Poser Returns As College’s 14th Dean

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Meet Dean Susan Poser. After three years away from the College, Poser returned as the 14th dean in May 2010. In this issue, she reflects on her first year at the helm and the challenges that lie ahead.
As you read this, it will be almost one year since I became the dean of the College of Law. It has been an exciting year, some might say breathless, and we are still running on all cylinders. I have been touched by the warmth and kindness of the alumni whom I have met as I have traveled around the country. I am continually reminded of what extraordinarily loyal and accomplished alumni we have. You will read about a few of these alumni in the following pages, including our new Young Alumni Council. I will continue my travels in the coming year and I hope I will have the chance to meet or re-connect with you if I have not already done so.

When I arrived back at the Law College after three years on city campus working for the University administration, I returned to a building that has undergone an almost complete renovation. The College is stunning and comfortable, a wonderful learning and teaching environment. As the new dean, I felt that the next step was to examine everything going on inside the building.

We spent a good deal of time this year preparing for our re-accreditation. This routine inspection by the American Bar Association occurs every seven years, and the process requires that we explain and assess everything we do at the College, from admissions to careers services, from the classroom to the clinic. The faculty has undertaken a complete review of the curriculum, so that we can assure ourselves, our alumni and our students that we are continuing to offer a first-class education suited to the 21st century. As we continue to think about where we have been and where we are going, I am interested in the opinions of our alumni and friends, so please feel free to email or call me with your thoughts and ideas.

There are two overarching goals on which we have been focused and will continue to focus for the foreseeable future. First, I believe that right now the best way to build our programs for the benefit of our students is for the Law College to engage more with the University and the community. This is not interdisciplinarity for its own sake, but rather for the sake of preparing our students to go out into a complex world to deal with the multifaceted issues facing their clients.
We are bringing courses in Patent Law back into the curriculum and hoping to start a clinic in entrepreneurship so that our students can be prepared to work with, and even become, entrepreneurs. This will also position us to make important contributions as the new Innovation Campus develops at UNL. In addition, the Law College has made connections to UNL’s Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, and we are helping to sponsor a new class in which undergraduate and graduate students in filmmaking, creative writing and music can learn about the legal and business side of making a living through the arts.

The second goal is simply to make the College of Law less of a well-kept secret. We have a wonderful faculty, great programs, bright and enthusiastic students, great staff and a marvelous facility. We ought to be better known across Nebraska and the nation for the education that we provide and the way that we provide it. So, we are trying to get the word out through our newly redesigned website on which we highlight the successes of our faculty, students and alumni; new brochures and admissions materials; and more contacts with the academic and popular press. As alumni, you are our best ambassadors, so please let us know if we can provide you with any information or if you have any ideas about how we can continue to build our reputation.

We have wonderful new faculty, staff and administrators at the College. They have brought new energy and ideas to us while simultaneously embracing our tradition of being a student-centered, close-knit community. You will meet some of them in the pages of this issue of the Nebraska Transcript. As of this writing, we know we will welcome two new faculty members for the 2011-12 academic year and offer some new courses and some courses that have not been taught here for a while, including Patent Law, Elder Law, Education Law, Election Law, Food Safety and National Security Law.

I am extremely optimistic and enthusiastic about where the Law College is right now. Even in these difficult economic times, we have remained an affordable public law school with an outstanding faculty where students can get a great education in a supportive and stimulating environment. I am tremendously grateful to the deans who have come before me, and the alumni who have been there all along, for building an institution of such quality. My goal is to continue this tradition of excellence while moving the College forward to meet the future.

Thank you,

Susan Poser
Dean and Professor of Law
Thirty-eight years ago, Alan Frank walked through the doors of the College of Law to begin his career as a professor of law. Looking back at Frank’s tenure, it is easy to see that he has become much more. Throughout the years, Frank developed a strong sense of loyalty to the Law College and, as a result, has striven to improve the school in any way he could. From making the Law College a more diverse place to emphasizing the importance of service and developing a broader skills curriculum, Frank has left an enduring mark.

