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College launches Law + Business Initiative

Also in this issue:
- Five faculty granted tenure
- Conrad, '03, builds family business
- Student clinics serve various needs

Alumni success in business inspires Law + Business Initiative
Program aims to prepare graduates with ability to better serve business clients or explore business careers that benefit from legal backgrounds.

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We did not intend to have a theme for this edition of the *Transcript*, but as I reviewed it one jumped out at me: change. I started the 2017-18 academic year by asking our faculty to read the introductory chapter to Thomas Friedman’s new book, *Thank You for Being Late*, in which he describes the incredible pace of change during the last ten years. Technology that influences much of our lives today did not even exist or was in its infancy only a decade ago, such as smart phones, Facebook, Twitter and Alexa. To illustrate this point, I often mention that in 2006 there were zero iPhones and 4,000 Blockbuster stores. We live in a different world, and the pace is not going to slow down.

The College of Law has reflected this broader trend. Many of the professors you remember fondly have retired, such as Professors Roger Kirst, Craig Lawson, Bill Lyons and Bob Works. Fortunately, we have been able to hire wonderful new professors who are carrying on their tradition of teaching excellence while also forging their own path. In this edition, you will read about five such professors who recently were granted tenure and promoted based on their outstanding records at the law school. Jack Beard, Jessica Shoemaker, Adam Thimmesch, Gus Hurwitz and Brett Stohs are all fantastic classroom teachers who have forged national reputations based on their scholarship. I encourage you to read more about this next generation of law professors that are making their mark and helping the College stay relevant in today’s world.

Our curriculum and the way we can impact the broader community is changing as well. We have always talked about the ability of a legal education to prepare students for many different careers. Indeed, many of our graduates have gone on to successful careers in, for example, the business world as CEOs and entrepreneurs. We are now changing to embrace this trend more fully by providing brand new courses from scratch for this effort. We believe these courses will better prepare business students because of the importance for corporate leaders to understand what it means to operate in a regulated world. We also think it may inspire students to think about continuing their education in law by pursuing a J.D. Of course, once they experience the education these professors can provide, I am highly confident they will want to do that at Nebraska Law!

Hiring and promoting new professors. Focusing on how law can develop business leaders. Teaching undergraduate courses. These are just a few of the changes happening at the College of Law as we continue to evolve to meet new challenges while remaining focused on our fundamental values of excellent teaching, impactful scholarship and student development.

I hope one thing does not change: the support we receive from our alumni. Your ideas, commitment and donations propel the College of Law forward and help us continuously improve to meet current challenges. Thank you for all you do for Nebraska Law.

Richard Moberly

Dean and Richard C. & Catherine Schmoker Professor of Law
Jack M. Beard
Associate Professor of Law

Eric Berger
Associate Dean for Faculty and Professor of Law
Professor Eric Berger has recently published two articles. His piece, "Of Law and Legacies," 65 Drake Law Review 949, was an invited symposium contribution to the Drake Law Review’s annual Constitutional Law Symposium. The topic of this symposium was President Obama's Constitutional Legacy. Berger also published, "When Facts Don’t Matter," 2017 BYU Law Review 525. The article examines the Supreme Court’s recent penchant for ignoring important facts in high-profile constitutional cases. He presented his scholarship at the Wisconsin Discussion Group on Constitutionalism at the University of Wisconsin Law School and at the Eighth Annual Loyola Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Berger also led free-speech training sessions for deans, department chairs and other UNL campus leaders. The purpose of these sessions was to familiarize campus leaders with First Amendment law, especially as it applies to public universities. He also delivered a CLE about originalism to Nebraska judges.

Kristen M. Blankley
Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Robert J. Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics
Professor Kristen Blankley has co-authored a casebook to be published by Carolina Academic Press. The book, entitled Arbitration: Law, Policy, and Practice, is co-authored with Maureen Weston (Pepperdine), Jill Gross (Pace) and Stephen Huber (Houston). It walks through the legal and practical applications of arbitration from a case’s beginning to its end. Blankley also presented a paper on the validity of federal agency regulations dealing with arbitration at the University of Mississippi Law School. In addition, she received the 2018 Outstanding Member Award at the Nebraska Mediation Association’s annual meeting.

C. Steven Bradford
Henry M. Grether, Jr. Professor of Law

Robert C. Denicola
Margaret R. Larson Professor of Intellectual Property Law
Professor Rob Denicola’s article, “Imagining Things: Copyright for Useful Articles after Star Athletica v. Varsity Brands,” will be published in the University of Pittsburgh Law Review.
Richard F. Duncan  
Sherman S. Welpton, Jr.  
Professor of Law and  
Warren R. Wise Professor of Law
Professor Rick Duncan took his Con Law Magical Mystery Tour on the road to Cornell Law School, where he spoke on “Electoral Votes and Federalism,” and Brooklyn Law School, where he spoke on compelled speech and wedding cake artistry (about the Masterpiece Cakeshop case recently decided by SCOTUS). He also spoke on various constitutional law topics at Stetson, Florida, Savannah, Villanova, and North Dakota law schools.

Martin R. Gardner  
Steinhart Foundation Professor of Law

Richard A. Leiter  
Director of Schmid Law Library and Professor of Law
Professor Rich Leiter made two presentations at the Nebraska Library Association Annual Meeting in Kearney, Nebraska: “Getting Real Law: Navigating the Internet for Reliable Sources of Law and Legal Materials,” and “Taking the Fright Out of Copyright.” He also published an online interim update, which included three new chapters, to National Survey of State Laws, 7th edition.

Justin (Gus) Hurwitz  
Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director of Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law Program
Professor Gus Hurwitz was awarded tenure by the University. His articles on government regulation of encryption technologies and the role of cyberinsurance in improving the cybersecurity ecosystem have been published at “Encryption Congress Mod (Apple + Calea),” 30 Harvard Journal of Law & Technology 335 and “Cyberrnsuring Security,” 49 Connecticut Law Review 1495. His latest article on First Amendment challenges to government regulation of robocalls and private speech in the age of smartphones is forthcoming in the Brooklyn Law Review. His co-authored textbook on Cybersecurity: An Interdisciplinary Problem is under contract with West Publishing. Hurwitz has continued to serve on the AALS section of Computer and Internet Law and on the Program Committee for the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, and he has presented work at Denver University, New York Law School, George Mason University, the University of Arizona, the University of Pennsylvania and to several groups at or affiliated with the University of Nebraska. He also organized a roundtable at the Law College that convened 40 regional and national stakeholders to discuss the challenges of closing the digital divide in rural states.

John P. Lenich  
Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law
Thomson Reuters published the 2018 edition of Professor John Lenich’s book, Nebraska Civil Procedure. The book has nearly 1200 pages of text and provides an in-depth analysis of the procedural rules that govern jurisdiction, venue, parties, pleading, joinder, service, motions to dismiss, interlocutory remedies and discovery in civil actions filed in Nebraska state court. It also discusses an assortment of other topics such as statutes of limitations and sanctions. Lenich made two presentations at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Nebraska State Bar Association. The first was made to the Appellate Practice Section and was entitled, “Is the Collateral Order Doctrine Really Dead?” The second was part of the Legislative Update Program and focused on the 2017 revision of the Nebraska subpoena statutes.
Brian D. Lepard
Harold W. Conroy
Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the LL.M. in Global Legal Practice Program

Colleen E. Medill
Robert and Joanne Berkshire Family Professor of Law
University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds announced that Professor Colleen Medill has been awarded a University of Nebraska Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award, which recognizes individual faculty members who have demonstrated meritorious and sustained records of excellence and creativity in teaching. Bounds said, “Medill is recognized nationally for her innovative teaching techniques in the areas of employee benefits law, property law and professional legal skills development. Among her peers, she is known as a ‘teacher of teachers’ who explains and models her techniques through the extensive teachers’ manuals that accompany her textbooks. Medill’s first law school textbook, *Introduction to Employee Benefits Law: Policy and Practice*, has been used at more than 40 accredited law schools, and she is a leader in the integrated teaching of doctrinal theory, legal skills and the professional ethical responsibilities of lawyers. At the College of Law, she has twice been selected by law students as Professor of the Year and has been honored with the Alumni Council’s Distinguished Faculty Award. She teaches three of her four courses using textbooks that she authored.”

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Stefanie S. Pearlman
Professor of Law Library and Reference Librarian
Professor Stefanie Pearlman’s article “Persuasive Authority and the Nebraska Supreme Court: Are Certain Jurisdictions or Secondary Resources More Persuasive Than Others?” was published in the March/April 2018 edition of *The Nebraska Lawyer*.

Harvey S. Perlman
Harvey and Susan Perlman Alumni Professor of Law
Professor Harvey Perlman attended the Global Conference of the Confucius Institutes in Xi’an, China, as a senior consultant to the Council of Confucius Institute Headquarters. He advised the Commissioners of the Autonomy 5 Athletic Conferences on development of insurance coverage for student athletes. Perlman is preparing materials for a new course on The Common Law to be taught at the College of Business in Fall 2018.

Sandra B. Placzek
Professor of Law Library and Associate Director, Schmid Law Library
Professor Sandy Placzek co-presented a program on library facilities management with Candle Wester, ’04, of the University of South Carolina Law Library, at the Southeastern Chapter of American Association of Law Libraries Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kevin L. Ruser
Richard and Margaret Professor of Law, M.S. Hevelone Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs
Professor Kevin Ruser presented on the Immigration Clinic to Professor Regina Werum’s Sociology 217 class at UNL, on Nebraska “crimmigration” post-
conviction cases to Professor Anna Shavers’ Immigration Law class, and at the Pro Bono Summit organized by the Nebraska State Bar Association in Omaha. He also made a S.T.I.R. presentation on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) at the College of Law, organized students to attend “mobile consular immigration clinic” in Grand Island, Nebraska, which provided immigration advice to Mexican Consulate constituents, organized interested law students to conduct a DACA Clinic at the College of Law in conjunction with the Omaha office of the Mexican Consulate, and testified before the Nebraska Legislature’s Judiciary Committee as a proponent of LB 826, which clarified that state courts have jurisdiction to make immigration-related factual findings under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

Matthew P. Schaefer
Veronica A. Haggart & Charles R. Work Professor of International Trade Law and Co-Director of Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law Program
Professor Matt Schaefer became a co-author for the 13th edition of International Business Transactions: A Problem-Oriented Coursebook (West Publishing). He will revise mostly the international trade law and WTO-related problems and materials in the book. Schaefer published “The Contours of Permissionless Innovation in the Outer Space Domain, in 39 University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law 103 and testified based on his article before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee’s Space Subcommittee. He also was the principal organizer (theme and speakers) for the University of Nebraska’s 10th Annual Washington, D.C., Space Law Conference and co-moderated the government-industry roundtable and the commercial space law panel.

