. Parker wanted his name cleared.

On August 31, the State of Nebraska publicly apologized to Parker and entered an offer of judgment for $500,000, the maximum allowed under the act. The Nebraska legislature approved Parker’s claim by passing LB536, which was signed by Gov. Heineman on May 28, 2013.

Friedman thanked Northwestern University Law Professor Steven Drizin for his help with the case. Drizin wrote the afterward for David Strauss’s 2010 book “Barbarous Souls,” which details Parker’s saga.

How is Darrel Parker doing now?

“He’s very cool about all of this,” Friedman said. “He’s not a bitter guy. He’s not an angry guy. He still went on to lead a successful life. He’s very gracious.”
On January 11, 2012, the Nebraska Supreme Court adopted the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). The State of Nebraska administered its first UBE examination in February 2013.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners prepares and coordinates the UBE, which consists of the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), two Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tasks and the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE).

The MBE, which constitutes 50 percent of the UBE score, contains 200 multiple-choice questions. The MEE, which is 30 percent of the UBE total score, consists of six 30 minute essay questions that test general principles of law rather than the law of any particular jurisdiction.

The MPT makes up the final 20 percent of the composite grade. As described on the UBE’s website, “The MPT is designed to test an examinee’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each test evaluates an examinee’s ability to complete a task that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. The materials for each MPT include a File and a Library.

“The File consists of source documents containing all the facts of the case. The specific assignment the examinee is to complete is described in a memorandum from a supervising attorney. The File might also include transcripts of interviews, depositions, hearings or trials, pleadings, correspondence, client documents, contracts, newspaper articles, medical records, police reports, or lawyer’s notes. Relevant as well as irrelevant facts are included. Facts are sometimes ambiguous, incomplete, or even conflicting. As in practice, a client’s or a supervising attorney’s version of events may be incomplete or unreliable. Examinees are expected to recognize when facts are inconsistent or missing and are expected to identify sources of additional facts.

“The Library may contain cases, statutes, regulations, or rules, some of which may not be relevant to the assigned lawyering task. The examinee is expected to extract from the Library the legal principles necessary to analyze the problem and perform the task. The MPT is not a test of substantive law; the Library materials provide sufficient substantive information to complete the task.”

One of the purposes of the MEE and MPT is to test the applicant’s ability to communicate effectively in writing, so the quality of the applicant’s written communications skills is a factor in grading the exams.

The exam results are portable among UBE jurisdictions, so attorneys do not have to take multiple bar examinations if they move or want to practice in more than one state. Currently, Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming have adopted the UBE.

UBE jurisdictions must accept scores from other UBE jurisdictions, but this does not guarantee reciprocal admissions. Each state still retains control over who is admitted to its bar as each state makes its own determination regarding applicant character and fitness and decides what score applicants must obtain to be admitted to the bar of that state.

Nebraska has generally made it easy for members of other bars to waive into the state. By adopting the UBE, Nebraska has aided future Nebraska Bar members who want to gain entry into the bars of other states.
Nebraska Law offers its alumni multiple no cost CLE opportunities each academic year. Programming and registration details can be found at http://law.unl.edu/alumni/CLE.
December Graduates Celebrate Commencement, Family Tradition

Hon. Michael Pirtle, ’78, delivers the keynote address.

Dean Susan Poser hands graduate Nick Norton his diploma.

Steven Winkler is hooded by Professor Richard Moberly.
Dean Susan Poser, Stacy Sustaita

Nick Norton and his brother, Joshua Norton, '08

Steven Winkler, John Watson, David Vann, Bree Swoboda

Charlie Hendrix and her husband, Daniel Hendrix, '11

John Watson and other guests enjoy a reception following the ceremony.
Victoria Collier Finds Joy, Rewards In Her Elder & Disability Law Practice

Victoria Collier, ’02, comes from a long line of coal miners. “Actually what collier means is coal mining,” she explained. Her mother was an administrative assistant for Shell Oil, so she thought that corporate law was what she wanted to do. But it was her experience as a 17-year-old nurse’s aide at a nursing home that led her to her profession and true passion. Upon her graduation from law school, Collier opened up The Elder & Disability Law Firm of Victoria L. Collier in Decatur, Ga.

Collier is delighted with her decision. While some people in the legal profession are “miserable all the time, I don’t think that there is ever a day that I am miserable because I chose what kind of clients I wanted to work with, and what we do for them really helps their quality of life. I have a strong belief that every person is an individual who deserves respect and the highest quality of life possible regardless of their age or ability. That helps me stay focused on what we do for our clients.”

While her work in the nursing home was rewarding, Collier knew she needed to find a more lucrative endeavor in order to be able to go to college. So she joined the Air Force. Even then, she supplemented her income by doing home health care at night. She served in the Air Force during Desert Storm. While stationed in Germany as a carpenter and mason, she helped to build the dark room that was used to develop film to assist in the identification of those who died in the conflict.

Collier graduated from Valdosta State University in 1996. While there, she worked as a paralegal on workers’ compensation cases. Then she enrolled at Nebraska Law. She was attracted to the Law College by its Law/Psychology Program, even though she was not part of the program, and by the dean at the time, Nancy Rapoport. As her partner’s family was from Kansas, she also appreciated being closer to her family.

Her struggles with Corporations class convinced her that that was not the right path for her although she remains grateful for Professor Steve Bradford and his willingness to help her get through the course. Nebraska’s cold snowy winters were a revelation to her, but she found warmth, too. She appreciated the large number of older non-traditional students who were in her class. “I really enjoyed the different age ranges and the different experiences people had before getting there,” she recalled. Many of her classmates remain her good friends.
Supportive faculty and staff at Nebraska Law made a difference to her, as well. Rapoport encouraged Collier to start a student organization for GLBT students and served as the organization’s faculty advisor. The organization was controversial but attracted a great deal of interest when the constitutional amendment to define marriage in Nebraska as between a man and a woman was being debated. In addition to Bradford and Rapoport, Collier found support and inspiration from Associate Dean Glenda Pierce, who, like Collier, had a background as a paralegal, Assistant Dean Sue Kirkland and her advice on marketing and Professor Craig Lawson “because he created a safe place for me to write about unconventional topics in Bioethics and the Law.” While at the Law College, she worked for Nebraska Advocacy Services helping people with disabilities with their employment discrimination issues.

By the time Collier completed her formal legal education as a visiting student at Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta, where her partner was now working as a prosecutor, she knew where her destiny lay. “I continued to be drawn back to those seniors at the nursing home,” she said. “I did not even know that elder law was a type of practice, but I did my research.” She worked for an Atlanta lawyer who did elder law work and became a research assistant for an elder law attorney at Georgia State. Not seeing other viable options when she graduated, she opened her own law firm.

Her firm specializes in traditional estate planning for non-taxable estates, special needs planning for people with disabilities, veterans’ benefits planning for wartime veterans and Medicaid planning for people in nursing homes. Her practice has awarded her over the years with not only hugs and cookies from appreciative clients, but also by “just being part of people’s lives. We do not just do a service for them; we become part of their family.”

She has received tangible awards, as well. Collier has been appointed to the Georgia Council on Aging, has become a certified elder law attorney through the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has been recog-

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Topher Hansen, ’85, Found His ‘Bliss’ As Executive Director of CenterPointe

From time-to-time, Christopher (Topher) Hansen, ’85, executive director of CenterPointe and recipient of the 2012 Executive of the Year award from the Association of Nonprofit Executives, is asked to return to the College of Law to talk to students interested in “alternate career choices.”

He tells them to figure out what they are good at, to know how they are wired and what their talents are, to find out “what trips their trigger,” and then be willing to follow that journey. For Hansen, that journey took a somewhat circuitous route, but when it brought him to CenterPointe, “It was the one time in my life that I really knew I was in the right spot,” Hansen recalled.

Many people influenced Hansen along that journey. One was an instructor he encountered as an undergraduate student at UNL’s Centennial College. He suggested that Hansen might be interested in volunteering at a drug crisis line that had recently started in Lincoln. That appealed to Hansen because growing up he had friends who had had drug problems and he developed what he described as “an innate sense of how to be a helper among my peers and a predisposition to handling crisis that I didn’t understand at the time.”

Two years later, Hansen was the crisis line’s first paid director. “I knew how to administer the operation in ways that other people didn’t,” Hansen recalled. “I knew how to pursue it, how to excel at it. It just tapped into my talents.”

The next step on Hansen’s journey was with Lincoln Public School’s SKIP program, which provided drug and alcohol related intervention to children in the school system. After a brief time as a counselor with the organization that is now CenterPointe, he returned to UNL to complete his undergraduate education. Then he enrolled at Nebraska Law. “I was hell bent on being a trial lawyer, and my undergraduate work was pretty much focused on going to law school,” Hansen said.

Hansen vividly remembers his first class at the Law College. It was Professor Bob Works’ Contracts class. Works wanted someone to recite the facts of the first case. “How about you, Mr. Warnemunde?” he asked. Recalled Hansen, “I thought, ‘Wow, he knows that guy,’ and then as we went on, he kept calling names, and I thought, ‘Oh my, God, he knows everybody and nobody’s safe.’”