Frank received his J.D., cum laude, Order of the Coif, from the University of Wisconsin Law School and upon graduation, took a job as head of the family law program at the Legal Services Center in Madison, Wis. After a mentor asked Frank if he had any interest in teaching law, he thought back to his only previous experience as head of a classroom: a two-year stint in the Peace Corps, where he taught English to Libyan students. Frank remembered loving that teaching experience, and so took his mentor’s advice and applied to several law schools in the hopes of getting a faculty position. The College of Law offered Frank just such a job as an assistant professor, and Frank joined the faculty in 1972. Throughout his tenure, Frank has served the Law College in numerous ways that have proven instrumental in helping the school develop and progress into what it is today.

From the very start, Frank knew that one of the most important things he wanted to contribute to Nebraska Law, and in turn, instill in his students, centered on the ideal of service. During his first year at the Law College, after seeing a need for a community outreach program, Frank formed the Community Legal Education Project (CLEP). This project was aimed at giving students the opportunity to teach children and other individuals in the Nebraska community about the law and how it affects their everyday lives. “It’s important for the general public to know more about the law so they can be informed and become better citizens. There are a lot of ways in which lawyers can serve their communities and one of them is by imparting the specialized knowledge we have acquired to better educate the public about the legal system and how it works,” said Frank.

From the beginning, Frank recognized the importance of
having a Law College with a diverse student and faculty population, and he has helped the school achieve diversity in several different ways. In his first year, Frank and two other faculty members, David Ludtke and John Snowden, became concerned about the lack of diversity among the students at the school. As a result, they developed the Minority Recruitment Committee, a group whose main goal was to spread the word about Nebraska Law by putting together information packets targeted toward Midwestern minority undergraduate and high school students.

In 1984, Frank teamed with Professor Steve Willborn to direct a Council of Legal Education (CLEO) Regional Summer Institute in order to provide prelaw training for disadvantaged students throughout the country. Additionally, when Frank became the director of the Legal Research and Writing program, one of his first actions was to make certain that at least half of the legal writing instructors were women.

Over the years, Frank also served the College by filling several different positions when the need arose. Frank considers his five years as associate dean as one of his most rewarding experiences. “The funny thing about teaching is that you are very autonomous. You teach class and write articles, but there is not that much of a sense of working together toward a common goal. In an administrative job, that is what you are doing. Working for the institution by collaborating with other people. You are at the center of things working with students, faculty and the dean.”

Frank also became involved with the Nebraska Transcript during his second year at the Law College. Initially, he was an advisor to the student-edited publication but eventually took on the role as editor. Throughout his editorship, Frank has enjoyed telling the stories of the alumni, as well as the yearly activities at the Law College. “I was interested in keeping up with all the alumni,” said Frank. “The Transcript is just one way to communicate with them and to showcase the important work that they do.”

For the last 15 years, Frank has focused on courses like Client Interviewing and Counseling and Mediation. “I relate more to the softer side of the law,” said Frank. “My niche developed in relational courses where you are trying to get people who have conflicts to solve them in a non-adversarial way.”

Nebraska Law’s Client Counseling program started with Frank, when he partnered with Janet Krause from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Counseling Center to offer a course that focused on developing communication skills in lawyers. “Students need the intellectual development to understand and know the law, but they also need the skills to take that knowledge and use it in the real world,” said Frank. “Lawyers are communicators. They spend most of their time talking with clients and trying to strategize. Client counseling helps students learn how to create an atmosphere of trust and to look at their clients’ interests behind the demands they are making.”

Along with the development of the Client Counseling course, the Law College began participating in the national Client Counseling Competition. Frank has been instrumental in helping Nebraska Law become recognized as a school with a strong reputation for success in the competition on a regional and national level. In 37 years of competing, the Law College has produced 12 regional champion teams, three national champions and one international champion.

He has served as a team coach and advisor alongside Professor Craig Lawson and has enjoyed watching his students become successful competitors. “It’s fun to see the development and watch the students think on their feet and be creative,” said Frank. For three years he stepped aside as coach and instead served as a member and chair of the National Client Counseling Competition Committee, which is responsible for running the competition for the ABA’s Law School Division. He currently helps to administer the Louis M. Brown and Forrest S. Mosten International Client Counseling Competition.