Anthony B. Schutz
Associate Professor of Law
Professor Anthony Schutz has been directing the Rural Law Opportunities Program. This program enables undergraduates at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Chadron State College and Wayne State College to graduate from their undergraduate institution debt free and attend the College of Law. Upon completion, these students agree to return to rural areas and practice law. We hope this program results in more lawyers in the rural parts of Nebraska, which are currently underserved. In conjunction with that program, Schutz traveled to each of the member schools to talk about some of his work and introduce the students to some of the things lawyers do. In the spring, the Law College hosted approximately 20 RLOP students, as they observed classes, met with lawyers and law students and saw oral arguments before the Nebraska Supreme Court. The program has received national attention, winning a Louis M. Brown Select Award from the American Bar Association. Schutz travelled to Vancouver, British Columbia, to accept the award on behalf of the College. Schutz also advises the Nebraska Moot Court Board, which this year hosted the regional competition for the National Moot Court Competition. A Nebraska team was runner-up in this competition and travelled to New York City with their coach Shannon Doering, ’02. Schutz also travelled to Vermillion, South Dakota, to present work on Natural Resources Districts and the relevance of municipal law to the problems they currently face. He also presented his annual update on Environmental Agricultural Law to the American Agricultural Law Association at its annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Schutz testified twice before the Legislature, once on a bill related to streamflow augmentation, and again on a bill related to the Legislature’s state constitutional role vis-a-vis the University’s Board of Regents.

Jessica A. Shoemaker
Associate Professor of Law
Professor Jessica Shoemaker traveled to the University of Saskatchewan College of Law as an invited scholar for an international “Legal Reforms for Indigenous Economic Growth” workshop and presented a work-in-progress piece on property system change. She also

Anna Williams Shavers
Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law
Dean Richard Moberly has named Professor Anna Shavers associate dean for diversity and inclusion, effective July 1, 2018, for a two-year term.

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traveled to the Texas A&M University School of Law for an invitation-only faculty workshop focused on real property issues around the theme of “Bridging the Urban Versus Rural Divide” and again presented in-progress research. Shoemaker has been serving as faculty advisor for the Law College’s new Underserved Legal Opportunities Program in collaboration with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and she recently agreed to serve as the new program chair for the international Association for Law, Property, and Society (ALPS).

Brett C. Stohs
Assistant Professor of Law and Cline Williams Director of the Weibling Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic

Professor Brett Stohs continues to pursue his interests in the intersection of law practice and technology, presenting last fall at the Midwest Clinical Conference at the University of Kansas School of Law about his use of mind mapping techniques to maximize educational outcomes in clinics. He delivered a CLE presentation for the Nebraska State Bar Association as part of the “Duties, Risk and Rewards of Serving on a Nonprofit Board” program, focusing his remarks on the legal fundamentals of starting and operating a nonprofit organization. Stohs was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor.

Ryan P. Sullivan
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

As a component of his work on the Civil Clinic’s Clean Slate Project, Professor Ryan Sullivan drafted and co-drafted a number of legislative bills and amendments aimed at broadening the privacy protections of legally innocent Nebraskans and expanding the mechanisms that enable rehabilitated Nebraskans to obtain a “fresh start.” Sullivan was invited to testify before the Judiciary Committee to share his research in this area. This spring, as chair of the College of Law Pro Bono Committee, Sullivan worked with faculty and students, the NSBA and members of the bar to restructure and relaunch the College’s pro bono program. The new program emphasizes the professional responsibilities of both students and attorneys to complete pro bono work and encourages the development of programs that will allow students and licensed attorneys to collaborate on pro bono projects. As a result of his work with the pro bono program, the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation presented Sullivan with its 2018 Visionary Award.

Adam Thimmesch
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Adam Thimmesch’s article “Tax Privacy?” will appear this spring in the Temple Law Review. Thimmesch’s forthcoming essay, “A Unifying Approach to Nexus Under the Dormant Commerce Clause,” will appear in the Michigan Law Review Online, and another essay, “South Dakota v. Wayfair and Tax Modernization in Nebraska,” in the Nebraska Law Review Bulletin. He has continued to post at The Surly Subgroup tax blog. Thimmesch presented on federal tax reform and the state and local tax deduction at the ABA Tax Section’s Mid-Year meeting in San Diego and was named the Professor of the Year by the upper-class law students.

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


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

Professor Steve Willborn published “Labour Law Beyond National Borders: Major Debates in 2016,” a review of articles published in the 29 international labor law journals that are members of the International Society for Labor Law Journals. It was
co-authored with Eri Kasagi and Sebastián de Soto Rioja and was published in three journals: Lavoro e Diritto (Italy), Revue de Droit Comparé du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale (France), and Employees & Employers: Labour Law & Social Security Review (Slovenia). Willborn spoke on trends in employment discrimination law at the 2018 Civil Rights Conference sponsored by the Lincoln Human Rights Commission.

Catherine Lee Wilson
Associate Professor of Law
Professor Catherine Wilson recently completed a two-year term on the Community Advisory Council to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Maggie Wittlin
Assistant Professor of Law
Professor Maggie Wittlin’s article, “What Causes Polarization on IP Policy?” co-authored with Lisa Larrimore Ouellette and Gregory Mandel, was accepted for publication in the U.C. Davis Law Review. Wittlin received the Professor of the Year Award from the first-year class.

Sandra B. Zellmer
Robert B. Daugherty Professor of Law
Professor Sandi Zellmer has been a visiting professor at the University of Montana School of Law in 2017-2018, and she is taking a permanent position there beginning in summer 2018, where she will be teaching Public Lands, Water and Wildlife and directing the Environmental Law Clinics.

She said, “My 14 years at the College of Law were a very good run, personally and professionally, and I hate to say good-bye to colleagues, students, alumni and friends. Keep in touch and let me know if you find yourself at the Crown of the Continent in Big Sky Country! My new email address is sandra.zellmer@umontana.edu.”

Follow the faculty at:
http://law.unl.edu/faculty-administration
The College of Law is thrilled to announce the promotion and tenure of several faculty members in the last year. Professors Jack Beard, Jessica Shoemaker and Adam Thimmesch were granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in a ceremony held in April 2017. Professor Gus Hurwitz was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in a ceremony held at the Rococo Theatre on April 24, 2018. At the same ceremony, Professor Brett Stohs was granted tenure and promoted to clinical associate professor. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals and thanking them for their contributions to the College of Law.


Beard is the chairman of the Committee on the Use of Force of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ILA) and serves as one of the U.S. representatives on the ILA’s International Committee on the Use of Force. He is the co-chair of the Space Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law, a member of the International Institute of Space Law and one of five founding leaders of the Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations.

“Jack has played an instrumental role in establishing the Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law program as an international leader in these areas,” said Dean Richard Moberly. “The Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations is going to be the world’s most important source on the topic and Jack is one of the leaders of that project. He has really established himself as a foremost scholar on this topic.”

Before coming to the Law College, Beard was a member of the faculty at the UCLA School of Law. He previously served as the associate deputy general counsel (international affairs) in the Department of Defense. In that role, Beard was responsible for a variety of legal matters related to arms control agreements, defense cooperation and basing agreements in the Middle East region, and programs assisting states of the former Soviet Union in dismantlement of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and other nonproliferation activities. These latter activities included...
the removal of nuclear weapons from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and the elimination of other WMDs in those countries. He served as the senior lawyer on numerous U.S. delegations negotiating international agreements on a wide range of U.S. military operations and activities. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, U.S. Army Reserve (retired). As a JAG officer, he served as the chief of the International Law Section, International and Operational Law Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General.

Jessica Shoemaker joined the Nebraska Law faculty in the fall of 2012. She teaches Federal Indian Law, Property I and II, Wills & Trusts and a seminar in rural development and energy law. Shoemaker is also a part of the University of Nebraska’s efforts to grow the Rural Futures Institute.

Shoemaker is an accomplished scholar, researching rural land tenure (including Indian land tenure), community economic development, agriculture and energy. Her most recent law review article, “Complexity’s Shadow: American Indian Property, Sovereignty, and the Future,” 115 Mich. L. Rev. 487 (2017), has received wide acclaim and is helping transform the way the law approaches land tenure issues on Indian reservations.

As the faculty advisor for the Equal Justice Society (EJS), Shoemaker has connected with students focused on public interest and social justice matters. Her passion for those topics reinvigorated the group in both size and impact. Prior to her arrival, EJS’s primary focus was raising funds to support summer clerkships in the public interest. While that focus remains, the group’s fundraising efforts have expanded, including the EJS Annual Chili Cook-Off and the EJS Flapjack Festival supporting that cause.

In addition to fundraising, Shoemaker has worked closely with the group to develop Community Conversations. Community Conversations, or “CommCon,” brings together small groups of students, faculty, staff and administrators for conversations about identities, lived experiences and other hot topics. “In today’s world, the ability to listen to different perspectives and to communicate those differences productively is more important than ever. Community Conversations provides an environment to work on those skills,” said Moberly. “And, Community Conversations would not exist without Jessica’s leadership.”

Shoemaker received her B.A. degree in English, summa cum laude, from the University of Iowa, and graduated first in her class from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she also served as an editor of the Wisconsin Law Review.

After law school, Shoemaker clerked for the Honorable David M. Ebel on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she was awarded a prestigious Skadden Fellowship to work for Farmers’ Legal Action Group, Inc. in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on a range of legal issues affecting farmers and rural communities. Shoemaker then spent five years as an attorney with Arnold & Porter LLP in Denver, Colorado. Prior to her legal career, Shoemaker was a writer, a VISTA volunteer and a community outreach worker.
Adam Thimmesch arrived at the College of Law in the fall of 2012. He teaches Individual Income Taxation, State and Local Taxation, Corporate Taxation, Business Associations and Corporate Finance. His teaching has earned him multiple awards: he has received the Professor of the Year award from Upper Class Students in 2013, 2017, and 2018 and the College’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014. “Our faculty has always prided itself on outstanding teaching,” said Moberly. “Adam has proven to be one of the best.”

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Thimmesch has established himself as a well-respected scholar. His research focuses largely on state taxing jurisdiction and tax compliance issues. His articles have appeared in a variety of publications, including the Virginia Tax Review, the Florida Tax Review, the Utah Law Review, the Denver Law Review and the Temple Law Review. He frequently speaks at academic and professional conferences around the country and blogs as a member of The SurlySubGroup.

Like Shoemaker, Thimmesch has made a tremendous impact on the College’s culture. He is the director of the College’s Law + Business Initiative, which just concluded its inaugural year. As the program’s first director, Thimmesch was tasked with building the program from the ground up. His work resulted in a new student group, monthly opportunities for students to learn from lawyers working in business, new fellowship opportunities for students to pursue and a more defined pathway for students who desire to pursue business careers that benefit from a law degree. [To learn more about the Law + Business Initiative, see page 12.]

“I am so grateful for Adam’s leadership,” said Moberly. “The Law + Business Initiative is a differentiator for Nebraska Law. I asked Adam to build it and he rose to the challenge. We will see the fruits of his labor in terms of admissions in coming years, but current students are already benefiting.”

Thimmesch received his J.D. with highest distinction in 2005 from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he was an articles editor on the Iowa Law Review. After law school, Thimmesch joined Faegre & Benson LLP in Minneapolis where his practice focused on tax and business matters, including structuring and negotiating domestic and international transactions advising on state, federal, and international tax matters and handling tax disputes before the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing agencies.