Hansen regards his time at Nebraska Law as “a great experience. It was an intellectual and emotional outward bound course. It pushed you to places that you hadn’t gone before. It stretched you in ways that you may not have been stretched before, and you got out of it a product that was almost indescribable to others.”

Hansen clerked at the Healey and Weiland law firm while in law school and joined the firm after he graduated to pursue his interest in trial work. He found
that the work was something he could do, but the passion he thought he would have for it was not there. After nine years, he reached a crisis point. He wanted to do something else.

It was at Healy and Wieland that he met his wife, Kristy Newcomb, ’88. It was Newcomb who spotted the newspaper ad. Lincoln Lancaster Drug Projects was looking for a director of development. Even as a law student, Hansen had thought about non-profit work, but he did not know if he could make a living at it. Now he was ready to make the plunge. He was already doing legal work for the agency, so he proposed that he be hired to do both jobs.

One of the first things he did when he was hired was change the name. CenterPointe was born. The development job put Hansen “in the position of thinking broadly about the organization. I was able to understand what our donor base was, what kind of future we had and where we fit on the continuum of non-profits. It established my vision about what we needed for this agency to succeed.”

Here is how Hansen describes CenterPointe: “We provide active treatment, rehabilitation post-treatment and housing for people who have both mental illness and addiction issues. The important thing that we do that is different from what a lot of organizations throughout the country do is that we integrate the mental health and addiction issues. When they’re in with the therapist it’s not just mental health or addiction; it’s both all wrapped together. . . . Many of the people we work with are homeless or on the verge of being homeless. People who are on the street are not going to get better. So we have four units that are identified for people who are chronically homeless and others that are transitional. The housing is subsidized so that they never spend more than 30 percent of their own income. We provide a comprehensive and holistic plan that involves vocation and housing and substance and mental health.”

When the CEO position at CenterPointe opened up, Hansen didn’t apply for it even though he was serving as the interim. It seemed like it would be “too much rigmarole, too much junk, too much time spent writing grants and preparing budgets.” Two events led him to change his mind.

His dad told him to take the job and do it the way that worked the best for him. He should make the job one that fits his skill set and have others around him with complementary skills. The second event was when he was watching The Lion King “for the 497th time with my little ones.” Simba sees his father, Mufasa, in the clouds and Mufasa says, “You need to rise to be who you were born to be.” Hansen knew he had to take the job.

In about 18 months, Hansen helped the organization turn the corner from the financial and personnel problems it was having. And, he said, “I have found my bliss. I am involved in a fairly sophisticated, intense, political, creative, very business-oriented world of healthcare, and I love every second of it.”

He obviously is good at it as exemplified by the Nonprofit Executive of the Year Award he received in February honoring executives who demonstrate exceptional leadership abilities.

As executive director, Hansen cannot provide legal representation to the organization. In fact, at CenterPointe and in his role as president of the State Association of Behavioral Health Organizations, he employs six attorneys working on real estate, personnel, behavioral health and managed care issues. Yet he calls on his legal training every day. He explained, “I would not be here if I had not gone to law school. No question in my mind. It developed my thinking in a way that gave me the capacity to imagine, to problem solve. I problem solve every single day. What you don’t understand in your first year of law school and sometimes into your second year is how your brain is being trained.”
Massey Provides Students with Glimpse Into Life of Corporate Counsel

Andy Massey, ’97, entered law school knowing that he never wanted to work in a law firm. So, upon graduation, aware that he needed to take advantage of whatever opportunity presented itself, he took a job for the company, Transcrypt. “I interviewed with the CEO and asked for a shot,” recalled Massey. “And, he gave me one. I ended up getting hired to work on contracts and provide legal services related to the business.” It was a decision that led to a life-changing event that set the course for his career. Massey shared this story with the Law College community during his time at the College in November as part of Alumni Masters Week, an annual event honoring successful alumni sponsored by the Nebraska Alumni Association.

“I had been with Transcrypt for about a year when the SEC launched a formal investigation into the business. During the investigation, I was the gatekeeper. I was this young lawyer and the only employee to have access to the records they were reviewing.”
Massey was charged with not only getting the records compiled and ready for review, but he also routinely met with both SEC officials and outside counsel. The investigation resulted in 12 federal lawsuits and one state lawsuit. Ultimately, those cases settled in 2000, and Transcrypt settled with the SEC.

“That really was a life- and career-changing time. We got through it, and the company got cleaned up. The company was renamed EF Johnson and was relisted on NASDAQ,” Massey told students in attendance. Massey remained with EF Johnson in Dallas, Texas, where he eventually became vice president government affairs, corporate secretary and general counsel.

In July 2006, Massey, a Lincoln native, and his family returned to Nebraska when he became chief legal counsel for Valmont Industries, an international company known for being the world’s biggest pivot manufacturer. In reality, pivot manufacturing makes up only approximately 20 percent of Valmont’s business, according to Massey. The Omaha-based company, which has more than 9,000 employees in 20 countries, also manufactures streetlights and utility poles and is a leader in the custom galvanizing business.

Listening to Massey, it is clear that he knows Valmont’s business inside and out. It was no surprise, then, when he advised students who wish to pursue corporate counsel positions to “know the product[s]” because of the value it adds to the business. “Take that knowledge and then apply your legal knowledge to it,” he advised.

Other advice from Massey: “You must be really open to new experiences.” It is clear that this is the attitude with which Massey has approached his career, and it has certainly resulted in great success.
Michael L. Lazer, '62, has been recognized for his 50 years of practice in the law by the Omaha law firm of Smith, Gardner, Slusky, Lazer, Pohren & Rogers. Lazer is known for his expertise in commercial and real estate transactions of all kinds. He has been a partner since 1993 and became of counsel to the law firm in 2008.

Herbert M. Brugh, '63, president of the Nitinat Minerals Corporation of Toronto, has been appointed to the company’s board of directors. Brugh resides in Lake Forest, Calif.

Jeffre Cheuvront, '64, was the recipient of the 2012 Award of Appreciation by the Nebraska State Bar Association. Judge Cheuvront was nominated due to his many years of service as a judge. He began in private practice in 1964 and continued until 1972, when he was appointed to the Lancaster County Court. He served there until 1983, when he was appointed to the bench of the Lancaster County District Court. He retired in 2011.

Hal Daub, '66, has been elected to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents representing District 8. Daub is a partner with Husch Blackwell in Omaha.

Les Seiler, '66, was elected to the Nebraska Legislature representing District 33. He was originally appointed to the legislature by Gov. Dave Heineman to fill a vacant seat. Seiler is a senior partner at the Hastings law firm of Seiler & Parker.

William D. Staley, '69, a former Sarpy County juvenile law judge and a retired professor at Midland Lutheran College, took a summer 2012 bicycle trip from Bellingham, Wash., to New York City to raise research money and awareness of Tourette’s Syndrome.

E. Benjamin Nelson, ’70, has retired after 20 years of service as Nebraska governor and U.S. senator. He began his career as an insurance law expert and consultant with Kennedy Holland DeLacey & Svoboda and went on to become counsel with the firm Lamson Dugan & Murray in Omaha. Nelson was an executive vice president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, served as president and chief executive officer of Central National Insurance and as director of insurance for the state of Nebraska. Nelson has been named chief executive officer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and has joined the public affairs firm, Agenda, as a senior advisor.

Carlton Clark, ’70, retired as county judge for Nebraska’s 11th Judicial District on December 31, 2012, after serving for more than 12 years. Judge Clark was very active in the Nebraska Supreme Court’s Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative as lead judge for Team I in the 11th District. He was well-known for distributing comic and coloring books to children who attended his court hearings.
Gerald Rouse, ’71, Seward, retired as county judge for Nebraska’s Fifth Judicial Circuit on December 31, 2012, after serving for 41 years. As a judge, Rouse took a special interest in juvenile cases. He served as president of the National Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 1999-2000.

Thom Cope, ’72, has been named a partner in the Tucson, Ariz., law firm of Mesch, Clark & Rothschild. Cope’s practice emphasizes all aspects of labor and employment law.

Robert Ide, ’72, retired as county court judge serving Nebraska’s 10th Judicial District on July 5, 2013, after 13 years on the bench. Ide was a member of the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board for six years, serving as chairman for two years. In 2008, he was commended by the board for his work with the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative. He was also commended in 2000 for his involvement in developing a Family Drug Court for central Nebraska. Prior to his judicial career, Ide practiced law in Holdrege in private practice, as a prosecutor for the Phelps County Attorney’s Office and as defense counsel and guardian ad litem for the county.

James E. Rembolt, ’72, was awarded the 2012 President’s Professionalism Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. He was nominated for his career-spanning service to the profession, exemplifying the highest standards of ethics, professionalism and advocacy for civility in the practice of law. Rembolt served on the NSBA Executive Council from 1995-2003 and was the NSBA president in 2003.

Richard Sievers, ’72, an original member of the Nebraska Court of Appeals, has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2013. Sievers was appointed in 1991 as the first chief judge of the court, which began its work in 1992, and he served in that role until 1996. He served for seven years as a member of the National High School Mock Trial Championship. In 2005, he was honored as the Outstanding Judge for Service to the Community, the highest honor given by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Prior to joining the Court of Appeals, Sievers was in private practice in Lincoln.