Being a founding member of the Mediation Center in Lincoln, Frank had an interest in implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) into the Law College’s curriculum. With the help of Dean Harvey Perlman, he became trained as a mediator, and began teaching Mediation to Nebraska Law’s students. Frank is a strong believer in the benefits that ADR can bring to the parties involved. “As a non-adversarial person, I like the idea of solving problems collaboratively and creatively,” said Frank. “Mediation is becoming more prominent and important for a variety of reasons. It allows you to come up with your own solutions. It is more flexible and enables parties to work together, express themselves and preserve relationships.”

Frank’s numerous years of service to the legal profession, his community and the Law College were recognized in 2005 when he won the Outstanding Service Award given by the Alumni Council. In presenting his award, Kathy Olson, ’81, who has worked with Frank in teaching the Client Counseling and Family Law Practice courses, said, “I have been most impressed with his commitment and dedication to teaching the practical principles and skills necessary for law students to excel as lawyers. Alan recognizes the critical impact that the law has on people, and he helps the students understand that their clients will be people, not just legal problems to be resolved.”

Although Frank is gradually reducing his role at the Law College, his contributions to the school will endure.
Faculty Update

Recent Scholarship & Activities

Nebraska Law Plays Key Role in Mexico’s Transition To Oral Advocacy System of Criminal Justice

The College of Law is currently engaged in a major curricular reform. No, the reform is not of the Law College’s curriculum (although the College’s curriculum is currently under review); rather Nebraska Law is assisting the law faculty at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City to prepare for Mexico’s transition from a mixed inquisitorial system to an oral adversarial system of criminal justice.

Clinical professors Kevin Ruser and Steve Schmidt are the principal investigators on the three-year, $450,000 grant funded by the United States Agency for Development (USAID) through Higher Education for Development (HED). The focus of the grant activities is to prepare UNAM faculty members to teach oral advocacy skills to UNAM law students, to conduct clinical programs (including legal education programs) for the Mexican bench and bar on oral advocacy skills and to help UNAM develop a clinical program in which its students can acquire, among other things, oral advocacy skills through experiential learning.

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An amendment to the Mexican constitution established a seven-year timetable to bring about a significant change in its criminal justice system. According to Schmidt, the current mixed inquisitorial system involves no live testimony. “Everything, all the facts and all the evidence, is reduced to written form. If you have ever seen a picture of a Latin American judge, there are these giant hardbound stacks of paper. That’s what the trial is—
a big stack of papers that ostensibly the judge reads and then renders his or her “opinion.”

“There is a ton of perceived corruption in Mexico and public mistrust of the process,” Schmidt continued. “And a lot of that has to do with the fact that it was a mixed inquisitorial system where, essentially, anyone who wanted to could submit a piece of paper that said something and then all of a sudden it was evidence in the case. There was no verification of the veracity of that information or those facts. Another problem is that the public would know someone was arrested and then months later that person was acquitted and they never knew why because none of the information was public; no one had access to it except the judge.”

Schmidt described what a typical Mexican courtroom under the mixed inquisitorial system looks like: “Their courtrooms aren’t courtrooms at all. They’re essentially office spaces with a jail cell on the far wall. The accused stands in the jail cell, and people sit at nearby desks. Instead of having a direct question and answer with the witness, what they’ll say is, ‘Okay, this is your statement, right? This is your signature, right?’ If the secretary, who works for the judge, thinks anything needs to be clarified, he’ll ask additional questions. But the attorneys never get to ask direct questions to the witness.”

Under the new system, criminal law attorneys will need to develop a whole new skill set. They will be questioning witnesses using both direct and cross examination and will be conducting opening statements and closing arguments to the judge. The new system does not include the use of juries.

Ruser and Schmidt’s involvement in the process began when they were told about the request for proposals in December 2008 by then Law College Dean Steve Willborn. When they said they were interested, they were immediately put in touch with Prem Paul, UNL’s vice chancellor for research and economic development. A month later Willborn, Schmidt and Noah Clayton, a project manager for the Department of Research and Economic Development, were in Mexico City.
Based on what they learned on the trip, they agreed to partner with UNAM on a grant proposal in which the Law College would put on trial advocacy trainings in Mexico City and UNAM professors would visit the Law College to further their understanding of the American oral advocacy system.