Gus Hurwitz joined the faculty in 2013. He is the co-director of the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program, focusing on the cyber and telecommunications components of the program. Hurwitz teaches Cyberlaw, Domestic Telecommunications Law, Domestic Cybersecurity and Principles of Regulation.

Hurwitz’s scholarship builds on his background in law, technology and economics to consider the interface between law and technology and the role of regulation in high-tech industries. He has a particular expertise in telecommunication and cybersecurity, and was recognized as a Cyber Security & Data Privacy Trailblazer by the National Law Journal. His work has appeared in the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology, Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review, as well as the George Mason University, University of Connecticut, University of Iowa, Michigan State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh and other law review and journals.

Since joining the faculty, Hurwitz’s work has been cited by the FCC in its 2015 Open Internet Order, Judge Williams in his dissent to the DC Circuit’s affirmation of that Order and Senator John Thune at the introduction of the MOBILE NOW Act. He has testified before the Senate Commerce Committee on video regulation, participated in roundtable discussions hosted by the FCC, presented to the United States Army’s 7th Signal
Command on the technological challenges of cybersecurity regulatory and presented to German and Colombian competition regulators on topics including net neutrality and telecommunications competition policy.

Hurwitz previously was the inaugural research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition (CTIC), prior to which he was a visiting assistant professor at George Mason University Law School. From 2007–2010 he was a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice Antitrust Division in the Telecommunications and Media Enforcement Section.

Hurwitz has a background in technology having worked at Los Alamos National Lab and interned at the Naval Research Lab prior to law school. During this time his work was recognized by organizations such as the Federal Laboratory Consortium, R&D Magazine, Los Alamos National Lab, IEEE & ACM and the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California. In addition, he held an Internet2 Land Speed World Record with the Guinness Book of World Records.

“Gus has the perfect combination for a cyberlaw professor and scholar. He understands the technology, yet can understand policy at a very high level,” Moberly said. “Also, he can debate the law with the best scholars in the world and then explain its impact on the everyday functioning of technology. He is turning Nebraska Law into a destination for students interested in understanding how law and the world of cyber interact.”

Hurwitz received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an articles editor on the Chicago Journal of International Law and received Olin and MVP2 law and economics scholarships. He also holds an M.A. in Economics from George Mason University. He received his B.A. from St. John’s College.

Brett Stohs joined the faculty in March 2012 to establish and direct a new in-house legal clinic that provides legal assistance to entrepreneurs and startup businesses. To do so, Stohs spent approximately nine months exploring options and best practices, establishing partnerships and planning for the clinic’s first students. In January 2013, the Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic opened its doors as the College of Law’s fourth clinical program. Under the direction of Stohs, 3L students in the clinic provide free advice and legal representation to start-up business clients throughout the State of Nebraska. The E-Clinic handles a variety of early-stage legal matters, including entity formation, contract drafting and review, intellectual property protection, regulatory compliance and other transactional legal matters. Participating students develop practical skills necessary for the effective practice of transactional law, gain an understanding of entrepreneurs and small businesses as clients and grapple with the interplay of legal, ethical and practical considerations that impact the provision of effective legal services.

“What Brett did was really quite remarkable,” said Moberly. “We pulled him out of a successful legal practice and asked him to create an entire clinical program from scratch. It was his own entrepreneurial endeavor! From the start, the Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic has been a student favorite and the credit for that belongs solely with Brett.”

In addition to helping new groups of students learn about effective delivery of legal services to businesses each semester, Stohs has been pursuing research interests in the application of mind mapping software to clinical legal education. His particular interests relate to using mind mapping techniques to optimize client assignments to student participants in a live-client clinic. His article on this topic, “Oh What a Tangled Web We Weave: Mind Mapping as Creative Spark to Optimize Student & Client Assignments in a Transactional Clinic,” was published in the New York Law School Law Review.

Prior to joining the faculty, Stohs worked in private practice for over six years, focusing primarily on mergers, acquisitions and other corporate and transactional matters for domestic and foreign clients in a variety of industries. From 2005 to 2011, Stohs practiced with Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP in Washington, D.C., and in 2011 he joined Rembolt Ludtke LLP in Lincoln. While at Sutherland, Stohs served as a work assignment coordinator for the firm’s summer associate program and as the pro bono coordinator for the firm’s partnership with the Advocacy & Justice Clinic operated by the D.C. Bar.

Stohs received his J.D., cum laude, from Duke University School of Law, where he served as executive editor for the Duke Law & Technology Review. Stohs also received a Master of Public Policy from the Sanford Institute of Public Policy, and a B.A. in mathematics and political science, with honors, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Clinical Section of the Association of American Law Schools.
While serving as interim dean during the 2016-2017 academic year, Richard Moberly traveled across the state and nation meeting with alumni. It was through these visits that a theme began to emerge: Nebraska Law alumni were having remarkable careers in traditional legal settings, as Moberly expected; but, in addition to becoming judges and partners and owners of law firms, Nebraska Law alumni were finding tremendous success as business people.

“It was an eye-opening year for me in many respects,” said Moberly. “I met with so many entrepreneurs and CEOs of companies, presidents of banks and financial investors. The success they were having was impressive, and they all talked about how their law degrees helped them achieve that success.”

These interactions prompted Moberly to think about the experiences that Nebraska Law was providing to students interested in pursuing careers that mirrored those of the alumni with whom he had talked. When he was appointed to be Nebraska Law’s 17th dean in April 2017, Moberly put the wheels in motion for the launch of the College’s Law + Business Initiative.

“My vision is that the Law + Business Initiative will develop incredibly talented lawyers who go straight into the business world to pursue their dreams of becoming C-Suite executives—not only general counsel, but CEOs, CFOs and COOs. I want students desiring those careers to know that their path to success runs through the College of Law.”

Professor Adam Thimmesch is the faculty member tasked with building the program. “The program is focused on developing students for the great number of jobs that require a mixture of legal and business skills,” explained Thimmesch. “That means providing students with opportunities to hear about how law and business intersect, training them to think about how the law relates to business goals and giving them opportunities to use their legal training in business settings.”

In order to successfully get the program launched, Thimmesch took a three-pronged approach. “First, we focused on communicating the importance and value of this program to our students and prospective students. Second, we focused on bringing in speakers from the business community to talk about how the law and lawyers impact their businesses. Many of those speakers were lawyers themselves and talked about how their legal training helped them succeed in business. Finally, we launched our Law + Business Fellowship Program and successfully placed students with our three sponsors: Nelnet, Hormel Harris Investments and Buildertrend.”

The response to the Law + Business Initiative from current students was overwhelmingly positive. So positive, in fact, that a new student group was formed: the Nebraska Law and Business Association. The group is student-led and operates as a business, which is different than the College’s other student organizations. The goal is to provide members with experiences that will ultimately help them differentiate themselves as job candidates in the business sector.

“The biggest success for me was seeing the large number of students who were interested in hearing and learning more about the program and the opportunities that await them in Law + Business,” said Thimmesch. “The student attendance for our speaker series was very strong, and the students who formed the new student group really took charge and showed an entrepreneurial spirit.”
“Many law students are not focused on the ‘traditional’ legal career path, and the launch of the Law + Business Initiative really validated and supported their career goals. I also have to say that the support from our alumni and program sponsors was remarkable. They have been, and will continue to be, a crucial part of this program.”

Mike Dunlap, ’89, chairman of the board and former CEO of Nelnet, quickly understood the need for the Law + Business Initiative at the College. “We expect our in-house lawyers to be an integral part of the business. An understanding of the law as it relates to our business is table stakes; to be truly effective, our lawyers have to understand the key goals and drivers of our business, and be a part of the discussions to drive us forward,” said Dunlap.

“Lawyers add value on many levels in a transactional setting (e.g. buying private businesses), not the least of which is the fact that regulation never decreases, it only increases in scope and expense, providing skilled in-house counsel the opportunity to save the company money and reduce exposure to risk,” added Ben Harris, ’96, president of Hormel Harris Investments, LLC.

David Arnold, ’10, is the vice president of corporate development for Buildertrend and was critical in establishing the company’s relationship with the Law + Business Initiative.

“Lawyers’ ability to process a large amount of complex information, identify the most critical elements of various paths forward and articulate next steps is very valuable in the quickly-changing world of business,” said Arnold. “Learning how to turn the ‘thinking like a lawyer’ skillset on and off is what makes non-practicing J.D.’s most effective in the business world and uniquely qualified to both identify and manage risk.”
These business partnerships made the Law + Business Speaker Series possible; but, they also resulted in the Law + Business Fellowship Program. These fellowships are designed to expose students to both legal and business-related issues during the summer following the fellows’ 2L year. During that summer, fellows spend half of their time working with the general counsel office and the other half working within the business units.

“The fellowship was a compelling opportunity because it gave us a chance to meet candidates with a certain set of skills that we, and the private investment community, need in order to grow and thrive in compliance oriented business sectors,” said Harris. Dunlap agreed. “A number of Nelnet associates are graduates of the College of Law, and work in a variety of areas of our business. The fellowship is a great way to continue and expand our relationship with the College and to help us identify more great people to become part of our team.”

“We strongly support Dean Moberly’s goal to provide legal education to business students and vice versa; we believe these students will be even better equipped for their careers.”

For Buildertrend, the fellowship program provides the growing business with the opportunity to evaluate its use and consumption of legal services.

“Buildertrend is a company that’s based on talent. We sell software, not widgets, and as a result our biggest investment is in the people we employ. As our company continues to double in size every 12-18 months, our need to create new roles and expertise keep increasing. We’ve benefitted from a great relationship with an outside firm since the company was founded but having an in-house law clerk will provide a unique opportunity for Buildertrend to evaluate the benefits of an onsite attorney to our business,” Arnold shared.

The first group of fellows is just beginning their work. Nick Knihnisky, ‘19, is the Buildertrend fellow; Eric Connor, ’19, is the Nelnet fellow; and Kari Schmitz, ’18, is the Hormel Harris Investments, LLC fellow.

“The Buildertrend Fellowship seemed to provide the perfect combination of legal practice and business experience,” said Knihnisky. “I think this experience will be applicable in any future position.”

“Additionally, Buildertrend’s culture, workplace setting, and mission appeared to perfectly align with what I was looking for in my employment search. I am optimistic that this fellowship will provide practical, real-world business knowledge that will separate me from other candidates, whether it be in traditional practice, a J.D.-
preferred position or a corporate development or business-focused opportunity.

Connor echoed the impact work culture had on his decision to accept the Nelnet fellowship. “I accepted the Nelnet Fellowship because I had always heard that Nelnet had a great work environment and fun company culture, which was highlighted even more during the interview process. After working there for a few months now, I can personally attest that it is a really fun and engaging place to work.”

In addition to work environment, the learning opportunity was one Connor simply could not pass up.

“I graduated college with a criminal justice degree and had taken no business-related courses before law school,” he explained. “So, the most appealing thing to me was that I was going to learn how a large, publicly traded company is run from both the business side and the legal side.”

Added Schmitz, “The Hormel Harris fellowship provides an opportunity to work with a locally based organization with a footprint that spans many avenues, including nonprofits, banking, investments and others. I knew that working with Ben and Maja Harris and Jared Rector, ’13, would enhance what I had learned in the classroom about applying law in the business context.”