J. Kirk Brown, ’73, debated with University of Colorado Boulder Professor of Sociology Michael Radelet over the controversial legal, ethical and economic consequences of capital punishment. The debate was held in November 2012 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln and was entitled “The Death Penalty: Justice, Retribution and Dollars” as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues “Religion, Rights and Politics” Series. Nebraska Solicitor General Brown served as the primary counsel in Nebraska capital murder cases for nearly three decades. He also served as the general counsel for the Texas Department of Corrections.

Robert B. Ensz, ’73, retired as judge of the district court for Nebraska’s Seventh Judicial District effective October 31, 2012, after two decades of service on the district court bench in Wayne and surrounding areas. Judge Ensz helped establish the Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court in Madison. Ensz served as president of the Executive Committee of the Nebraska District Court Judges Association and served for seven years on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, which he chaired in 2011.

Curtis H. Evans, ’73, retired as York County judge on May 13, 2013. Judge Evans was active in the Nebraska Supreme Court’s Through the Eyes of a Child as lead judge for the Fifth Judicial District. He also served on the Commission on Children in the Courts. Evans promoted the use of mediation within the court system and supported the just treatment of the elderly and vulnerable in guardianship and conservatorship cases. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the CASA program in York County. Evans served as Seward County attorney before being appointed to the bench.

David A. Jacobson, ’74, chairman of Kutak Rock, a national law firm headquartered in Omaha, has stepped down as board chairman of Film Streams, a nonprofit, founded by his daughter, devoted to the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. He remains on the board.
Matthew H. Williams, ‘74, has been elected chairman of the American Bankers Association for the 2012-2013 association year. Williams is the president and chairman of Gothenburg State Bank in Gothenburg. Williams has also been appointed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to the Board of Directors of Innovation Campus.

Scott E. Daniel, ‘75, has joined the law firm of Gettman & Mills in Omaha as of counsel, bringing with him more than 37 years of legal experience. His practice focuses primarily on litigation and complex business disputes, including contract claims, insurance defense, negligence, securities fraud and transportation regulatory matters, as well as employment matters.

Richard W. Krepela, ‘75, retired as county court judge for the Seventh Judicial District effective January 3, 2013. He served 23 years on the bench. Previously he was Madison County Attorney. Krepela instituted the concept of videotaped arraignments, among other improvements in the circuit.

Jean Lovell, ‘75, resigned as Lancaster County judge on May 1, 2012, after more than 13 years on the bench.

Michael McCarthy, ‘75, has been named as the Sixth Supreme Court District representative to the Nebraska State Bar Association. McCarthy is the senior partner in the North Platte firm of McCarthy & Moore. His areas of focus are estate planning, probate and small business representation. He has also served as chairman of the Nebraska Commission on Unauthorized Practice of Law since its creation by the Supreme Court in January 2008.

Steven Mattoon, ‘76, has been named as the House of Delegates chair by the Nebraska State Bar Association. Mattoon has served on both the House of Delegates and Executive Council of the NSBA. He is with the law firm of Matzke & Mattoon in Sidney.

Michael W. Pirtle, ‘78, judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals, gave the commencement address at the College of Law graduation on December 14, 2012.

Barbara W. Schaefer, ‘78, spoke at an April 2013 event sponsored by Professional Women Connect in Omaha. Schaefer is former senior vice president and corporate secretary at Union Pacific. She is a member of the board of trustees of Weitz Funds and chair of the board of Children’s Hospital & Medical Center.

Marsha E. Fangmeyer, ‘79, has been named the president of the Nebraska State Bar Association, as well as having been awarded the 2012 Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award by the NSBA. Fangmeyer is one of the founding members of the Women & the Law Section.

Vince Powers, ‘79, has been elected chairman of the Nebraska Democratic Party. Powers is the founder of Vincent M. Powers & Associates in Lincoln.

Kevin Ruser, ‘79, and Vanessa Pertusa, ‘00, adopted Ellie on January 4, 2013, and brought her home with them from Ethiopia on March 10, 2013.

Kathryn J. Derr, ’80, has joined the Omaha law firm of Berkshire & Burnmeister as of counsel. She has over 20 years of experience in bankruptcy law, business law and civil litigation.

Michael G. Hybl, ’80, has been named chief of staff to Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) Hybl had been executive director of the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

Edward Raines, ’80, is now associated with Faith Regional CardioVascular Institute in Norfolk where he performs a full spectrum of cardiovascular and general thoracic procedures.

Michael T. Brogan, ’81, of Brogan & Stafford in Norfolk, was awarded a Visionary Award by the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation at the 2013 Barristers’ Ball for his efforts and support of the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Scott R. Cook, ’81, has become a shareholder in the Las Vegas law firm of Kolesar & Leatham. Cook’s practice focuses on complex litigation, catastrophic injury and professional negligence with an emphasis on medical issues. He also focuses on insurance law, fire claims and hospitality matters.

Joseph P. Kelly, ’81, Lancaster County attorney, led a panel of experts in mental health law and clinical psychology in a discussion of the 2012 One Book – One Lincoln selection, Destiny of the Republic by Candice Millard. The book tells the story of President James Garfield, who was shot four months after taking office.

David A. Sutter, ’81, has been elected vice president of Pioneer Natural Resources USA, an oil and natural gas company based in Irving, Texas.

Laureen Van Norman, ’81, was presented with the Supreme Court’s highest honor of the Judicial Branch, the Service to the Community Award by Chief Justice Mike Heavican. Judge Van Norman received the award for her extended efforts to provide safe, dignified access to all participants in the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Court process, in addition to her efforts toward improvement of the entire Nebraska judicial system. Van Norman currently serves on the Supreme Court’s Implementation Committee on Pro Se Litigation, Technology Committee and Judicial Branch Education Advisory Committee.

Peter C. Wegman, ’81, a partner with Rembolt Ludtke in Lincoln, has assumed the presidency of the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys.

Michael Dunn, ’82, has been named as the Fifth Supreme Court District Representative to the Nebraska State Bar Association. He is currently a member of the House of Delegates, a position he has held with NSBA since 1999. Dunn is a member of Halbert Dunn & Halbert in Falls City, Neb., and Hiawatha, Kan. His areas of practice include real estate, estate and trust planning, civil litigation and business planning.
Thomas L. Hafemeister, ’82, associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and associate professor of medical education, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, University of Virginia School of Medicine, published “Don’t Let Go of the Rope: Reducing Readmissions by Recognizing Hospitals’ Fiduciary Duties to Their Discharged Patients,” 62 American University Law Review 53.

James C. Johnson, ’82, has been named president and chief executive officer of the Robert H. Jackson Center, which honors the legacy of the late Supreme Court justice and Nuremberg prosecutor. The center is located in Jamestown, N.Y. Johnson has served as chief prosecutor in the war crimes trial in Sierra Leone, as a professor at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s School and as legal advisor to the George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies.

Patrick J. Barrett, ’83, has published “Recent Section 7 and Other NLRB Decisions and Their Impact on Employment Law Strategies,” in Employment Law 2013: Top Lawyers on Trends and Key Strategies for the Upcoming Year, published by Thomson Reuters/Aspatore.

Peter Longo, ’83, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, was featured as a “Star Professor” in UNK Today. Dr. Longo chaired the planning committee for a Great Plains Studies Symposium on school consolidation that was hosted by UNK.

Mark A. Johnson, ’83, was appointed by Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman as district court judge for the Seventh Judicial District. He was president and partner at the Norfolk law firm of Johnson, Easland & Lohrbeg.

Robert S. Lannin, ’84, has received the Nebraska Defense Counsel Association’s Defense Lawyer of the Year award. He is with Shively & Lannin in Lincoln, where his practice focuses on insurance defense and civil litigation.

Jose Soto, ’84, was featured in the Lincoln Business Journal’s “Business Minute.” He is the vice-president for access, equity and diversity at Southeast Community College in Lincoln. He has been with SCC for 21 years.

Rita C. Grimm, ’85, has joined the Iowa Economic Development Authority as chief operating officer and general counsel.

C. Jo Petersen, ’85, has been appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman as a county judge in Nebraska’s Fifth Judicial District. Prior to her appointment, Petersen was deputy county attorney for Saunders and Hamilton counties and was in private practice in Beaver Crossing. Previously, she served as deputy county attorney for Butler, Polk and Platte counties and as Seward County attorney.

Kim Robak, ’85, of Mueller Robak in Lincoln, was the recipient the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Law College’s Alumni Council.
J.L. Spray, ’86, has been elected Nebraska Republican Party chairman. Spray is a partner with Mattson, Ricketts, Davies, Stewart & Calkins in Lincoln.