However, it would be quite a while before these visits would take place. It was not until May 2010 that the Law College received word that it would be one of six law schools that were awarded grants to partner with Mexican law schools to help implement the constitutional reform.

A month later, Schmidt and Clayton returned to Mexico City and saw that UNAM had already begun to make changes in its curriculum and facilities. “They had actually built two mock courtrooms,” Schmidt recalled. “It was rewarding to see that they had gotten that far along in the process and that they had wanted to invest money in it.”

After strenuous efforts to get their visas in order, two UNAM law professors arrived in Lincoln in November 2010 to begin their education in the American oral advocacy system – Patricia Ortega Cubas, who has served as a prosecutor and a judge and has an abiding interest in mediation, and Geraldo Hierro Molina, who teaches family law and constitutional law. After a short adversarial process orientation, they went to Philadelphia where they took a Building Trial Skills course put on by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Then they returned to Lincoln where Ruser and Schmidt took them “anywhere and everywhere.” Said Schmidt, “They met prosecutors, public defenders and local and state judges. They went into court with us and to Lincoln Bar Association meetings. They attended several trials and actually watched one of my students conduct a trial on a theft offense. They watched portions of several jury trials. So they spent a lot of time in the courthouse.”

The Mexican professors quickly put their training to work. Along with Schmidt and Lincoln public defender Elizabeth Elliott, they put on a trial advocacy program at UNAM entitled Introduction to the Adversarial Process for Professors. “The program was ambitious,” said Schmidt. “We had every one of them do an opening statement, a direct examination, a cross examination, a closing argument and two critiquing exercises. Using the NITA-model of critiquing, we would have a student perform and then the student professor would critique that student on his or her performance.”

Some of the classes were in Spanish and some in English. Language was no barrier, however, because there was a large booth in the back of the room staffed by two interpreters. All the participants wore headphones so they could hear the instruction in their language.

Another UNAM professor, Javier Gamboa Hererra, is visiting Nebraska Law for the spring 2011 semester taking Trial Advocacy, Evidence and Arbitration. He was joined in March by five others, all of whom took a NITA course and made the same round of visits as the previous group. The course was coordinated by former Law College faculty member Peter Hoffman, now at University of Houston Law Center.

In June, Schmidt will return to UNAM to teach an advanced adversarial process course to many of the same professors who were in the first class plus a few others. The goal is that after the advanced training the UNAM professors will be ready to create a trial advocacy syllabus and teach from it. “They have oral trial classes now as part of the curriculum they have been building, but they don’t have anything that would even remotely compare to what we would call a trial advocacy class,” said Schmidt.

For the next two-and-a-half years, the Law College will continue conducting twice-a-year trainings in Mexico City. At the same time, Ruser and Schmidt will help UNAM develop the diplomados for practicing attorneys and judges and begin a criminal clinic for law students. There could also be a professor exchange in which a UNAM professor would teach at the Law College and Schmidt would spend a semester teaching in Mexico City while he helps UNAM develop the clinic.

The project has had its challenges. The Mexican constitu-

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“Now, however, the change is very obvious, very apparent and very dramatic. People are very excited. It is wonderful and gratifying to see such a difference in a two year period.”
Faculty Notes

Marvin Ammori
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Marvin Ammori appeared on Countdown with Keith Olbermann on December 20, 2010, to provide commentary and analysis of the FCC’s latest net neutrality proposal. He participated in The New York Times Room for Debate regarding online privacy. He also provided commentary for The Huffington Post on net neutrality. In his article, “FCC Chair Proposes Garbage, Calls It Net Neutrality,” Ammori sets forth reasons that the FCC chairman’s proposal on net neutrality fails to meet President Obama’s campaign promises on net neutrality. In The Boston Review, he published a response to Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig’s arguments on “institutional corruption” in politics. Ammori discussed the relation between First Amendment scrutiny and the resulting, but flawed, constitutional protection for business activity and property rights.