Thimmesch now turns his attention to building upon the foundation that was established in the program’s first year.

“In the second year of the program, we are expanding the fellowship opportunities for students, and we look forward to exploring further expansion with new partners.

“We will also continue the speaker series and start to focus on helping students to develop specific skills or knowledge that might generally fall outside of the traditional legal curriculum. We will also expand our efforts to communicate the value of a law degree to undergraduate students who might benefit from the training, but who might not want to pursue careers as practicing lawyers.”

From Moberly’s perspective, the first year of the program exceeded his expectations.

“The Law + Business Initiative is a departure from what we have always done; and, culture change can be hard. I am so thrilled with the work that Professor Thimmesch has done and with the student response. It speaks to the demand that exists for law schools to prepare lawyers for careers in business. We’re going to work to be the law school that meets that demand, and we are off to a fantastic start.”
Undergraduate students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will have the opportunity to minor in law and business as the result of a partnership between Nebraska Law and the College of Business.

The undergraduate law and business minor is a four course (12 credit hour) program with classes taught by professors from the College of Law and is open to both business and non-business majors.

“The undergraduate minor partnership between the colleges is a win-win,” said Dean Richard Moberly. “I am hopeful that some of the students who complete the minor decide to pursue a J.D., which benefits the College of Law. Those students who complete the minor and then enter the workforce will do so with a basic understanding of legal systems and structures. These students will have a competitive advantage as a result of that knowledge.”

Indeed, many jobs require a familiarity with legal concepts, including in growing fields such as regulatory compliance, employment law, contracts and procurement, financial services and securities regulation and real estate development. Combining business knowledge with a minor in law and business makes graduates more marketable and provides connections to new job opportunities.

Professors Harvey Pearlman, Marty Gardner, Catherine Wilson, Eric Berger and assistant dean Marc Pearce will teach the first classes for the minor in the fall of 2018.
Civil Clinic law students reach out to the community

Clean Slate Project assists attendees at Veterans’ Stand Down and Project Homeless Connect Event

For the second year, the Civil Clinic offered legal services to veterans and the homeless at the Veterans’ Stand Down and Homeless Connect Event. Supervised by Professor Ryan Sullivan, Civil Clinic students Meaghan Geraghty, Katie Lesiak, Brian Lisonbee, Kasey Ogle, Ally Hubbard and Marissa Curtiss provided legal advice and legal document drafting assistance to attendees, mostly in the area of post-conviction relief (criminal set-asides and pardons), but on other civil matters as well. In total, the team served around 35 members of the community. Geraghty and Lesiak, who led the Clinic’s Clean Slate Project for the fall semester, coordinated the Clinic’s participation in the event.

Family Law Project assists attendees at Project Homeless Connect Event

Civil Clinic students Jon Smith and Patrick Ryan along with Clinic alum Megan McDowell, ’15, provided advice and forms on child support modification at this year’s Project Homeless Connect Event at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. In total, the team assisted 29 member of the community. Smith and Ryan operated the Clinic’s Family Law Project during the fall semester and volunteered to assist McDowell at her booth.

Tenants’ Rights Project provides information to Nebraska students seeking off-campus housing

Senior Certified Law Students Christian Gobel and Kasey Ogle developed and staffed a booth at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Fall Housing Fair on October 4. The students worked on the Tenants’ Rights Project during their fall semester as part of the Civil Clinic. The annual Housing Fair is a forum for housing providers in Lincoln to advertise off-campus housing options to UNL students. The Tenants’ Rights Project booth provided students with information about their legal rights as tenants, including a link to a web site created by Gobel and Ogle with information about how to request a refund of a security deposit, problematic language in leases to avoid and other general information about tenants’ rights under Nebraska’s Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. Nearly 200 pamphlets were distributed to interested students during the three-hour Housing Fair.
On Saturday, October 21, nine law students, accompanied by Professor Kevin Ruser, provided immigration advice to clients at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Grand Island at a “mobile consular clinic” sponsored by the Mexican Consulate in Omaha. Omaha Consulate staff periodically travels to various locations throughout Nebraska and Iowa to provide consular services to its constituents. The types of services provided include producing Mexican passports, national identification cards and other types of documents required by Mexican citizens. The Consulate has also asked other organizations to be on hand at these events to answer any immigration questions that attendees might have. Various organizations were present to address immigration-related issues, including the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance, Catholic Charities and Nebraska Appleseed. This is the first time Nebraska law students have participated in this event.

During the day, the students, under Ruser’s supervision, met with various clients on a limited scope basis to provide on-the-spot counseling and advice relating to immigration questions presented by the clients. The students also assisted various clients in executing temporary delegation of parental powers documents. In preparation for this event, the students attended a three-hour training with Ruser that dealt with the types of immigration issues they were likely to encounter at the clinic.

The nine students who participated in this “walk-in” immigration clinic include the three students enrolled in the Immigration Clinic: Morgan Nelson, ’18, Miranda Rogers, ’18, and Phong Tran, ’18. The other students who attended the event were Sydney Aase, ’18, Paloma Contreras, ’19, Shailana Dunn-Wall, ’19, Nicole Iraola, ’19, Megan Meyerson, ’18, and Deanna Pina, ’19. They were ably assisted by Sydnee Schuyler, administrative assistant for the Children’s Justice Clinic and Civil Clinic.
Jennifer Atwood, '18, Mackenzie Hertz, '18, and Morgan Nelson, '18, placed second in the Region 9 competition of the New York City Bar Association's National Moot Court Competition. As a result of their victory, the team, coached by alumnus Shannon Doering, '99, advanced to the national competition finals held in New York City January 29-February 1, 2018.

A second Nebraska Law team comprised of William Beerman, '18, Tiffany Boutcher, '18, and Tara Holterhaus, '18, also made an impressive showing at the Region 9 competition, advancing to the quarterfinals.

Teams from the University of Arkansas, Creighton University, University of Kansas, University of Missouri, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, St. Louis University and Washburn participated in the Region 9 competition held at the University of Nebraska College of Law. The semi-final and final rounds were held at the Nebraska State Capitol Building.
Conrad credits work ethic, legal education for growth, success of Heartland Optical

Heartland Optical, owned by Tom Conrad, ’03, and his brother Casey, with shops in Lincoln and Grand Island, is a wonderful example of how a legal education can aid in the development and growth of a small business.

Tom Conrad described his decision to attend the College of Law as “a natural step. I never had had it in my mind that undergrad was the end of college life for me. It was get a political science degree, then go to law school. That’s where my aptitudes were; they weren’t in math or science. I was one of those strange people who could have gone to college forever. I loved law school, maybe not the first year so much, but I loved the intellectual challenge of it. I didn’t know where I was going to go with this. I thought I would practice, but who knew?”

Going to the Law College turned out to be monumental for Conrad in a number of ways. Most importantly, it was there (or, more accurately, in the bookstore before classes began) where he met his future wife, Danielle Nantkes, ’03, who would go on to become a senator in the Nebraska Legislature and executive director of ACLU Nebraska. He also formed other special relationships with his classmates many of which endure including Dave Rasmussen, ’04, the attorney for his business, and Brian Adams, ’03, his financial advisor.

While Conrad clerked for a criminal defense firm during his second and third years at the Law College, he realized that he did not share the passion the firm’s lawyers had for the practice. He turned down a job offer there and instead went to Denver where he passed the Colorado bar. The Colorado job market was difficult, however, and he never found anything there that he really loved. So, he returned to Lincoln and went back to his roots.

Conrad was born and raised in Columbus, Nebraska, where his dad, Ron, was an optometrist. In the early 1980s, Ron Conrad and several other optometrists purchased a wholesale optical laboratory co-op in Lincoln. The laboratory they purchased dates back into the early 1900s, so Heartland Optical can trace its ancestry that far back. “That’s a pretty cool thing,” Conrad remarked.

Tom Conrad recalled that his dad “had a tremendous work ethic,” which meant that the Conrad brothers were expected to work at the lab during the summer before they started college to develop the skills they would need to help support themselves while they were getting an education. Tom continued to work at the lab as an undergraduate and through most of law school. “That’s where the seeds of what
our business is today were planted,” he said. When Tom Conrad returned to Lincoln from Denver in 2004, Casey had been working in the business for ten years. The two of them developed a business plan to grow the operation. They knew they would face many obstacles, and one of the biggest would be convincing their dad, who was retired and who initially thought it was too big of a risk, to believe in their vision. Ron had the financial means that the brothers lacked, so they needed his backing. It was a testament to their advocacy skills that they succeeded.

The laboratory’s primary business was making lenses for doctor’s offices. The Conrads began a secondary business of making prescription safety glasses for industry, and they succeeded in signing up some good-sized accounts like Kawasaki and Burlington Northern. That brought people into their shop to be fitted for their glasses. They were impressed with the product and many of them wanted the lab to make their regular “dress” glasses, as well. The employees’ spouses and children followed. “We were becoming a one-stop shop,” Conrad said. “Our business plan was both our idea and our customers’ idea.”

The brothers were building relationships and knew that they had a product people wanted, but also knew that the business wasn’t sustainable in their tiny ugly building, which also housed a full-sized air compressor that would go off periodically.

The lab was on North 27th Street, and the Conrads wanted to stay in the center of town because they believed that a centralized location would help them retain the industries they were working with and capture more of them. Lincoln was redeveloping the 27th Street corridor and the lot at 27th and Apple Street was available to them. Tom remembers visiting his dad’s 27th Street lab as a kid. “It was a little bit scary of a street” with a broom factory and a Carpenter’s Union building with holes in the roof. But today it is an important street, one of the entrances to Lincoln.”

The business continues to attract customers through the agreements it has with Lincoln industries like Molex, Duncan Aviation, Square D and the City of Lincoln and all its departments, but at the heart of it, lies the neighborhood. “The neighborhood matters to us and its continued development matters to us.” Both of the Conrads sit on the North 27th Street Association board, and Casey was its president for 12 years. Primarily through word of mouth, Heartland Optical has drawn from the local community, professors and staff at the University and from the downtown area.

Part of the plan in developing their 27th Street location was establishing a relationship with the People’s Health Center (now Bluestem Health) across the street. As the health center did not provide eye care, it formed a partnership with Heartland Optical. The community is multi-ethnic and Heartland provides interpreters in many languages, which has enabled it to build trust with the tight knit cultures that surround it. “It’s amazing to see the influx of patients from so many cultures, speaking languages from around the world,” said Conrad. Building those relationships are just one of the things that the Conrads have used to set themselves apart in the rapidly changing optical industry. Another is that they make their lenses right in the store. That is a rarity, as much of the optical
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business has been conglomerated into massive laboratories many of which are overseas or in Mexico. “One of our biggest investments that we made outside of our building is we invested heavily in technology, so that we have about as nice of a laboratory as you can find, and we make the highest echelon of product here,” Conrad explained. “We buy a piece of plastic and put it in the machines and grind all the technology into it. We make lenses from multiple companies, and they each have a server that sits in our basement. We input the customers’ information into our computer system, it goes down to the server of the lens company we choose, and that server will send that information to calculators in Dallas, Israel or France and that comes right back into our machinery.