Gary Brown, ’87, has retired as staff judge advocate (senior legal counsel) after 24 years of service in the United States Air Force. Col. Brown has held a number of key legal positions within the Department of Defense, including the chief of General Law and International and Operational Law at Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB in Nebraska. Brown has also served as the senior legal advisor for the Senior Officials Directorate at the Air Force Inspector General’s Office in the Pentagon. He was deployed as the staff judge advocate at the Combined Operations Center in Southwest Asia. In addition, he has had several notable works published, including pieces in the *Military Law Review* and the *Journal of Military Ethics*. Brown has also been the recipient of several prestigious decorations and awards, including the Bronze Star, and was named Albert M. Kuhfeld judge advocate of the year in 2001.

Meredith Peterson, ’87, has been sworn in as a municipal court judge for Laramie, Wyo. Peterson is a former prosecutor who also served as a magistrate judge in Sublette County Circuit Court.

Jeffrey A. Nix, ’88, has joined the Omaha law firm of Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman as an associate attorney. Nix has more than 23 years of litigation experience. His practice is concentrated in the areas of civil litigation, insurance law, personal injury law, medical malpractice and professional negligence.

Curtis G. Oltmans, ’88, has been promoted to corporate vice president and general counsel, Legal and Quality Affairs, and has joined the U.S. executive team of Novo Nordisk, Inc., a global health-care company specializing in diabetes care. Oltmans joined Novo Nordisk in 2005 and most recently served as vice president and deputy general counsel.

Anne Paine, ’88, was presented with the Supreme Court’s highest honor of the Judicial Branch, the Service to the Judiciary Award by Chief Justice Mike Heavican. Paine, who is a county court judge in Willow County, received the award for her many innovative projects, the most recent being a pilot project to improve compliance with court ordered financial obligations for probationers in criminal cases. Working with the Supreme Court staff and the National Center for State Courts, Judge Paine involved her fellow judges and local court employees in designing an automated text-message and email system to notify offenders of upcoming payment obligations and court dates. She currently serves on the Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts and the Juvenile Case Progression Standards Committee. She is lead judge for the 11th Judicial District Through the Eyes of the Child Team, and serves on the “Centralization” Committee of the Nebraska Court System Reengineering Committee.

Cathleen Allen, ’89, has been appointed to the St. Francis Medical Center board of directors. Allen is a partner with Leininger, Smith, Johnson, Baack, Placzek & Allen in Grand Island.
Linda R. Crump, ‘90, assistant to the UNL chancellor for equity, access and diversity, has been named to the board of directors of Community Services Fund of Nebraska.

Michael O. Hendrickson, ‘90, was elected as circuit judge of the 30th Judicial Circuit of Missouri. Prior to his election, Judge Hendrickson served six years as a county associate circuit court judge.

Brent Yaw, ‘91, has been promoted to vice president, international at Baldwin Filters in Kearney. He is responsible for the operation of Baldwin’s international business. His most recent position was general manager of Baldwin International. He has been with the company since 1995.

Mark Fahleson, ‘92, a partner with Rembolt Ludtke in Lincoln, has been awarded the Davis Carr Outstanding Committee Award by DRI. Fahleson completed a two-year term as chair of DRI’s Employment and Labor Law Committee. DRI is an international membership organization of all lawyers involved in the defense of civil litigation.

Diane Carlson, ‘93, has been named deputy county administrator for Douglas County. She works on all aspects of county management and overseeing the labor relations and risk management areas of county government. Carlson previously was in the civil division of the Douglas County Attorney’s Office, where she worked for nine years, including the last four as director. Prior to that, she worked for ten years in the civil division of the Lancaster County Attorney’s Office.

Jason P. Galindo, ‘93, has joined Sundvold Law Firm in Lincoln. Galindo’s practice consists of personal injury, serious bodily injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice claims.

Stacie Maass, ‘93, has been appointed senior vice president, Pharmacy Practice and Government Affairs, by the American Pharmacists Association.

Jeffrey M. Wightman, ‘93, has been appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman as a county judge for Nebraska’s 11th Judicial District. Prior to his appointment, Wightman was a partner at Wightman & Wightman in Lexington.

Elizabeth A. Varley, ‘93, has joined the board of trustees of the National 4-H Council. Varley, who lives in Annadale, Va., is vice president in the Office of Government Affairs for New York Life.

Anne Hobbs, ‘94, presented the 17th annual Alpha Kappa Delta lecture, “Improving Racial Fairness in our Juvenile Court System through Applied Sociology,” at the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome, N.Y. Hobbs, who received a Ph.D. in Sociology in 2011 from UNL, is the director of UNO’s Juvenile Justice Institute.

Bob Caldwell, ‘96, has been recognized by the 2012 Lincoln Chamber of Commerce as the Business Advocate of the Year. He has spent numerous hours volunteering his time and his talent to the Chamber and Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. Most recently, he has been instrumental in developing a plan to better leverage the Airpark Industrial Park. Caldwell is the president and CEO of Hampton Enterprises and also serves on the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce as a board member.
Carl Eskridge, ’96, has been elected to the board of directors of the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation. He is a Lincoln City Council representative for central and northwest Lincoln. Eskridge is also deputy state ombudsman for the Nebraska Office of Public Counsel.

Daniel R. Fridrich, ’96, has been appointed to serve as a judge on the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Court by Governor Dave Heineman. Fridrich has practiced law in Nebraska for 15 years and has served for 10 years as senior counsel workers’ compensation for Werner Enterprises, Inc.

Jennifer K. Robbennolt, ’96, has authored, along with Jean Sternlight of the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, Psychology for Lawyers: Understanding the Human Factors in Negotiation, Litigation and Decision Making, published by ABA Publications. Psychology for Lawyers introduces practicing lawyers and law students to some of the key insights offered by the field of psychology. The first part of the book offers a crash course in those aspects of psychology that will be most useful to practicing attorneys, including issues such as perception, memory, judgment, decision making, emotion, influence, communication and the psychology of justice. The second part applies the insights of research to tasks that lawyers face on a regular basis, including interviewing, negotiating, counseling, and conducting discovery. Robbennolt, who received her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska Law/Psychology program in 1998, is professor of law and psychology at the University of Illinois College of Law.

Robert M. Schafer, ’96, has been appointed to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents by Gov. Dave Heineman. He represents District 5 in the southeastern portion of the state. Schafer is a managing partner at Carlson, Schaefer & Davis, a law firm in Beatrice.

Melodie Bellamy, ’97, has been appointed as the Kearney County attorney. Previously, she was a deputy Buffalo County attorney.

Andy Massey, ’97, corporate attorney/chief legal counsel for Valmont Industries, was named to the Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska board of directors. Massey was honored in November during UNL’s Masters Week. (See the story on page 46 of this issue of The Nebraska Transcript.)

Victoria H. Sitz, ’97, has been named partner with the Omaha office of Husch Blackwell. She previously worked at the international payment systems company ACI Worldwide, Inc., most recently as vice president and assistant general counsel. She handles securities and corporate governance matters.

George E. Martin III, ’99, has become a partner with the Omaha law firm of Baird Holm. His practice is devoted to employment and workers’ compensation litigation, governmental litigation and relations and general civil litigation. He primarily defends public and private employers facing charges of discrimination and employment related lawsuits. Martin has also been appointed to the Metropolitan Community College Foundation board of directors.

Joshua P. Nauman, ’99, commander with the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, U.S. Navy, graduated with Distinction from Georgetown University Law Center with an LL.M. in National Security Law. Following graduation, Commander Nauman reported to Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11 and embarked on board USS Nimitz,
Todd Kinney, ’00, has rejoined the firm of Kutak Rock in the firm’s Omaha office. He works in the area of intellectual property, where he handles litigation involving trademarks, copyrights, patents and trade secrets.

Adam S. Kirshenbaum, ’00, has joined the Baird Holm firm in Omaha. His practice focuses on corporate, real estate and commercial transactions, including both domestic and international merger & acquisition, securities and lending transactions. Kirshenbaum also advises private equity funds in formation and structuring issues.

Jennifer Stehlik Ladman, ’00, has been appointed Pawnee County attorney. She served two years as the deputy public defender in Platte County and then worked nine years in Seward’s county attorney’s office. She spent the last seven of those years as the chief deputy county attorney. Ladman also works at Stehlik Law Office where she handles criminal law, family law, corporate law, estate planning and some civil cases.


Michael G. Rogers, ’00, has been promoted to director and vice president of Gilmore & Bell. He heads the firm’s newly opened Omaha office. He practices in the public finance area.


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2000s

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Trent Sidders, ’00, and Jessica Sidders, ’02, welcomed Nathaniel Trent Sidders to their family on January 7, 2013, weighing in at 6 lbs., 13 oz., and 20 inches long. He joins siblings, Kaitlin & Lizzie.

Mike Flood, ’01, former speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, was the first recipient of the Nebraska Mediation Association’s Friend of Mediation Award at the association’s annual meeting in April. The Friend of Mediation Award is an annual award given by the Nebraska Mediation Association to a person who has made a major contribution to the field of mediation through dedicated leadership in the field, the furthering of the profession or establishing a greater vision for the use of mediation in Nebraska. Flood was instrumental in the writing of Nebraska’s Parenting Act and in getting it passed in the legislature. The Parenting Act highlights mediation as a way to assist parents in creating a plan that keeps the best interests of their children first and foremost. Flood also helped create a structure for sustaining the Parenting Act state-wide by providing resources that would allow access to mediation for everyone including low-income and indigent parents.