Marcia L. Dority Baker
Assistant Professor of Law Library and Access Services Librarian

Professor Marcia Dority Baker has been elected vice chair/chair elect of the College & University Section of the Nebraska Library Association.

Eric Berger
Assistant Professor of Law


In spring 2010, Berger began teaching Legislation: Public Policy and Statutory Interpretation. Berger’s teaching was recognized with the College Distinguished Teaching Award and also the Professor of the Year Award by a vote of the upperclass law students. He also received the C.A. Sorensen Award from Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty (NADP) for his work and scholarship regarding the death penalty. At NADP’s annual awards dinner, he gave a speech, “The Death Penalty We Actually Have.” Berger was a guest on NPR’s All Things Considered, talking about Nebraska’s lethal injection procedure.

Kristen M. Blankley
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Kristen Blankley’s article, “Keeping a Secret from Yourself? Confidentiality When the Same Neutral Serves Both as Mediator and as Arbitrator in the Same Case,” was accepted for publication in the Baylor Law Review. The article examines the hybrid mediation-arbitration process (known as “med-arb”), particularly in light of mediation confidentiality statutes such as the Uniform Mediation Act. She presented a paper on this topic at the 4th Annual AALS Section of Dispute Resolution Works-in-Progress Conference held at the University of Oregon College of Law.

Brian H. Bornstein
Professor of Law and Psychology

Professor Brian Bornstein has been selected as the 2011 recipient of the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award. His selection was based on Bornstein’s service as an educator and mentor and on his exceptional overall contributions to the psychology and law profession. The award was presented at the 4th International Congress on Psychology and Law in Miami. Bornstein and Professor Richard L. Wiener are the editors of Emotion and the Law: Psychological Perspectives published by Springer.
C. Steven Bradford
Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law


Beth Burkstrand-Reid
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid has published two articles that will appear this spring. “‘Trophy’ Husbands and ‘Opt-Out’ Wives” will be in the Seattle University Law Review as one of several invited comments on the work of renowned work-life family law professor Joan Williams; “The More Things Change... Abortion Politics and the Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology” will appear in the UMKC Law Review as part of a symposium on global issues in family law. Burkstrand-Reid presented her research on men as primary caretakers at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Multidimensional Masculinities Conference and will do so at the AALS Mid-Year Meeting on Women Rethinking Equality.

Richard F. Duncan
Sherman S. Welpton, Jr. Professor of Law

Professor Rick Duncan has published the lead article in the South Dakota Law Review’s Symposium issue on the law of religious liberty. Duncan’s article, “The ‘Clearest Command’ of the Establishment Clause: Denominational Preferences, Religious Liberty, and Public Scholarships That Classify Religions,” appears at 55 South Dakota Law Review 390. Duncan has participated in a series of debates including “The Ground Zero Mosque and Religious Liberty” at the University of Miami School of Law; “Liberty and the Establishment Clause” at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas School of Law, where he defended the position that under the judicially-created endorsement test the Establishment Clause is often enforced by courts in a way that restricts the liberty of people of faith without protecting any actual liberty interest of those who are offended by religious displays in the public square; and “The Tenth Amendment and the State Sovereignty Movement” at the University of Tulsa College of Law, where he argued in favor of a strong and robust Tenth Amendment, one that, properly understood, reserves a great deal of power to the states and the People.

Martin R. Gardner
Steinhart Foundation Professor of Law

Professor Marty Gardner presented a paper entitled, “Strip Searching Students: The Supreme Court’s Latest Failure to Articulate a ‘Sufficiently Clear’ Statement of Fourth Amendment Law” at the National Judicial College and National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law at the University of Mississippi College of Law in Oxford, Miss. The paper will be published in the Mississippi Law Journal. Gardner has published a second article, “The Right to Be Free from Uncounseled Interrogation: A Sixth Amendment Doctrine in Search of a Rationale,” to be published in volume 63 of the Baylor Law Review. The article assesses the Supreme Court’s recent recognition of a Sixth Amendment right to be free from governmental interrogation without counsel after adversarial proceedings have been initiated. The article’s analysis demonstrates that the Court’s position is unsupported by any underlying Sixth Amendment value and thus should be rejected.