“We try to marry service with great products and technology and, if you do all that, that’s where you gain trust and you build this relationship with people that keeps them coming back and telling other people,” he added. “We have this ability to connect with people. It all goes back to our dad who was so great at creating relationships. We got that from him, and we carry it forward in ourselves and in finding the right staff.”

Now with the addition of the Grand Island operation, Heartland Optical has a staff of 27 including three doctors. This has meant a change of roles for the Conrads. “You go from doing everything, which you couldn’t keep up with anyway, to being a manager. Change is hard sometimes, but it’s an integral part of having a healthy business.”

Clearly, said Conrad, “I was a lot more passionate about building a business than I was about being a lawyer, but it didn’t take me long to see that I also had to be a lawyer.” Conrad did much of the work on the redevelopment plan for their land, but also had absorbed the lesson from law school that you need to recognize the limits of your ability and go get someone who has the knowledge you need. “The bike path next to us was railroad property, and I didn’t want to touch that, so I went and got someone who had both experience in doing development agreements and in working with railroad issues.” Conrad negotiated with the city and worked on getting tax increment financing. Conrad’s lawyering skills learned in Negotiation and Mediation classes were instrumental in helping him purchase the new equipment the company needed and negotiating the agreement to use the requisite technology. He handled the sale of his dad’s original co-op to a large company. In doing these things, “it was critical that I was a lawyer.”

In addition, Conrad had to make to make himself into an expert on insurance “across the board, but especially in Medicaid because we see a lot of patients on Medicaid. So, I learned the regulations and I created relationships with HHS, so that I can ask questions. It took me quite a while to learn insurance, but having the background I had really helped. I have a real fondness for the law school and the skills that I gained there. I can’t quantify how much they’ve helped me.”

Conrad knows that there are things on which Heartland Optical cannot compete with the big optical chains, like being open evenings and Sundays. On the other hand, the chains “can’t compete against our knowledge base or our independence or how good a service we provide. If you walk through the door, there’s a 99 percent chance, we’re going to keep you.”
If you’ve visited the College of Law recently, it likely looks quite a bit different than when you were here as a student. Because of generous private support, the College has added physical space allowing for the addition of important clinical opportunities. Private philanthropy has also allowed the College to continue to offer life-changing scholarships and programs to students.

The Marvin and Virginia Schmid Clinic Building
The most noticeable physical change is the Marvin and Virginia Schmid Clinic Building, which opened in the spring of 2017. The 16,000-square-foot, more than $5 million addition to the home of Nebraska Law was funded with private donations to the University of Nebraska Foundation and is adjacent to the College of Law’s main entrance. The space provides a home for Nebraska Law’s Civil Clinic, Criminal Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic and Children’s Justice Clinic – which give students hands-on experience serving real-world clients. It includes a classroom, a courtroom, two large conference rooms, private client interview rooms, 39 student workstations, a business office and professor offices. In its first year, students have heavily used the space for client interviews and meetings, depositions, hearing preparation and much more.

The Children’s Justice Clinic
With additional space now available in the Marvin and Virginia Schmid Clinic Building and with substantial private support, the College of Law created the Children’s Justice Clinic in 2017. This new clinic is a partnership with the University of Nebraska Center on Children, Families and the Law. Students participating in the Children’s Justice Clinic serve as guardians ad litem in the Lancaster County Juvenile Court under the supervision of adjunct law professor Michelle Paxton, ’02. The primary goal of the Children’s Justice Clinic is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and ethical underpinnings necessary to function as effective advocates in a setting involving the legal needs of young children.
knowledge of these issues; understand how they impact children, parenting and family functioning; and be able to advocate for plans that ensure child safety, permanency and well-being in the context of challenging conditions. The multidisciplinary team of psychologists, child welfare practitioners, social workers or mental health practitioners from the Center on Children, Families and the Law have developed curriculum and case consultation in those areas to provide specialized knowledge and skills guardians ad litem need to be effective.

Private support has allowed the clinic to start on a temporary three-year basis. Fundraising for permanent funding for the Children’s Justice Clinic is ongoing.

Rural Law Opportunities Program
The need for attorneys in rural Nebraska is greater than ever. Currently 11 of the state’s 93 counties have no attorneys. The shortage of attorneys in these rural Nebraska areas means that people may have to drive hundreds of miles for legal assistance. Communities not only lack lawyers and judges, but also important leaders for schools, community organizations and businesses.

The Rural Law Opportunities Program (RLOP) aims to ensure all Nebraskans have access to legal representation by encouraging the practice of law in the state’s rural communities. Through the program, students will study at Chadron State College, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, or Wayne State College, obtain their legal education at Nebraska Law and then practice in rural areas throughout the state. RLOP students will receive scholarships to fund their undergraduate education and will begin to develop their relationship with Nebraska Law as early as their freshman year in college. Participants who maintain a certain GPA at their undergraduate institution and obtain a minimum LSAT score and meet other law school application criteria will be automatically accepted to the College of Law.

As RLOP participants, students will visit Nebraska Law for guest lectures, special court proceedings, observation of classes and networking activities. Nebraska Law faculty and admissions representatives will also visit the campuses of participating schools at least once an academic year to meet with students one on one. Between their junior and senior years, RLOP students will have the opportunity to participate in rural Nebraska internships.
Underserved Law Opportunities Program
The Underserved Law Opportunities Program (ULOP) aims to provide the opportunity for a legal education for students in underserved communities, and to encourage students to provide legal services to those communities. Through the program, students will study at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, obtain their legal education at Nebraska Law and then practice in areas traditionally underserved by the legal community.

ULOP is available to students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Like the RLOP students, ULOP participants will begin to develop their relationship with Nebraska Law as early as their freshman year in college. They, too, will be required to maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA to remain in the program. ULOP students who satisfy this GPA requirement, obtain a minimum LSAT score and meet other law school application criteria will be automatically accepted to the College of Law.

Students enrolled in the program will be paired with a peer mentor and intern with a nonprofit organization that provides legal services. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend special College of Law programming and meet one-on-one with College of Law representatives.

Fundraising for the RLOP and ULOP programs is ongoing. Support from alumni, firms and other organizations will be crucial to the programs’ successes.

Scholarships
The College of Law provides one of the best legal educations in the country, and students are fortunate to have several opportunities for financial aid, including receiving scholarships from private donors through the University of Nebraska Foundation. These awards include academic scholarships and opportunity scholarships for both resident and nonresident students. While scholarships are not new, the College of Law has a renewed focus on increasing the number of scholarships available to students, particularly in a time of increasing tuition rates. Receiving a scholarship can truly change the trajectory of a student’s life, providing him or her with less debt and more career opportunities after graduation. Making a scholarship gift is making an investment in the future of students and our communities.

We want to hear from you!
As you know from extensive media coverage, the University of Nebraska faces substantial cuts in state funding in the coming years. The College of Law is thankful for support from the State of Nebraska. State funding provides the College with the ability to employ outstanding faculty, administration and staff. But, in order to continue to provide an outstanding education, private support is critical to the College’s future. It is this support that ensures that our facilities are maintained and up-to-date, our library resources are state-of-the-art and our growing technology needs are met. Your generous gifts also allow students to attend law school, compete in national and international competitions, and learn from legal scholars.

Many of the projects above started as an idea from alumni or students. We are incredibly thankful for your input and your engagement with the College. We want to hear from you!

Questions about new projects and their funding? Have an idea you’d like to discuss? Considering a gift to the College of Law?

Please contact the Nebraska Law’s Director of Development Christine Truhe at 402-458-1156 or christine.truhe@nufoundation.org.
Charlie Wright, ’58, was presented the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Diversity Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts in promoting diversity in the legal profession in the state of Nebraska. Wright established the Standing Bear Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships and mentoring support for Native American law students at the College of Law.

Richard Spellman, ’67, has joined Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in its Omaha office. Spellman’s practice areas include general health care, regulatory matters and corporate affiliations, legal risk management, compliance and employment litigation. He was previously associate general counsel of health services at the University of Nebraska.

Gary Thompson, ’67, a Beatrice attorney and a 25-year member of the board of directors of Nebraska Public Power, has been elected chairman of the board.

Doug Deitchler, ’70, has been named president of First National Trust Company, which has offices in Lincoln and Omaha. He joined First National in 2010 as vice president and general counsel. Prior to that, he practiced law for 35 years.

Hon. Everett Inbody, ’70, retired from the Nebraska Court of Appeals on January 1, 2018. After several years in private practice, Inbody was named judge of the County Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 1986. In 1991, he became a District Court judge, and in 1995 he was named to the Court of Appeals. From 2004 until 2014, he served as the chief judge of the court. Among his innovations while on the bench were the “rocket docket” that moved juvenile cases to the top of the docket and the college campus initiative in which Court of Appeals cases were heard before college audiences. In his hometown of Wahoo, Inbody was instrumental in starting the Wahoops youth basketball program.

Jim Cada, ’72, received from the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation the Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award, which is presented annually to a Nebraska lawyer who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to pro bono service for the low-income. Cada is a partner with Cada, Cada, Hoffman & Jewson in Lincoln.

Hon. William J. Riley, ’72, has retired as judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, a position he has held since 2001. Riley also received the George H. Turner Award from the Nebraska State Bar Association. The award is presented to a member of the NSBA who has demonstrated exemplary efforts in furthering public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence in the legal profession.

William Austin, ’73, and William Blake, ’75, have established the Blake Austin Law Firm in Lincoln. Austin is a former Lincoln city attorney and has served as public advocate for the Nebraska Public Service Commission. His private practice is primarily focused on administrative and municipal law.

Michael J. Tavlin, ’73 has been elected assistant treasurer of Lincoln’s Woods Charitable Fund.

Scott Trusdale, ’73, and his wife Roz, were presented the 2018 Distinguished Service Award by the Cozad, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce. He practiced with his father at Trusdale & Trusdale in Cozad until his father’s death in
1993. He currently serves as an attorney for the City of Cozad and Cozad Community Schools. The Trusdales have dedicated countless hours to the Cozad Ambassadors.

William Blake, ’75, and William Austin, ’73, and, have established the Blake Austin Law Firm in Lincoln. Blake is a specialist in eminent domain proceedings.

Mike McCarthy, ’75, was elected chair-elect of the Nebraska State Bar Association's House of Delegates at the NSBA Annual Meeting. He is a partner with the North Platte law firm McCarthy & Moore.

Paul W. Snyder, ’75, has joined the Scottsbluff, Nebraska law firm of Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder, Ossian, Vogl & Snyder. Snyder advises clients regarding family law, personal injury, wills, estate planning and real estate matters.

Steve Mattoon, ’76, was elected president-elect designate of the Nebraska State Bar Association at the NSBA Annual Meeting. He is a partner with the Sidney law firm Matzke & Mattoon.

Hon. Laurie Smith Camp, ’77, chief judge for Nebraska’s U.S. District Court, retired to senior status effective December 1, 2018.

Kent Davy, ’77, recovered his long-lost Columbus High School 1968 class ring when the couple now residing in his childhood home found it in the backyard using a metal detector. Davy, who practiced law in Colorado and Guam, is currently a part-time journalism professor and faculty advisor for the student newspaper at California State University San Marcos.