Jill L. Poole, ’01, has been named a partner in the Omaha law firm of Jackson Lewis. Poole represents management in employment-related matters.

Drew K. Theophilus, ’01, a partner with Baird Holm in Omaha, has published “Emerging Commercial Law and UCC Issues for the Next Farm and Business Credit Crisis,” 17 Drake Journal of Agricultural Law 89.

Paul G. Wess, ’01, was appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman county court judge for the 12th Judicial District. He is based in Box Butte County. Wess has served as public defender in Sheridan, Dawes and Box Butte counties and has operated a law office in Chadron for the past 10 years.

Aaron B. Johnson, ’02, has joined the Omaha office of Stinson Morrison Hacker as a partner. Johnson concentrates his practice on commercial lending, corporate finance, regulatory compliance and corporate matters.

Julie M. Karavas, ’02, has opened the Lincoln office of Inman Flynn Biesterfeld & Brentlinger, a Denver-based law firm. Her practice focuses on estate and business planning and probate.

Jamie G. Scholz, ’02, has opened the Lincoln law firm of Miner Scholz Dike. Scholz focuses her practice on workers’ compensation claims, personal injury claims and claims for Social Security disability.

Jessica Sidders, ’02, and Trent Sidders, ’00, welcomed Nathaniel Trent Sidders to their family on January 7, 2013, weighing in at 6 lbs., 13 oz., and 20 inches long. He joins siblings, Kaitlin & Lizzie.

Mandi Amy, ’03, and her husband Harley welcomed their daughter Alayna Claire on September 21, 2012. She arrived at 1:47 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. and 7 oz. and measuring 20 ¼ inches long.

Kelly R. Hoffschneider, ’03, an attorney with Mattson, Ricketts, Davies, Stewart & Calkins in Lincoln, has been appointed Seward city attorney. He has been Hickman city attorney since 2008.

Tom Kelley, ’03, was named as one of the Midlands Business Journal 40 under 40 for 2012, which honors 40 Greater Omaha, Sarpy County and Council Bluffs entrepreneurs, executives and professional men and women under 40 years of age. Kelley is the Omaha market president for Five Points Bank.
Tim Langan, ’03, has been promoted to vice president of Omaha Title & Escrow. Langan has worked at the company since 2011 as commercial manager and general counsel.

Kyle Long, ’03, and wife Natasha have welcomed a son, Declan, born November 13, 2012.

Kendra Ringenberg, ’03, has been selected as an equity partner at the law firm of Koley Jessen in Omaha. Ringenberg practices in the areas of commercial real estate sales and acquisitions, real estate development, leasing, condominium development, wind energy, oil and gas law and general corporate transactions.

Jamie Warren, ’03, was featured in the Lincoln Business Journal’s “Business Minute.” He is senior manager of Labenz & Associates, a certified public accounting firm in Lincoln.

Jeffrey “Jay” Gaertig, ’04, has joined the Beatrice law firm of Carlson, Schafer & Davis. He specializes in civil and criminal litigation. Gaertig was formerly an assistant attorney general in the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office.

Adam R. Hornung, ’04, is general counsel for Hillhouse Capital Management in Hong Kong. He resigned his seat on the Lincoln City Council to take advantage of this opportunity.

Stacy Nonhof, ’04, has been named Grand Island assistant city attorney. Nonhof was a deputy Hall County public defender from 2005-2011, when she resigned to enter private practice in Grand Island and Lexington.

Dustin G. Vaughn, ’04, has been named state director for Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) Vaughn was formerly legal counsel to the Nebraska Legislature’s Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

Kevin Corlew, ’05, has been elected to the North Kansas City School Board. Corlew is with Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City.

Tara Stingley, ’05, has been named a partner with the firm Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in Omaha. Stingley has a civil litigation practice and represents litigants in business litigation and complex commercial disputes. She also specializes in employment law.

Amber Ackerson, ’06, has been appointed to the board of directors of Orthman Manufacturing, which is headquartered in Lexington, as director of human capital and corporate secretary.

Sophia M. Alvarez, ’06, has joined the Lincoln office of Legal Aid of Nebraska. Her areas of practice include bankruptcy, Social Security and public benefits and family and juvenile law.

Jason Caskey, ’06, has joined Kutak Rock in Omaha as a member of the firm’s corporate department and intellectual property and information technology group. His practice focuses primarily on intellectual property protection, technology law and commercial transactions.

Jennifer Deitloff, ’06, was also named as one of the Midlands Business Journal 40 under 40 for 2012, which honors 40 Greater Omaha, Sarpy County and Council Bluffs entrepreneurs, ex-
executives and professional men and women under 40 years of age. Deitloff manages the investigation and legal work tied to ConAgra Foods internal ethics complaint hotline, enterprise wide. She also acts as the labor and employment lead for its consumer supply chain organization. Deitloff is also the lead attorney for all immigration-related and OSHA compliance-related issues that arise in mergers and acquisitions. She also plays a significant role in labor relations cases, managing arbitrations and counseling on union organizing, as well as overseeing many strategic initiatives on behalf of ConAgra, including its diversity and inclusion efforts.

Tracy Dixon, ’06, has been named partner at Kutak Rock in Omaha. Dixon represents insurance carriers and large companies with respect to claim valuation, coverage analysis, contractual indemnity and risk analysis. She has particular experience with product liability, professional liability, supply chain and additional insurance matters, and in the administration and resolution of multiple-claim coverage and indemnity matters.

Keith T. Peters, ’06, has been named partner with the Lincoln law firm of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather. Peters’ practice includes employee benefits and executive compensation. He counsels clients on qualified and non-qualified plans and welfare benefits arrangements.

Jeremy Reichenberg, ’06, has been named chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Nevada State Bar Association. Reichenberg is the senior deputy district attorney for the Lyon County District Attorney’s Office.

Lee Timan, ’06, has been named an associate in the Clark Law Office in Beatrice. For the prior five years he worked in Kansas.

Angel Velitchkov, ’06, has joined the Lincoln office of Principal Financial Group as a financial representative.

Joel Wiegert, ’06, has been named a partner in Kutak Rock’s Omaha office. Wiegert represents commercial lenders in a variety of transactions involving credit facilities, structured finance, real estate and other forms of collateral security.

Luke Alexander, ’07, has been promoted to senior vice president of wealth management by JFC Financial Services. Alexander has worked as a financial adviser since 2009. He has earned the certified financial planner (CFP) designation and holds multiple securities industry registrations and life, health, long term care, variable life and variable annuity insurance licenses.

Lindsey Buchheit, ’07, is an attorney with Goosmann Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa. Her practice includes, but is not limited to, estate planning and probate law, family law, business, litigation, commercial law and debtor creditor work.

Chad Chase, ’07, vice president and trust officer of The Trust Company, located in Manhattan, Kansas, graduated from the American Bankers Association Graduate Trust School in Atlanta, Ga.

Heidi Hayes, ’07, has been awarded the 2012 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. Hayes is an attorney at the firm of Morrow, Poppe, Watermeier & Lonowski in Lincoln. Hayes practices in the areas of estate planning, small business organization, personal injury, elder law, civil litigation, family law and criminal
defense. She serves low income clients by accepting court appointments for criminal and guardianship cases.

Ramzi Hynek, ’07, has become a partner with the Lincoln firm of Rembolt Ludtke. Her practice is concentrated in the areas of estate planning and probate.

W. Jesse Weins, ’07, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Dakota Wesleyan University located in Mitchell, S.D., has been promoted to dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service. He has also been appointed to the editorial board of Contemporary Justice Review, the research journal of the Justice Studies Association. The journal focuses on restorative justice issues. Weins presented “Religious Liberty and Sex Discrimination in Health Care Benefits” at the annual Justice Studies Association conference at Loyola University in Chicago. His article, “Victim’s Self-Defense,” has been published in The Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

Joseph M. Aldridge, ’08, has joined the Boise, Idaho, law firm of Duke Scanlan Hall. Aldridge has experience in medical and professional malpractice defense, insurance defense, personal injury litigation and product liability litigation.

Jason A. Cantone, ’08, has been named an editorial board member at PsycCRITIQUES. PsycCRITIQUES is a full-text database with tens of thousands of book and film reviews from 1956 to present. It provides users with insight on publications from a psychological perspective. Cantone, who received his Ph.D. in UNL’s Law/Psychology Program in 2011, is a research associate at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.

Joshua A. Diveley, ’08, has been named a member of the Omaha law firm Parsonage Vandenack Williams. He practices in the areas of trust and estates, ERISA, employee benefits, general business, intellectual property and tax dispute resolution.

Timothy P. Matas, ’08, and Tracy Ann Larson were married on October 13, 2012, at Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus. Matas is currently serving as the Platte County public defender in Columbus.

Heath A. Stewart, ’08, married Brittny Ann Barber on August 11, 2012, at United Centennary Methodist Church in Beatrice. Stewart is an attorney with the law firm of Denney & Chilen in Fairbury. The couple resides in Beatrice.