John M. Gradwohl
Judge Henry A. Spencer Professor of Law Emeritus


Roger W. Kirst
Henry M. Grether Professor of Law

Professor Roger Kirst presented at the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association’s conference entitled “Scientific Evidence for the Defense: DNA and Beyond” on the latest confrontation clause rules for lab reports and expert testimony.
In December, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a rule that scholars refer to as network neutrality. The FCC chairman, appointed by President Obama, called it the Open Internet rule, but anti-Obama talk show hosts like Glenn Beck termed it Obama’s “takeover” of the Internet.

But the debate didn’t begin then. This rule came after seven years of debate, hundreds of millions spent on lobbyists and lawyers, court cases, Google-Verizon proposals, and thousands of news articles, with the involvement of tech companies from Amazon to Expedia, citizens groups, phone and cable companies and millions of Americans. U.S. Senator Al Franken called network neutrality the “free speech issue of our time,” and he questioned Sonya Sotomayor about the issue at her Supreme Court confirmation hearing.

So we are sure you’re wondering: what is everyone so worked up over? Answer: the future of something we call the Internet.

Network neutrality is a simple principle. It means that phone and cable companies should not be allowed to mess with your access to the Internet. They should not be allowed to block lawful websites; for example, Windstream or AT&T should not be allowed to block Skype, an innovative Internet phone company. And Comcast should not be allowed to block BitTorrent or Netflix or any other technology or company delivering TV shows and movies online. In fact, network neutrality requires phone and cable companies to act neutrally when it comes to websites – they cannot cut special deals with Yahoo to load faster than Google, with Walmart.com to load faster than Amazon or with CNN.com to load faster than HuffingtonPost.com.

Why should Internet networks be subject to nondiscrimination rules? The Communications Act of 1934, still the operative law, borrowed nondiscrimination principles from rules governing railroads and the telegraph. Vanderbilt’s railroads – then the basic infrastructure of commerce – had privileged Rockefeller’s oil, encouraging monopoly. Western Union’s telegraph privileged the Associated Press and denied rival newspapers access to the telegraph, creating a near-monopoly in news. Monopolies lead to higher prices, fewer people being served and less innovation. Because of discrimination tied to the basic infrastructure of railroads and the telegraph, the nation suffered monopolies in both commerce and information.
Today, the Internet is the basic infrastructure of both commerce and information. Indeed, it was originally built as a general-purpose, nondiscriminatory infrastructure. Maintaining nondiscriminatory access on the Internet would guard against rigged competition benefiting today’s Rockefellers at the expense of tomorrow’s innovators. Nondiscrimination would also prevent the propping up of some of today’s news sources over others. Had the Internet not been neutral for the past decade, think of the companies that might have faced a biased platform: if Friendster, Excite and Vonage could have cut special deals with AT&T and Comcast, many of us would not have the choice of using the tools of Facebook, Google and Skype.

As capacity expands (from dial-up to broadband to higher speeds) and ubiquity increases (from fixed to mobile to embedded), the Web evolves. Rather than lobbying to discriminate, carriers should invest in open, general-purpose capacity and ubiquity. Indeed, U.S. networks trail behind other nations in speed, capacity, prices and deployment, and this disparity may increase without strong open Internet rules, as carriers would have less incentive to invest in capacity.

But this is one side of the story – the side that Professor Ammori thinks is the right side.

The other side has some plausible arguments as well. While “Obama Internet takeover” is not one of them, the phone and cable carriers argue that they can provide consumers a better experience if they discriminate. First, some technologies could benefit from priority during times of congestion. Ammori’s assertion that carriers should invest only in nondiscriminatory capacity, not priority, is lovely, but the engineers and executives at AT&T and Comcast should decide how to engineer their networks. Ammori likens this argument to a car company arguing they would like to produce fuel-inefficient, dangerous cars. Second, AT&T and others will invest more with discrimination. They want to be able to charge edge companies like Google and Netflix for priority access. If AT&T can make some extra money from Google and Netflix, in theory it could lower prices for all users. Plus, AT&T does not invest in some regions, because they are not profitable; they might be profitable if Google and Netflix were paying to reach them, meaning that AT&T would have the incentive to invest in more areas. Ammori’s argument that all users should have open, nondiscriminatory connections overlooks the reality that some people would like a cheaper, discriminatory connection—whatever the (unpredictable) effect on innovation.