Tim Engler, ’79, was elected president of the Nebraska State Bar Association at the NSBA Annual Meeting. Engler is a partner with the Lincoln law firm Rembolt Ludtke.

Thomas M. Maul, ’80, has merged his practice with the firm of Jarecki Yosten to form Jarecki Yosten Maul with offices in Albion and Columbus, Nebraska. Maul has practiced law for nearly 38 years and is past president of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Dennis D. Thomas, ’80, retired at the end of 2017 as director of compliance with Pinnacle Bancorp, a $10 billion dollar bank holding company with bank charters in five states. Thomas has been with Pinnacle Bancorp since 2005.

Joe Kelly, ’81, has been confirmed by the United States Senate as United States attorney for Nebraska. Previously, he was the Lancaster County attorney.

John Wiltse, ’81, retired as deputy general counsel in the University of Nebraska General Counsel’s Office on February 1, 2018.

David Copple, ’83, founding attorney of Copple, Rockey, McKeever & Schlect in Norfolk, Nebraska, was honored at the Northwest Community College’s Norfolk campus with the honorary title of Foundation board of directors emeritus, earned by his significant contributions to the progress of the Foundation. Copple joined the Northwest Foundation Board in 1993, where he served as president from 2002 to 2006.
Our Alumni

Doug Killian, ’83, is a 2018 recipient of the Julie McFarlane Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. The award recognizes juvenile delinquency and dependency defense attorneys who have made substantial, important and enduring contributions to the administration of justice for their clients. Killian has practiced juvenile law for more than 20 years with the Metropolitan Public Defender’s Office in suburban Washington County.

Bryan Slone, ’83, has been named president of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Most recently, Slone was a tax attorney at Koley Jessen in Omaha. Prior to that, he was a managing partner at Deloitte’s Omaha office, worked in East Berlin, Germany, and was legal advisor to the IRS commissioner.

Martha Zajicek, ’83, has been promoted to associate general counsel III at Mutual of Omaha. She joined Mutual of Omaha in 2002.

Joe Louden, ’84, retired as Bryan Health's legal and compliance officer after 19 years of service.

William Mickle, ’85, has retired from the office of the United States Attorney for Nebraska.

Kim Robak, ’85, has been elected vice chair of the Lincoln Community foundation.

Alicia Henderson, ’86, has retired from the Lancaster County Attorney’s office, where she served as chief deputy of the juvenile division. Previously, she directed the Criminal Clinic at the College of Law. She is now a practitioner of reflective practice through the Nebraska Center of Reflective Practice, which was created by the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children.

Karen Hannah Wheeler, ’87, is a partner with Wheeler Waters in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Wheeler’s trial work has included commercial litigation, professional negligence, personal injury, construction law, products liability, environmental law, toxic torts, employment law, civil rights litigation, insurance coverage, bad faith litigation and general tort law. She has also served as an arbitrator in numerous personal injury and contract arbitrations and has presented various educational seminars in many areas of the law, including how to litigate class action lawsuits in Colorado. She is also active in Estate Planning.

Kristen Newcomb, ’88, is major case director at IAT Insurance Group in Omaha.

Joel D. Pedersen, ’88, has joined the Omaha law firm of Baird Holm, where he represents clients pursuing public-private partnerships, as well as construction and development projects. Before joining the firm, Pedersen served as vice president and general counsel for the University of Nebraska since 2008. Prior to that, he spent 18 years as a Lincoln assistant city attorney.

Jeffrey Brumel, ’89, has joined the Omaha office of Dvorak Law Group. He specializes in representing political subdivisions, governmental entities and businesses and in estate planning.

Hon. Steve Grasz, ’89, has been confirmed by the United States Senate as a circuit judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Grasz was nominated by President Donald Trump following a selection process by Nebraska Senators Deb Fischer.
and Ben Sasse. Judge Grasz succeeds Chief Judge William Riley, ’72, and is the 7th Nebraskan to serve on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which encompasses Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Robert Parker, Jr., ’89, has joined the Hastings, Nebraska, office of Dvorak Law Group, where he focuses his practice on personal injury, insurance defense, civil litigation, collections, family law and criminal defense.

1990s

Hon. Riko Bishop, ’92, was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award by the Women and the Law Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association. She is a judge on the Nebraska Court of Appeals.

Christine Neighbors, ’92, has been named senior vice president and general counsel of Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. and Ameritas Life of New York. She was also named senior vice president and assistant secretary of Ameritas Mutual Holding Company and Ameritas Holding Company. Neighbors was previously with the State of Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Michele McCann, ’93, is with Trent Law firm in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she practices family law. McCann is a certified mediator with the Iowa Association of Mediators and serves as a family law mediator for the First Judicial District of Iowa.

Woody White, ’94, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington after tendering his resignation from the Board of Trustees at Cape Fear Community College. White owns the Wilmington law firm of Woody White Law, which specialized in criminal defense, personal injury and workers’ compensation cases. He was elected to the Hanover County Commission in 2012 and presently serves as the commission’s chair. He served previously as a North Carolina state senator, being appointed in 2004 to fill an unexpired term.

Jane Langan Mach, ’95, was elected chair of the Nebraska State Bar Association’s House of Delegates at the NSBA Annual Meeting. She is a partner at the Lincoln law firm Rembolt Ludtke. She teaches Pretrial Litigation and Family Law at the College of Law.

Carl Eskridge, ’96, has been elected vice chairman of Lincoln’s Woods Charitable Fund.

Karen Haase, ’96, of KSB School Law in Lincoln, spoke with parents at Kearney High School on “Must Have Guide to Social Media,” covering topics like cyberbullying and harassment, sexting, basic internet safety and the legal consequences when kids, or adults, break the law online. Haase gave similar presentations to fifth graders, middle schoolers and freshmen and sophomores at KHS.

Wendy Hind, ’96, was named vice president for university affairs for the University of Nebraska by President Hank Bounds. She has served as associate professor and director of Law, Politics and Society at Doane College in Crete and was director of the Office of Dispute Resolution at the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Kevin T. Lytle, ’96, has been named a shareholder, chair of the REIT transactions and compliance solutions practice group and member of the real estate practice group in the Scottsdale, Arizona office of Buchalter Law Firm.

Robert Schafer, ’96, has been elected chairman of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Schafer is managing partner at Smith Schafer Davis Gaertig in Beatrice.

Steve Meints, ’97, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the US Army Reserve Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps on December 15, 2017, in Orlando, Florida. Meints is a part time reserve JAG attorney.
and a civilian a business law attorney for the Army Materiel Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He has been affiliated with the Army since 1990 when he enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard as an infantryman.

Corey L. Stull, ’97, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Atwood, Holsten, Brown, Deaver & Spier. He represents accident and injury victims, injured railroad employees under The Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) and practices in employment and other civil litigation matters throughout the Midwest.

Jeanette Stull, ’97, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Atwood, Holsten, Brown, Deaver & Spier. Her legal practice includes real estate matters, estate and business planning and litigation, probate and trust administration, will contests and other estate litigation, guardianships and conservatorships, employment law, school law; family and general civil litigation.

Kristen Marshall Maser, ’98, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Platte Institute, whose mission is to advance policies that remove barriers to economic growth and opportunity in Nebraska. Maser is vice chair of Five Points Bank, a family-owned business that was founded by her father and grandfather in 1971.

Josh White, ’99, has joined the Goosmann Law Firm as the executive director of the firm’s new Omaha location. White was formerly the senior associate athletics director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

2000s

Jennie Akerlund Kuehner, ’00, has rejoined Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in the firm’s Aurora and Lincoln offices. She was a member of the firm from 2000 to 2011. Akerlund Kuehner’s litigation practice focuses primarily on commercial and business issues. She also advises clients in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, business organizations and business transactions.

Gina E. Schneider, ’00, is an associate in Lamson, Dugan & Murray’s litigation department in Omaha. Before joining the firm, Schneider was a judicial clerk with the Nebraska Supreme Court for 16 years.

Nicholas Dafney, ’02, has joined the Omaha office of Dvorak Law Group where he focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, energy and construction law, complex contracting and intellectual property and licensing.

Aaron B. Johnson, ’02, has joined the Omaha firm of Baird Holm as a member of the firm’s real estate practice group.

Rick Kubat, ’02, graduated from the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, a one-year program that provides leadership training and educates participants about the vital role rivers, streams and aquifers play in the economic sustainability of the state. Kubat is government relations attorney for Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha.

Molly Brummond, ’03, assistant dean for student and alumni relations at the College of Law, spoke on “The Art and Science of Happy” at Adulting 101, a seminar for millennials hosted by Lincoln Young Professionals Group and Collins Career Coaching.

Monica Miller, ’03, professor in the Criminal Justice Department and Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Ph.D. Program at The University of Nevada, Reno, spoke on the separation of church and state viewed
through a historical lens, examining the intersection between religion and the courts in American history and society at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jennifer N. Rowling, ’03, has been named a partner in the Kearney law firm now known as Tye & Rowling. She joined the firm in 2014. She has experience in juvenile and family law, estate planning, business law and litigation.

Jason A. Wietjes, ’03, a shareholder in Polsinelli’s Dallas office and member of its intellectual property practice group, has been appointed to the 2018 board of directors for bionorthTX, a nonprofit, member-driven trade association serving and representing the life sciences industry in North Texas.

Abigail Stempson, ’04, is the director of the NAGTRI Center for Consumer Protection in Washington, D.C. The Center is the nation’s only entity solely dedicated to provide training, research, expertise and other resources to the staff of attorneys general offices and other government attorneys and staff committed to protecting the public against consumer fraud and abuse. Most recently, Stempson was the chief of the Consumer Protection Bureau in the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office.

Kevin Corlew, ’05, has been appointed chair of the Missouri House Judiciary Committee.

Jamie Brummond, ’06, has been named vice president, mortgage compliance officer for the West Gate Bank mortgage division. He has been with the Lincoln bank since 2015.

Hon. Andrea D. Miller, ’06, district court judge for Nebraska’s 12th Judicial District, was the commencement speaker at the December 2017 graduation exercises at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Andrea Buckley, ’07, has been appointed to the EDMS Business Advisory Committee. EDMS is the electronic filing system used by the State of Iowa Judicial Branch. The EBAC is tasked with advising the Iowa Supreme Court, the state court administrator and the director of judicial branch information technology regarding effective policies and practices pertaining to e-filing and EDMS. Buckley is a staff attorney at Iowa Legal Aid in Sioux City, Iowa, where she also serves as the qualified tax expert for Iowa Legal Aid’s Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. She has been with Iowa Legal Aid since 2009.

Daniel Carnahan, ’07, has joined the Omaha office of Dvorak Law Group in its real estate planning group.

Karen Ebmeier, ’07, has joined the Lawrence, Kansas, law firm Thompson Warner. Her practice areas are criminal law, family law and general litigation.

Jonathan L. Grob, ’07, a shareholder in McGrath North’s tax, trusts and estate planning group in Omaha, has been elected as a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel by the regents of the college.