Katherine S. Vogel, ’08, has joined Brooks, Pansing Brooks in Lincoln as an associate attorney practicing in the areas of telecommunications and technology, administrative law, corporate and business transactions, estate planning and probate, contracts and real estate.

Anneliese Wright, ’08, married Andrew Czarnick on May 18, 2013, at the Immaculate Conception Church of Omaha. Wright is claims counsel with Fidelity National title.

Blake Loper, ’09, has been hired by Kutak Rock in Omaha in the intellectual property and information technology working group. His areas of concentration include technology, e-commerce, privacy and trademark licensing.

Jacob Schaffer, ’09, has been promoted to vice president of trust services, trust officer and trust and estates lead team at Fremont National Bank and Trust Co. He joined the bank in July 2012.
David Arnold, ’10, was named as one of the Midlands Business Journal 40 under 40 for 2012, which honors 40 Greater Omaha, Sarpy County and Council Bluffs entrepreneurs, executives and professional men and women under 40 years of age. Arnold is head of the account management division at MindMixer in Omaha. He works to build customized online engagement tools based on the client’s needs, from the initial orientation to launching the site and training clients on how to maximize the site. Arnold is also a board member for both the Greater Omaha Young Professionals and the Metcalfe Harrison Neighborhood.

Tyler Bartruff, ’10, has joined the tax department of Lutz & Co. in Omaha as a staff accountant.

Benjamin D. Goethel, ’10, has been named trust administrator for Fremont National Bank Company.

Michael J. Koberlein, ’10, has joined Berry Law Firms’ veterans disability benefits practice in Lincoln.

Matt Schaefer, ’10, has received one of the Four Under Forty Awards from the Lincoln Young Professionals Group. The award recognizes four people for their leadership, professional involvement and selfless service to the community. Schaefer also has been elected to the board of directors of Humanities Nebraska. He is associated with Mueller Robak, a Lincoln lobbying and government relations firm.

Kara Ronnau, ’11, and husband Nathan welcomed their daughter Emily on September 20, 2012. She was born at 7:22 a.m. and weighed 5 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. She joins big brother Dylan, who was born on June 14, 2010.

David C. Solheim, ’11, has been named county attorney for Hancock County in Iowa. Previously, he was a deputy county attorney for Washington County, Nebraska.

Ashley Spahn, ’11, has opened a law office in downtown Benkelman.

George Welch, ’11, and Chelsey Kucera were married on September 8, 2012 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Hastings. Welch is a Nebraska assistant attorney general.

Charles E. Wilbrand, ’11, has joined Knudsen Law Firm in Lincoln as an associate attorney.

Breanna Anderson, ’12, has been appointed as a deputy attorney in Platte County in Columbus.

Nathan D. Anderson, ’12, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Wolfe, Snowden, Hurd, Luers & Ahl as an associate.
J. David Beasley, '12, has been hired by the law firm McGrath North as an associate attorney. His practice concentrates mostly in tax and estate planning.

Joshua P. Berns, '12, has joined the accounting firm of McDermott & Miller, as a senior accountant in its Hastings office.

Andrew Biehl, '12, has been hired as an associate attorney with the Omaha firm of Walentine O'Toole McQuillan & Gordon. He has worked in numerous areas of the banking industry, including business development, commercial lending/credit, consumer banking, loan workout, corporate governance, vendor management and technology.

Zachary L. Blackman, '12, has joined the Lincoln firm of McHenry Haszard Roth Hupp Burkholder & Blomenberg as associate attorney. His practice is concentrated in the areas of family law, criminal law, estate planning and other civil matters.

Amanda Civic, '12, has opened Civic Law Firm in Lincoln. The firm specializes in immigration law.

Morgan Farquhar, '12, has joined the Eisenhart Law Office in Cambridge.

Lee E. Greenwald, '12, has joined the Kearney law firm of Greenwall Bruner Frank as an associate attorney.

Timothy G. Hruza, '12, has joined the Grand Island firm of Leininger, Smith, Johnson, Baack, Placzek & Allen as an associate attorney.

Audrey A. Johnson, '12, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Kinsey, Rowe, Becker & Kistler as an associate. She practices in the areas of estate planning and probate, family law and business law.

Karen Keeler, '12, has been named an associate attorney with the Omaha law firm of Erickson Sederstrom. Her practice areas include general and commercial litigation, insurance defense and workers’ compensation matters.

Emily Z. McElravy, '12, has joined the Omaha law firm of Baird Holm as an associate attorney in the firm’s corporate section. Her practice focuses on a variety of corporate and school matters including contracts, personnel matters, government regulations, public bidding and public contracting.

Michael McHale, '12, is a legislative aide for Senator John Nelson, a Nebraska senator who represents District 6.

Ben Murray, '12, has joined the law firm of Germer Murray & Johnson in Hebron.

Scott D. Pauley, '12, has joined the Hastings law firm of Conway, Pauley & Johnson. Pauley practices primarily in the areas of family law, personal injury, workers’ compensation, civil litigation, insurance law and contracts.

Vanessa Silke, '12, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke as an associate.
Danielle Smith, '12, has joined Nebraska Bank of Commerce as its compliance and human resources manager. Smith’s previous experience includes internal compliance work for a community bank in Iowa.

Travis Tettenborn, '12, has joined the firm of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in Omaha. Tettenborn’s area of concentration is in the area of general civil litigation.

Elissa Thompson, '12, joined the Ankeny, Iowa, office of Whitfield & Eddy as an associate. She represents corporate clients in forming business entities, maintaining corporate formalities, and real estate development, sales and acquisitions. Her practice also includes assisting individuals and families in real estate transactions, estate planning matters and probate, including guardianships and conservatorships.

Brandi Yosten, '12, has joined Jarecki Law in Albion as an associate. Her areas of specialization include family law and alternative dispute resolution.

Be sure to let the Alumni Relations Office know of your accomplishments, life changes, and new opportunities. Alum Notes may be submitted by visiting the website http://law.unl.edu/alumni/transcript_note.shtml or emailing molly.brummond@unl.edu.
1940s

Vance Elmore Leininger, ’48, passed away December 13, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mo. He was 96 years old. He was a member of the law firm of Walter & Albert in Columbus, where his 40-year practice consisted of wills, estates, business contracts, real estate and public power litigation. In the 1970s, Leininger was under consideration as a candidate for justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, but he decided to continue as senior partner of the law firm. Before attending the College of Law, Vance was music director of the Stanton, Iowa, public schools, during which time he also studied for a master of fine arts at the Northwestern University School of Music in Evanston, Ill. Leininger subsequently moved to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he taught high school Latin and English as well as music. From 1942 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Navy as a chief petty officer, teaching radio electronics for the Radio Materiel School at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Kenneth Hamilton Elson, ’49, died November 3, 2012, in Grand Island at the age of 90. He practiced with the Luebs law firm from 1949-1965 and continued to practice law in Grand Island until his retirement in 2004. During his career, he tried hundreds of jury cases, argued 56 cases in the Nebraska Supreme Court and others in the U.S. Court of Appeals. He served as president of the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys. Elson served in the military as a general aide in the 86th Infantry Division while in combat in Europe, 1944-45. He then served as a captain in the Philippine mop-up operations in the Pacific Theater in 1946.

Claude E. “Bud” Trimble, ’49, passed away on November 5, 2011, in Norfolk. He was 88 years old. In 1954, he became owner and manager of Crocker Claims Services in Norfolk. He continued to operate the business until his retirement in 1993. He also served as the Norfolk municipal court judge from 1967 to 1972. He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1947 in the Pacific Theater in New Guinea and the Philippines.

1950s

William D. Blue, ’52, died on January 14, 2013, at the age of 86. He was a retired Lancaster County judge, former chief deputy county attorney and a veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was also an elder and a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln.

James H. Kinsella, ’52, died on October 8, 2012, at his home in Hartford, Conn., at the age of 88. During World War II, Kinsella was in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served as mayor of Hartford from 1957 to 1960. Prior to that, he served on the city council and as deputy city mayor. In 1960, he was elected Hartford’s probate judge. He retired from that position in 1984 and remained an active attorney until shortly before his death.

Jack A. Solomon, ’52, died on August 18, 2012, in Las Vegas. He was 83 years old. Solomon, who also earned a masters of law degree at the University of Michigan School of Law, began his legal career in Chicago and went on to become a senior managing partner of a firm specializing in art and entertainment law, where his high-profile clients included Gloria Swanson, George Raft and Margaret O’Brien. He spent more than five decades producing, publishing and selling fine art prints. His S2 Art Group became a fixture in Las Vegas’ downtown Arts District. Before founding the S2 Art Group and Jack Gallery, Solomon and his wife operated Circle Fine Art Corp., a national network of 38 galleries that specialized in limited-edition fine art graphics.

Paul L. Douglas, ’53, passed away on November 5, 2012, at the age of 85. Douglas was Lancaster County attorney from 1960 to 1974 and Nebraska attorney general from 1975 to 1984. He had a private practice in Lincoln at the time of his death. He served as president of the Lincoln Bar Association, president of the Nebraska County Attorneys Association and chairman of the Nebraska Crime Commission. He also served on National Task Force on Crimes against...
Big Business and on the National Task Force on Private Security. He joined the U.S. Marines during World War II and served two years in the Pacific and China and was called back for the Korean War.