Ammori, among others, doubts that carriers would pass on much of this profit through investment or lower prices.

Both sides do agree on a few things. First, carriers should not block sites based on political content or speech. And second, the FCC’s network neutrality rule is not ideal. Ammori, along with companies and consumer groups, believe the rule has too many loopholes, including minimal protections for wireless Internet access. The carriers think the rule is burdensome and unwise. But the primary question now is not policy—it is law. Both sides will appeal the FCC’s order, and the key question will be whether the FCC has jurisdiction to adopt the network neutrality rule. So the debate is not over. You cannot expect either side to throw in the towel when so much is at stake.

Professor Marvin Ammori argued the nation’s most important network neutrality case before the FCC, Free Press v. Comcast, on appeal at the D.C. Circuit, Comcast v. FCC. He served as counsel for consumer groups, other law professors, and (on appeal) technology companies. He has also testified before several governments around the world on the issue.

Sarah Morris is a J.D. and LL.M. graduate who wrote her thesis on the Smart Grid’s Privacy and Security Concerns. She is a policy analyst for the New American Foundation’s Open Technology Initiative where she assists in the research and development of policy proposals related to open technologies, broadband access and emerging technological issues.
Faculty Update

Recent Scholarship & Activities

Lepard Leads Forsythe Family Program On Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs

Professor Brian Lepard teaches tax and business planning courses at the College of Law, as well as the International Human Rights Law Seminar. That might seem like a strange mix, but not to Lepard. In fact, for him “the human rights interest came first.” It is, therefore, most appropriate that Lepard has been named co-director, along with Dr. Ari Kohen of the Political Science Department, of UNL’s Forsythe Family Program on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

The program is named for Dr. David Forsythe of the Political Science Department, whose family made a generous donation to the program. Forsythe is one of the world’s foremost authorities on the International Committee of the Red Cross and its work around the world. He has written extensively about the protection of human rights and human dignity in armed conflict.

The naming of the program was recognized at a reception on November, 16, 2010, that featured a talk by Professor Samuel Totten of the University of Arkansas on “The Darfur Genocide: Antecedents, Atrocities, Accountability.” A few days later, Lepard gave a lecture, “Rescuing Human Rights: The Impact of Globalization on International Human Rights Law,” that he dedicated to Forsythe.

Although newly named, the program has existed for more than a decade. It began when a group of faculty members who were interested in human rights issues received a grant from the Ford Foundation for the study of human rights and human diversity. Among the speakers the program attracted to Lincoln were Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

That funding ran out, but the program is enjoying a rebirth with the help of the Forsythe family. One issue of particular interest to the program is transitional justice, “which is the problem of rebuilding societies that have been traumatized by conflict including rebuilding their justice system and their core social systems and bringing to justice individuals who have committed gross violations of the laws of war or genocide,” said Lepard. Another group of faculty is interested in international women’s rights issues.

Lepard sees the program as building on the existing joint degree program the Law College has with the Political Science Department. “My hope is that we can formalize a concentrated program of study on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, which would involve students taking Law College courses and other courses across the University,” he said. Lepard is also working on establishing an extern program on human rights and humanitarian affairs in which students can participate in human rights projects around the world. Lepard said that the Forsythe Family Program has received a challenge grant and is looking for donors who would like to support these and other initiatives of the program.

Lepard brings to the program an extensive background in human rights. He studied international law and organization at Princeton University in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Upon graduation he worked with the Baha’i International Community United Nations Office as a human rights specialist. While at the UN, he discovered that virtually all the diplomats there who worked in the human rights field had law degrees. “So even though I swore I would never go to law school, I reluctantly began to rethink my plans,” Lepard recalled. “Around the same time, I met an international tax lawyer, and we had lunch together at the UN, and he told me what he did, and it started to really intrigue me.” At Yale Law School, Lepard took as many human rights and international law courses and as many tax courses as he could. “I was hopeful that somehow I’d find a way to combine these interests and ‘lo and behold’ teaching turned out to be the way.”