Nicole Seckman Jilek, ’07, has been named a partner In the Omaha law firm of Abrahams, Kaslow & Cassman. Jilek is a trial attorney who focuses her practice on civil litigation.

Michael Orcutt, ’07, a partner in the Phoenix, Arizona, office of Lipson Nielson, was selected by the Coalition of Arizona Appraisers to provide testimony before the Arizona Senate Judiciary Committee on a bill that would create a statute of limitations specific to appraisers, appraisal management companies and mortgage brokers. Orcutt is co-author of the Real Estate Broker Liability chapter of the Arizona Tort Law Handbook published by the Arizona State Bar.
Derek C. Zimmerman, ’07, is general counsel for Cameron General Contractors in Lincoln.

Jesse Krause, ’08, is an accounting manager for TechMasters, a heating and air conditioning company in Lincoln.

Russell J. Sprague, ’08, has joined the Fort Collins, Colorado, and Holyoke, Colorado, offices of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather. His practice focuses on business, real estate and estate issues.

Liz Uraga, ’08, has been named director of Quality Support Services at Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles, Washington.

Christine Higgins Wilcox, ’08, has been promoted to director of human resources at Union Bank & Trust in Lincoln. Wilcox joined Union Bank in 2010 as the bank’s in-house counsel. She had previously worked as an attorney in private practice in the Kansas City metro. She serves on the board of directors for the Nebraska Bankers Association and is a board member of Zelle Human Resource Solutions. She serves on the non-profit boards for the Child Guidance Center, the Lincoln Arts Council and the Nebraska Lawyers Trust Account Foundation.

Kelly Ekeler, ’09, is a Lincoln-based brief writer for Littler CaseSmart – Class Action.

Laura K. Essay, ’09, was the recipient of the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. She is a partner with the Dvorak Law Group in Omaha.

Thomas P. McCarty, ’09, has been made a shareholder in the Lincoln law firm of Keating O’Gara. McCarty joined the firm in 2012 and has concentrated his practice on employment and labor law and civil litigation.

Lindsay R. Snyder, ’09, has joined the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, law firm of Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder, Ossian, Vogl & Snyder. Snyder advises clients on civil, criminal, family and juvenile law matters.

Clint D. Cadwallader, ’10, has become a shareholder and partner in the Omaha law firm of Fraser Stryker. His practice focuses on business and corporate law, real estate transactions and intellectual property.

Julie Hansen, ’10, who writes under her first and middle names, Julie Tuovi, has sold a two book deal to Curiosity Quills Press. Night Lily, a young adult SciFi novel about a girl who joins a circus that travels from planet to planet in space, is set to be released in Summer 2018 with a sequel to follow. Hansen is represented by BookEnds Literary Agency and currently lives in Denver, Colorado, where she now writes full time.

Tyler Pribbeno, ’10, a partner in the Burke Law Firm in Imperial, Nebraska, was featured in an article in the Omaha World Herald about his decision to practice law in his hometown.
Michael Vo, ’10, has joined the Arlington, Virginia, office of Deloitte Advisory as a senior consultant, providing litigation support project management consulting to federal clients in the Deloitte transactions and business analytics practice group. He was previously employed with CACI, Inc. in its Washington, D.C., office, providing project management services to the Department of Justice on various civil matters, and in the New Orleans, Louisiana, office, providing litigation support to the Department of Justice on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill litigation and the Hurricane Katrina litigation.

Hon. Kale Burdick, ’11, was appointed by Gov. Pete Ricketts as County Court judge of the Eighth Judicial District, which spans 15 counties in northern and central Nebraska. Burdick previously served as a Nebraska assistant attorney general and as a special assistant United States attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Nebraska.

Elizabeth A. Evans, ’11, has joined the Omaha office of Jackson Lewis as an associate attorney. Her practice focuses on representing U.S. and multi-national companies in employment-based immigration matters.

Minja Herian, ’11, has been named a shareholder in the Omaha law firm of Koley Jessen. She joined the firm in 2011. Her practice focuses primarily on commercial litigation.

Christa Binstock Israel, ’11, was promoted to partner at the Lincoln law firm of Atwood, Holsten, Brown, Deaver & Spier, where her law practice is devoted to workers’ compensation, personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death litigation.

Sara Kohen, ’11, is a senior attorney at First National Bank of Omaha.

Christopher M. Reid, ’11, with the Lancaster County Attorney’s Office in Lincoln, was a guest lecturer in a History and System of Psychology class at York College, which looks at the myriad ways a psychology degree could be employed.

Kara J. Ronnau, ’11, is executive general counsel at Aurora Cooperative Elevator Company in Aurora, Nebraska.

Charles E. Wilbrand, ’11, has been named a partner with the Lincoln law firm of Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson & Endacott. His practice concentrates on healthcare, employment, real state and general litigation. Wilbrand joined the firm as an associate in 2012.

J. David Beasley, ’12, partner and tax manager at the accounting firm of Beasley, Mitchell & Co. in Las Cruces, New Mexico, has joined the board of directors of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico.

Dave Lopez, ’12, was appointed deputy solicitor general by Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson.

Katherine Q. Martz, ’12, has joined the litigation practice group at the Lincoln law firm of Baylor Evnen Curtiss Grimit & Witt.


Emily K. Rose, ’12, is with the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation in Lincoln.

Khanh N. Tran, ’12, is general counsel for Maxim Realty Group in Omaha.

Brandi J. Yosten, ’12, has merged her Jarecki Yosten law practice with that of Thomas Maul to form Jarecki Yosten Maul with offices in Albion and Columbus, Nebraska.

Christopher C. Cassiday, ’13, is counsel at ACI Worldwide in Omaha.
Katharine Gatewood, ’13, has been named deputy county attorney for the civil division of the Sarpy County Attorney’s Office.

Daniel S. Murow, ’13, has joined Koley Jessen as an associate in its real estate practice in Omaha.

Bree Robbins, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of the family law firm Cordell & Cordell.

Lindsey Wylie, ’13, has joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Juvenile Justice Institute. She recently published an article in Psychology, Public Policy, and the Law titled “Extraordinary and Compelling: The Use of Compassionate Release Laws in the United States.”

Stacy Schroeder, ’13, is the manager of the new Lubbock, Texas, office of the Carlson Law firm.

Nikki Blazey, ’14, was married to Jared Nobbe on July 29, 2017.

Bijan Kooohmaraiie, ’14, has been named one of the “18 to Watch in ’18” by Gentlemen’s Quarterly magazine.

Ryan McIntosh, ’14, graduated from the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, a one-year program that provides leadership training and educates participants about the vital role rivers, streams and aquifers play in the economic sustainability of the state. McIntosh is an associate attorney with Mattson Ricketts Law Firm in Nebraska City, where he is involved with civil litigation with a focus in water law, agricultural and natural resources law.

Douglas H. Partridge, ’14, is with the United States Army as a Judge Advocate. He was commissioned a first lieutenant on October 8, 2017, was assigned to the 7th Army Joint Training Command and was posted at Ansbach, Germany.

Stephen J. Schutz, ’14, has joined Kutak Rock as a real estate associate in the firm’s Omaha office.

Nathan D. Clark, ’15, has joined the Lincoln office of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, where his practice focuses on general litigation matters and appellate practice. Clark previously served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable C. Arlen Beam, ’65, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Andrew K. Joyce, ’15, has been named a partner in the Lincoln law firm of Morrow, Poppe, Watermeier & Lonowski. He joined the firm in 2015 and focuses his practice on small business formation, personal injury, estate planning, criminal defense, civil litigation and family law.

Brian D. Moore, ’15, has joined the Omaha firm of Baird Holm as a member of the firm’s labor, employment and employee benefits practice.

Preston Peterson, ’15, has joined the Law Office of Mark L. Eurek in Loup City, Nebraska, as an associate attorney.
Emily M. Sands, ’15, has opened Sands Law firm in Lincoln where she specializes in family law.

Kayla Hathcote, ’16, has been named deputy county attorney for the civil division for the Sarpy County Attorney’s Office.

Kathleen Miller, ’16, has joined the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment (CLEE) as a research fellow for the Wheeler Water Institute at Berkeley Law. At CLEE, Miller’s work focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to solving current and emerging California water issues. She was formerly a part of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Bureau with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office.

Jaydon McDonald Pence, ’16, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Rembolt Ludtke as an associate attorney after completing a judicial clerkship with Stephanie Stacy, ’91, of the Nebraska Supreme Court. Her practice focuses on labor and employment law and civil litigation.

Mary Rose Richter, ’16, is the director of restorative justice at the Central Mediation Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

Christopher M. Schmidt, ’16, has joined the Lincoln office of Baylor Evnen in the firm’s litigation practice group. His practice includes general civil litigation, with an emphasis in employment law.

Anthony M. Aerts, ’17, has joined the Lincoln and Seward offices of Rembolt Ludtke as an associate attorney. His practice emphasizes water law, estate tax, business planning, agriculture law and regulatory compliance.

Anne E. Brown, ’17, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Morrow, Poppe, Watermeier & Lonowski as an associate attorney. She focuses her practice on real estate and family law.

Audrey Bellew, ’17, has joined the Brouillette Law Office in North Platte, where her practice focuses on family, juvenile and business law. WorkNP, an incentive program to recruit workers to North Platte, helped cover her moving costs and other expenses, such as taking the bar exam.

Daniel A. Christensen, ’17, has joined the Omaha law firm of Berkshire & Burmeister as an associate attorney.

Jacinta Dai-Klabunde, ’17, is a juvenile project attorney at the Lincoln office of Legal Aid of Nebraska.

Michelle J. Elkin, ’17, has joined the Omaha office of Erickson Sederstrom as an associate with a practice focus in estate and gift planning, trust administration, probate of client estates and federal and state taxation plans.

Alexander Engelkamp, ’17, has joined Kutak Rock as an associate in the firm’s Omaha office, concentrating his practice in employee benefits law.

Joshua Falk, ’17, has joined the Scudder Law Firm in Lincoln, where he focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate compliance, securities law, business formation and corporate matters.

Phoebe L. Gydesen, ’17, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Baylor Evnen Curtiss Grimit & Witt as an associate in the firm’s litigation practice group.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

Alison K. Janecek, ’17, has joined the Lincoln office of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, where her practice focuses on general transaction matters.

Cody Kofoid, ’17, has joined the Scudder Law Firm in Lincoln, where he focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate compliance, securities law, business formation and corporate matters.

Nicholas Meier, ’17, has joined the Omaha office of Dvorak Law Group, where he focuses his practice on business entity formation and structuring, securities law, corporate governance and business contracts.

Danny Reynaga, ’17, is a staff attorney for Legal Aid of Nebraska’s office in Scottsbluff.

Max L. Rodenburg, ’17, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Rembolt Ludtke as an associate attorney, where his practice focuses primarily on estate and business law and tax planning. Rodenburg serves on the board of directors of the Clyde Malone Community Center and Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters. He appeared on a panel of professionals answering questions about caring for a loved one at Day of Caring in Nebraska City.

Erin Schroeder, ’17, has joined the Leininger, Smith, Johnson, Baack, Placzek & Allen law firm in Grand Island as an associate attorney.