William H. Grant, ’54, died March 16, 2013, in Lincoln. He was 82 years old. After fulfilling his commission as a lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, he practiced law in Columbus.

Warren “Duke” Lichty, Jr., ’54, of Lincoln, died May 23, 2012, at the age of 81. During his career, Lichty served as a county judge of Dawes County, assistant attorney general for the Nebraska Department of Justice and chief counsel for the Nebraska Department of Roads. He also taught law at Chadron State College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1958.

Jerry C. Stirtz, ’57, passed away in Kearney on March 16, 2013, at the age of 79. After graduating from the Law College, Stirtz joined the U.S. Army. He would go on to serve 20 years in the Army Reserves. In 1963, he moved to Minden, practicing at the Martin, Stirtz & Martin law firm until his death. He served as Kearney County attorney for eight years, as well as Minden city attorney and Axtell and Wilcox village attorney.

1960s

Lawrence E. Murphy, ’60, passed away on September 21, 2012, in Lincoln. He was 80 years old. He practiced law in Lincoln and was a U.S. Army Veteran.

Larry W. Myers, ’64, died on March 29, 2013, at his home in Omaha. He was 72 years old. Myers devoted most of his career to the management of Rockbrook Village and Countryside Village shopping centers, which were founded by his parents. He also practiced business and real estate law. He was one of the original members of the Nebraska Board of Parole when it was created in 1969. An opponent of capital punishment, he earned the 1996 Sorensen Award from Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty for organizing an effort to try to stop a 1994 execution. He assisted 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rogers with the writing of his book, An Era of Greatness.

Jerry C. Nelson, ’65, died on February 22, 2013, at age 78. Nelson joined the Navy at the age of 17, serving during the Korean War. After his service, he returned to Nebraska and worked as a radio operator for the Nebraska Highway Patrol while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was an assistant city attorney in Lincoln and later city prosecutor. He served as a deputy district attorney and later chief deputy D.A. in Colorado Springs. He was appointed El Paso county court judge in Colorado Springs in 1978 and retired in 1996.

1970s

Roger Geddes Stanway, ’68, died on June 21, 2012, in Hollywood, Fla. He was 70 years old. He practiced law in Nebraska until moving to Hollywood in 1973, where he specialized in family and civil trial law. Stanway was the recipient of the 2004 Peggy Kilby Award for his work, in connection with the Florida Lawyers Assistance Program, with those trying to overcome impairments due to depression, stress, alcoholism and chemical dependency.

Dale W. Havekost, ’69, died April 6, 2013, at his home in Fort Collins, Colo., at the age of 72. Havekost was a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During his 25-year career with the FBI, he served in the Houston, San Francisco and Denver divisions. For most of his career, he specialized in counter-intelligence.

Bradley W. Burden, ’75, passed away on March 27, 2013, in O’Neill after struggling for years with emphysema. He was 62 years old. After working for years with his family’s business in Lincoln, Burden moved to Orchard, where he enjoyed raising cattle, horses and exotic parrots.

Harold Dean “Bud” Robertson, ’74, died on September 28, 2012, at his home in Lecanto, Fla. He was 83 years old. He practiced law in Lincoln as a private and corporate attorney. Robertson served as the chairman of the board of the Lincoln Electric System for three terms.

Thomas F. Simpson, Jr., ’74, passed away on September 18, 2012, at the age of 63. During his career, he worked at Empire Indemnity Insurance Co. and Chimney Rock Systems. He was a major in the United States Air Force.
1980s

Frank H. Hoppe, ’80, of Columbus, died on April 28, 2013, in Lincoln after a three month fight with cancer. He was 70 years old. Hoppe spent four years in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the national Trapshooting Hall of Fame, who made his living carving decorative waterfowl decoys, guiding Platte River duck hunters and teaching shooting clinics. He was a columnist for the Lincoln Star and Trap and Field Magazine. Hoppe was a 28-time All-American trapshooter, winning 45 Grand American titles including the coveted World Clay Championship in 2002. He was named to the Nebraska All-State team 31 times and won more than 50 state titles. He earned recognition in the Guinness Book of World Records for hitting 1,000 clay targets in a row.

Karen Montee-Charest, ’82, of Bellevue, passed away on December 26, 2012, at the age of 55.

Michael Wayne Manske, ’87, Col. U.S. Marine Corps, retired, died unexpectedly Nov. 26, 2012, of a heart attack at his home. He was 54 years old. Manske practiced law in Nebraska and Iowa. For the past 18 years, he was associate professor of criminal justice and legal studies at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan. He was ethics administrator for the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities. He also served on the Westwood City Council. Manske entered the Marine Corps at the age of 17 and became a 32-year veteran (both active and reserve), receiving many medals, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was activated in 1991 for Desert Storm and continued with two deployments to Iraq 2003 and 2005.

Jerre W. Moreland, ’89, passed away on October 7, 2012, at the age of 57. A Cherokee Indian, Moreland completed his doctoral studies in 1994 in Applied Social Psychology with an emphasis in American Indian Psychology Law. He served as staff attorney and legal counsel for the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, as public defender for the Omaha Tribal Court, as general counsel for the Omaha Tribal Council and as chief judge of the Omaha Tribal Court, as well as having a private practice.

1990s

Georgiana F. Ruzicka, ’93, died on January 13, 2013, in Wahoo. She was 61 years old. She had a private law practice in Wahoo. Before attending the Law College, she worked for Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph for 16 years.

Wilma Thomas passed away on May 2, 2013, in Hastings. She was 95 years old. Thomas was a staff member at the College of Law Library from 1970 to 1981.
Alumni Giving: Time Impacts Student Learning, Opportunity

By Molly Brummond, ’03, Director of Communications & Alumni Relations

Each fall, The Nebraska Transcript recognizes alumni and friends who have made financial gifts to the College of Law during the previous fiscal year. Those financial gifts make an incredible impact at the College — on the education we are able to provide and on the students who are able to receive that education as a result.

Nebraska Law is fortunate, though, to have alumni and friends who are not only generous with their financial resources but generous with their time as well. Each year, our students benefit from those alumni and friends who come back to the College as guest lecturers, panelists, competition judges and coaches, and Alumni Council and Young Alumni Council members. Without this type of volunteerism, the Law College student experience would certainly not be the same and some of the learning opportunities we are able to provide our students outside of the classroom would likely not exist.

So, it is long past time that we take a moment to recognize the amazing volunteerism that happens at Nebraska Law. Beginning with this issue, alumni and friends who donated their time to the College during the prior calendar year will be recognized in the spring edition of The Nebraska Transcript. This compilation is our best attempt at capturing the volunteerism that occurred at the College in 2012. If you were accidentally omitted from this list, please know it was an oversight and accept our sincerest apologies.

Thank you to all of our alumni and friends for giving us your time and energy! It makes a big impact and is very appreciated.
We are grateful for the more than 1,100 hours that these individuals gave the College between January 1 and December 31, 2012.

Alumni Volunteering

1940s
Dale Tintsman, ’47

1950s
Duane Acklie, ’55
Jim Hewitt, ’56
Deryl Hamann, ’58
Claire Johnson, ’58

1960s
Benjamin Neff, ’62
Judge Jeffre Cheuvront, ’64
Richard Schmoker, ’64
A. James McArthur, ’66
Earl Scudder, ’66
Alan Peterson, ’67
Robert Hill, ’68
Bob Korba, ’68
Kermit Brashear, ’69
John Wright, ’70
Rod Confer, ’71
Douglas C. Nelson, ’71
Richard Tegtmeier, ’71
Jeffrey Curtiss, ’72
John Guthery, ’72
Dave Landis, ’72
Roger Miller, ’72
Judge William Jay Riley, ’72
Judge Richard D. Sievers, ’72
Bill Austin, ’73
Dennis Burnett, ’73
Judge Kenneth C. Stephan, ’73
Ed Tricker, ’73
David Buntain, ’74
Dennis Carlson, ’74
William Dittrick, ’74
Kelley Baker, ’75
Terry Barber, ’75
Sharon Lindgren, ’75

1970s
Brian Ridnour, ’75
Neal Stenberg, ’75
Patricia Winter, ’75
Bob Barte, ’76
A. Eugene Crump, ’76
June Edwards, ’76
Judge Teresa Luther, ’76
Deborah Gilg, ’77
Patricia Humlick-Herstein, ’77
Clarence Mock III, ’77
James Smith, ’77
Judge Laurie Smith Camp, ’77
Lynn Hendrix, ’78
Barbara Schaefer, ’78
Ron Sedlacek, ’78
Anna Stehlik, ’78
Terry Wittler, ’78
Judge William Cassel, ’79
Vince Powers, ’79
Debora Brownyard, ’80