Abigail Stark, ’17, has been named Beatrice city attorney. She was formerly the legal assistant for the city.

Alyssa Stokes, ’17, has joined the Omaha law firm of Koley Jessen as an associate in the firm’s employment and labor team.

Kathryn I. Vampola, ’17, has joined the Grand Island law firm of Shamberg, Wolf, McDermott & Depue as an associate attorney specializing in civil litigation.

Colton T. Williams, ’17, has joined Kutak Rock as an associate in the firm’s tax credit practice in its Omaha office.

McKynze P. Works, ’17, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Morrow, Poppe, Watermeier & Lonowski as an associate attorney. She focuses her practice on business and family law.

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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/keep-touch or email molly.brummond@unl.edu.
In Memoriam

1950s

Charles Thone, ’50, who served in Congress and as governor of Nebraska, passed away on March 6, 2018, at the age of 94. Among his early positions in Nebraska were as deputy secretary of state, assistant attorney general and administrative assistant to U.S. Sen. Roman Hruska. Thone was elected to Congress four times, serving as the 1st District representative from 1971 to 1979. He was a member of the House Agriculture Committee and of the House Select Committee on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 1978, he was elected governor. He lost his bid for re-election in 1982 to Democrat Bob Kerrey. After his defeat, he joined the Lincoln office of Erickson Sederstrom. He continued working until age 87, specializing in government relations. Thone continued his interest in the affairs of the state, leading a bipartisan committee to gain support for establishing the Nebraska Court of Appeals and chairing a push to get lottery funds for the Nebraska State Fair.

Richard Harold Williams, ’50, passed away on December 13, 2017, at the age of 93. He served as a Nebraska assistant attorney general for 12 years. After engaging in the private practice of law, he was appointed a Lancaster County judge in 1989. He retired in 1995. He also served as president of the Lincoln Bar Association. During World War II, Williams was trained as an anti-tank gunner. He fought at Omaha Beach and Utah Beach and thereafter engaged in combat operations in five European battle campaigns across France, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. He was awarded the EAME theater ribbon with five bronze stars, combat infantry badge and good conduct medal. During the Korean War, he was sent to Washington, D.C., for a year as a criminal investigation agent with the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division.

C. Russell Lockwood, ’51, passed away in Florida on October 12, 2017, at the age of 95. He served as manager of government affairs for the Standard Oil Co., in Chicago.

Thomas Jesse Gorham, ’52, passed away on January 11, 2018, in Boulder City, Nevada. He was 90 years old. He practiced law in Lincoln for many years and also served as a part-time county prosecutor. He later sold homes for Home Real Estate before retiring in 1997. He moved to Boulder City in 2002.

Ray Svehla, ’54, passed away in York, Nebraska, on November 3, 2017. He was 86 years old. He practiced law in York for over 40 years and was a partner in the Svehla, Barrows & Thomas law firm. He served as York County attorney, as president of the York School Board and as a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

John Douglas Knapp, ’55, died on April 6, 2018, in Kimball, Nebraska. He was 91 years of age. He served in the U.S. Army in the United States and Japan from 1945-1947. After practicing law for 17 years in Kimball, Knapp was elected a county judge in 1973. In 1974, Gov. James J. Exon appointed him a district judge for Nebraska’s 19th Judicial District, where he presided until he retired in 1999.
James N. Norton, ’55, died on January 22, 2018, in Green Valley, Arizona. He was 87 years old. After working as an attorney for the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., Norton took a legal position with Minneapolis-Honeywell in St. Petersburg, Florida. In 1961, he opened his own law practice in David City, Nebraska, like his father and brother had done before him, eventually relocating his office to the historic Boston Studio Building. Norton was co-founder and president of the David City Foundation and served as president of the David City School Board and of the Fifth Judicial Bar Association. After retiring in 1991, he and his wife split their years between the family cabin in Ericson, Nebraska, and Green Valley, Arizona.

Thomas D. Brower, ’56, passed away on December 24, 2017, in Fremont, Nebraska. He was 89 years of age. Brower served in the U.S. Army in Japan and Korea during the Korean War. He served as Kimball County attorney from 1958 until 1966 when he moved to Sidney, Nebraska. Subsequently, he lived in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Fort Collins, Colorado, and Fremont, Nebraska.

Bruce Barton, ’58, died on February 17, 2018, at his home in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 87. He began his career as a trial lawyer and justice of the peace in Kearney. He joined Conservative Savings and Loan in Omaha in 1962 as an attorney and in 1968 was named president. In 1990, Barton moved to Brooklyn, New York, to become the district executive for the Federal Court System. He retired to Dallas in 1996. Bruce was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was active in Republican politics, attending the Republican National Convention in 1976.

Donald Lee Bloom, ’58, passed away on June 27, 2017, at the age of 88 in Huntington Beach, California.

William E. Mooney, Jr., ’58, passed away on February 21, 2018, in Osage Beach, Missouri, at the age of 85. He practiced law in Omaha for many years and was a partner with Schmid, Ford, Fredrickson & Mooney.

1960s

David Maser, ’64, passed away on November 17, 2017, at Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln at the age of 76. He practiced law in Sutton, Nebraska, for more than 50 years with Bottorf & Maser. He was the Clay County attorney from 1971 to 1974. Maser was actively involved in the farming business, overseeing several Nebraska farming operations including his family farm, which has been in the Maser family for over 100 years.

C. Howard Vest, ’66, of Lincoln, passed away on December 27, 2017, at the age of 82. Vest was a pilot on active duty in the Air Force from 1958 until 1963, after which he joined the Nebraska National Guard and continued to fly until 1984. He served as a Lincoln city prosecutor, state aeronautics director and a trust officer at the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln. In 1979, he worked for E. Systems and lived in Tainan, Taiwan, for ten months while test flying all models of F4s. In 1981, he attended the Air Force War College in Montgomery, Alabama. From 1983-1985, he was the Air National Guard advisor and on the faculty of the Air War College, retiring from the Air National Guard as a lieutenant colonel in 1986. In 1986, Vest and his wife, Sally, purchased a Sylvan Learning Center franchise and ran the business for 14 years, selling it and retiring in 2000. Vest played football for the University of Colorado, playing in the 1957 Orange Bowl. He served as the Buff’s freshman offensive line coach. He also coached the Lincoln Comets football team and midget football.

Gary D. Blair, ’68, died on October 22, 2017, at the age of 76. He worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha and retired as chief of the Real Estate Division. Gary and his wife, June, were administrators for the Viking Ship Community Center in Omaha for 40 years.
**1970s**

Carl F. Nielsen, ’70, died on December 8, 2017, in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was 73 years old. In Omaha, he worked for the Morsman, Fike, Davis & Polack law firm and Omaha National Bank. In 1986, Nielsen moved to Scottsdale, where he worked for Systems Marketing, the RTC and Cygnet Dealer Finance.

Charles D. Mayfield, ’70, of Mundelein, Illinois, passed away on September 29, 2017, at the age of 72. He was with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

John F. Wright, ’70, who served 24 years as a judge of the Nebraska Supreme Court, died on March 18, 2018, in Lincoln after a long fight with cancer. He was 72 years old. Wright was one of the original members of the Nebraska Court of Appeals when it was created in 1992. He joined the Supreme Court in 1994, appointed by Gov. Ben Nelson. Prior to his judicial service, Wright worked for more than two decades as a private practice attorney in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and served with the Nebraska National Guard for six years.

Thomas L. Darneal, ’71, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, died on April 4, 2017. He was 73 years old.

Richard A. Johnson, ’71, died on January 9, 2018, at his home in Lincoln at the age of 81. He was president/owner of Nebraska Title Company until he retired in 2001.

Gerald E. Rouse, ’71, of Seward, passed away on October 11, 2017, at the age of 73. Rouse was employed with the Baker & Tessendorf law firm in Columbus for eight months before becoming a county court judge in the fall of 1971. He served the Fifth Judicial District until he retired at the end of 2012. In 1997, while in Australia and New Zealand, Rouse learned how the Maori tribe handled juvenile justice. That led him to be an advocate for family group conferences for juvenile offenders. He served as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 1999-2000.

John C. Hurd, ’73, passed away on March 4, 2018, at the age of 70. Hurd was one of the founding partners of the Lincoln law firm of Wolfe, Snowden, Hurd, Luers & Ahl. He began his career working as a deputy Lancaster County attorney. He served as a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, president of The Cedars Home for Children Foundation and chairman of the City of Lincoln Personnel Board.

Alan G. Stoler, ’78, passed away on February 5, 2018, at his Omaha home after an 11-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 64 years old. Stoler practiced law in Omaha for more than 40 years. In the last year of his life, he got the chance to argue before the United States Supreme Court. In *Dean v. United States*, 137 S. Ct. 1170 (2017), a unanimous court adopted Stoler’s argument that a sentencing court is not prevented from considering a mandatory minimum sentence imposed under federal law for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence when calculating an appropriate sentence for the underlying offense. Among his other cases, Stoler successfully filed a Title IX lawsuit against several Nebraska school districts that refused to recognize girls’ softball as a sport. Stoler taught Trial Advocacy at the Law College for 22 years.

**1980s**

Deborah F. Haskins, ’82, died from heart failure on October 7, 2017, at the age of 60. For 34 years, she worked for the Office of Legislative Legal Services for the Colorado General Assembly in Denver, Colorado, rising to the position of assistant director.
Terry K. Gutierrez, ’84, passed away on November 26, 2017, at the age of 60. He practiced law in Omaha with Gast, Tatz & Gutierrez and the Empire Insurance Companies, among others. He was an adjunct law instructor in the paralegal and business programs at Metro Community College for over 34 years. He received the MCC Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009.

Todd A. Morrison, ’84, passed away on October 1, 2017, at the age of 58. He was general counsel for First Data Corporation in Phoenix, Arizona.

Greg A. Perry, ’86, of Jefferson City, Missouri, passed away on December 1, 2017, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was 58 years old. Perry was a Missouri assistant attorney general for nearly 30 years.

Elisabeth A. Doyle, ’96, passed away on March 12, 2018, at WakeMed Hospital in Cary, North Carolina at the age of 48. After law school, Doyle moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and worked for the State of Georgia Department of Agriculture. Subsequently, she was in-house counsel for Vericor Power Systems in Alpharetta, Georgia. Her work there led to an opportunity to move to Europe to work for Europrop International. She briefly resided in Germany and then lived for eight years in Madrid, Spain. While in Spain, Doyle was responsible for the legal contract for the engines for the Airbus A400M military transport aircraft. After returning to the United States, she began writing a humorous memoir chronicling her adventures and misadventures as a fish-out-of-water in Spain and her travels in Europe.

Garner R. Girthoffer, ’04, passed away on November 20, 2017, at the age of 40. He worked in Washington, D.C., first for United States Senator Chuck Hagel, then as a policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures. Returning to Nebraska, he served as senior attorney and legislative liaison for the Nebraska Department of Revenue. He was named the department’s Employee of the Year in 2013. He ended his career as an attorney with the Baird Holm law firm in Omaha where he represented clients in state and local tax matters and as a lobbyist.
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