1980s
Dale Dahlin, ’80
Don Swanson, ’80
Kathryn Bellman, ’81
Robert Hallstrom, ’81
Joe Kelly, ’81
Ann O’Hara, ’81
Kathryn Olson, ’81
Judge Rob Otte, ’81
Rex Schutte, ’81
Susan Ugai, ’81
Peter Wegman, ’81
Jim Young, ’81
Terese Hampton, ’82
Dick Huebner, ’82
David Hubbard, ’82
Bradley Roth, ’82
Chris Dibbner, ’83
Tom Keefe, ’83
Kimberly Klein, ’83
Jeanelle Kleveland, ’83
Marcia McClurg, ’84
Greg Perry, ’84
Rick Wade, ’84
Steven Maun, ’85
Mick Mickle, ’85
Bill Ojile, ’85
Kim Robak, ’85
Joy Shiffermiller, ’85
Mary Wenzl, ’85
Steve Henning, ’89
Robert Kortus, ’89
Sally Rasmussen, ’89

1990s
Tammy Barry, ’90
Jean Angell, ’91
Tina Loseke, ’91
Judge Stephanie Stacy, ’91
Riko Bishop, ’92
Mark Fahleson, ’92
Eleanor “Sam” Hohman, ’92
Steve Mossman, ’92
Kathleen Neary, ’92
Mark Spiers, ’92
Laurie Meyers, ’93
Dan Alberts, ’94
Michael Hansen, ’94
Laura Lowe, ’94
Carlos Monzon, ’94
Bradley Philson, ’94
Teresa Richards, ’95
Jayne Sebby, ’95
Gary Young, ’95
Reginald Young, ’95
Jon Cannon, ’96
Carl Eskridge, ’96
Darren Huskisson, ’96

2000s
Damon Barry, ’00
Sheri Burkholder, ’00
Mark Rappl, ’00
Gina Schneider, ’00
Ed Vierk, ’00
Jonathan Braaten, ’01
Justin Cook, ’01
Becky Gould, ’01
Adam Hornung, ’01
Megan D. Nelles, ’01
Trent Steele, ’01
Karey Vering Skiermont, ’01
Amy Vyhlidal, ’01
Mark Bestul, ’02
Glen Parks, ’02
Michelle Paxton, ’02
Stephanie Taylor, ’02
Wayne Bena, ’03
Nichole Bogen, ’03
Matthew Graff, ’03
John Jorgensen, ’03
Kendra Ringenberg, ’03
Scot Ringenberg, ’03
Angela Williams, ’03
David Bargen, ’04
Amy Miller, ’96
Steven Williams, ’96
Duane Austria, ’97
Eric Brown, ’97
Fred Campbell, ’97
Jeff Kirkpatrick, ’97
Jeff Lapin, ’97
Andy Massey, ’97
Jeanette Stull, ’97
Renee Fry, ’98
Shannon Doering, ’99
Rich Hitz, ’99
Matthew Kosmicki, ’99
Marc Pearce, ’99
Julie Rogers, ’99
CORRECTION: Each fall, The NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT features an Annual Giving Report. In the Fall 2012 edition, the following individuals were inadvertently left off the report for the gifts they made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. We deeply appreciate the gifts made by these generous donors and apologize for these inadvertent omissions.

Mrs. Gail Wishnow – Class of 1957
Mr. Frederick J. Otto – Class of 1973

Non-Alumni Volunteering

Dan Acker
Brad Ashford
Christina Ball
Miranda Barth
Lorrie Benson
Kay Bergquist
Angela Briganti
James Brown
Mary Bruning
Peggy Carson
Dave Cookson
Nedeeka Dawes
Sandi Ellenwood
Liz Elliott
Gretchen Eure
Robert Evnen
Barb Frank
Rachel Frank
Sara Friedman
Judge John M. Gerrard
Dan Guinan
Mary Kay Hansen
Patt Harper
Jim Harvey
Michael Hilgers
Kara Hunt
Blake Johnson
Jeanne Kern
Sylvia Kessler
Larry Kohmetzcher
Rhonda Lahm
James Lange
Gregory Lawson
John Lefler
Kelli Lieurance
Joselyn Luedtke
Tina Marroquin
Judge Michael McCormack
Amanda McGill
Alison Nickolaus
Neal Nicolaus
James O’Hanlon
David Pantos
Linda Peck
Erin Pemberton
JoEllen Polzien
Jeff Powell
Madeline Roebke
David Rowe
Sue Schreiber
Mark Scudder
Patrick Stayer
David Stickman
Judge Lyle E. Strom
Rick Vest
Greg Weinert
Mary Werner
Alex Wolf
Mary Wolf
Lea Wroblewski
Katie Zulkoski

Our Alumni

Stan Beeder, '04
Natalie Hazen, '04
Jerrod Jaeger, '04
Cyndi Lamm, '04
Kelly Orlando, '04
Jon Rehm, '04
Katie Spohn, '04
Bren Chambers, '05
Dave Chipman, '05
Stacey Conroy, '05
Natalie Mackiel, '05
Stephanie Mattoon Hankins, '05
Sarah Newell, '05
Tara Stingley, '05
Daniel Dawes, '06
Tracy Dixon '06
Chris Hilkemann, '06
Sean Murray, '06
Elise White, '06
Jordan Adam, '07
Heidi Hayes,'07
Mindy Rush Chipman, '07
Matt McGill, '07
Ben Siminou, '07
Erin Ebeler, '08
Brittani Lewit, '08
Marna Munn, '08
Josh Norton, '08
Keisha Patent, '08
Marcus Powers, '08
Noha Sidhom, '08
Brad Sipp, '08
Amanda Spracklen, '08
Laura Antonuccio, '09
Yohance Christie, '09
Nicholas Freeman, '09
Thomas McCarty, '09
Mari Thietje, '09
Christopher Turner, '09
2010s
Amy Bartles, '10
Adam Bates, '10
Cameron Guenzel, '10
Tara Tesmer Paulson, '10
Coady Pruett, '10
Laura Arp, '11
Beth Evans, '11
Jonathan Gardner, '11
Melanie Kirk, '11
James Lange, '11
Robert McEwen, '11
Meg Mikolajczyk, '11
Kara Ronnau, '11
Bobby Truhe, '11
Corey Wasserburger, '11
Omaid Zabih, '11
Nathan Anderson, '12
Jessica Beukleman, '12
Zach Blackman, '12
Kristen Koch, '12
Joel Gussman, '12
Emily McElravy, '12
Adam Morfeld, '12
Robbie Seybert, '12
Elissa Thompson, '12
Class of 1982 Marks Reunion with Scholarship Drive

As part of its 30-year reunion activities, the Class of 1982 raised over $25,000 in scholarship funds to benefit future law students. Spurred on by the promise of a $10,000 matching gift from a member of the class, the class reached the $10,000 needed for the matching gift and then kept raising money to reach the $25,000 threshold amount needed to endow the scholarship. The Class of 1982 Scholarship Fund will soon be endowed and scholarships will be awarded beginning in 2014.

The Law College is grateful to the Class of 1982 for this incredible generosity; to Glenda Pierce for her work in spearheading the effort; and, especially to Sam Moyer of Aurora, Neb., for providing the matching gift to inspire his classmates to give back.

If you would like to contribute to the Class of 1982 Scholarship this year or in the future, contributions can be sent to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Please indicate that your donation is for the Class of 1982 Scholarship.
Alumni Gather to Celebrate Reunions
Calendar of Events

August 2013:
- August 9, 2013  
  Kansas City Interview Day
- August 16, 2013  
  Commencement & Hooding Ceremony
- August 22-23, 2013  
  New Student Orientation
- August 26, 2013  
  First Day of Fall Semester Classes

September 2013:
- September 4, 2013  
  On-Campus Interview Period Begins
- September 13-14, 2013  
  Alumni Reunion Weekend
- September 13, 2013  
  Alumni Council meeting
- September 13, 2013  
  Young Alumni Council meeting

October 2013:
- October 3, 2013  
  Alumni Lunch at NSBA Annual Meeting
- October 10, 2013  
  Greater Nebraska Alumni Reception

November 2013:
- November 13-15, 2013  
  Alumni Masters Week
- November 22, 2013  
  On-Campus Interview Period Ends

December 2013:
- December 5, 2013  
  Lincoln Alumni Holiday Reception
- December 20, 2013  
  Commencement & Hooding Ceremony
2013 Alumni Reunion
September 13-14, 2013

Friday, September 13
Tours of the Facility
2:00 p.m.
Free Ethics CLE with Prof. Rick Dooling
3:00 p.m.
Cocktail Reception
4:15 p.m.
Honor Class Events
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 14
Huskers v. UCLA Bruins
11:00 a.m.

http://law.unl.edu/alumni/reunion.shtml

The College of Law has a limited number of tickets available for purchase. If you would like to submit your name for a lottery drawing of up to 2 tickets, please email Lori Petersen.

The University of Nebraska College of Law publishes the TRANSCRIPT semi-annually: in April and November. We welcome readers’ comments. Contact us by phone at 402-472-8375 or by email at molly.brummond@unl.edu.
Is there a new legacy in your family? Let us know!

We’d love to celebrate the birth of your child, grandchild, niece or nephew by sending your little one something to help them demonstrate their Nebraska Law pride.

Email molly.brummond@unl.edu

Declan Long, son of Kyle, ’03, and Natasha Long.