Lepard’s combination of interests is demonstrated in his new book, Customary International Law: A New Theory with Practical Applications, published by Cambridge University Press. The book develops a new approach to understanding customary international law, which is one of the two primary sources of international law along with treaties. The book, Lepard said, “was a wonderful way to integrate my interests.”

NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT
The newest addition to the College of Law’s Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program is Assistant Professor Kristen Blankley. Blankley received her undergraduate degree from Hiram College and graduated first in her class at Ohio State University’s Mortiz College of Law, which consistently ranks among the top five schools nationwide in the area of ADR. During her time at Ohio State, Blankley became interested in ADR and decided that she eventually wanted to teach in the area.

Following law school, Blankley clerked for the Honorable Eugene E. Siler on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Honorable Kermit E. Bye on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. After clerking, Blankley worked in Columbus, Ohio, at Squire, Sanders, & Dempsey LLP, in general litigation. She worked on a wide variety of litigation matters, including trade secrets, breach of contract, tax and products liability. The highlight of her litigation career was being part of a team that won a $26 million jury verdict on counterclaims of defamation and unfair competition.

In every case on which Blankley participated, some form of ADR was involved. She helped her clients negotiate settlements, and she represented clients in mediation and arbitration, including international arbitration. Throughout her practice, Blankley stayed active in the ADR field, publishing articles on mediation and arbitration and co-authoring a book chapter. In addition, she edited a manual on cross-cultural negotiation for use by the United States Air Force. After being in private practice for nearly four years, Blankley decided to make her move to law teaching.

At the Law College, Blankley teaches the survey ADR course as well as Mediation, Arbitration and Mediation Advocacy. Her teaching focuses on helping students understand ADR processes and on how lawyers can use these processes to serve their clients’ interests. Blankley has high hopes for the Law College’s ADR program. “I hope to bring enthusiasm and expertise to the school in the area and to help it expand on its ADR course offerings. Students seem interested in learning about ADR, and the Nebraska community is really starting to see the value of ADR, particularly mediation.”

Blankley’s plans for Nebraska Law’s ADR program include coordinating the Law College’s first Mediation Representation Competition, and accompanying the winners to the Regional Competition in Houston, Texas. Mediation has been taught at the Law College for many years, but traditionally has focused on training students to be mediators. “The competition will expose students to the advocacy side of mediation and allow them to practice these skills,” Blankley said.

In addition, Blankley has begun researching the possibility of instituting a mediation clinic for Nebraska Law students. This clinic would help students get experience mediating actual disputes under the supervision of more experienced mediators. Blankley also hopes to get students involved in the Boskey International ADR Competition, which she won as a student in 2004.

In terms of her scholarship, Blankley plans on continuing her research in both arbitration and mediation. She has two research projects in the works. The first examines med-arb, the hybrid process of mediation and arbitration, and how issues of confidentiality impact the procedure. Her second research project deals with ethics in arbitration, focusing on whether perjury laws and laws prohibiting the destruction of litigation documents apply to arbitration. Blankley noted: “Both of these areas have been neglected in the literature, and yet they have an impact on ADR practice. I hope that my research will contribute to the ADR scholarship, especially on the area of ADR ethics.”

Kristen Blankley
Family Law Expert Burkstrand-Reid Creates Trust to Teach Controversial Issues

By Emily Rose, Class of 2012

Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid joined the College of Law for the fall 2010 semester as an assistant professor of law, teaching Family Law, Torts and Legal Profession. She comes to the Law College with a B.A in political science from Emory University, as well as a J.D., summa cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law.

Burkstrand-Reid’s field of expertise is Family Law, with a focus on sex equality. She feels privileged to teach Family Law, she says, because it is an area of law with which many people interact during their lifetimes. Moreover, teaching Family Law is a special responsibility because it covers some of the most controversial topics of the day.

Burkstrand-Reid believes that since family law issues such as divorce, abortion and same-sex marriage are both very emotional and political, trust in a professor is essential in order to make students feel comfortable enough to contribute to class discussions and engage in rigorous legal analysis of these complex topics. In order to create this trust, Burkstrand-Reid uses a more relaxed, conversational tone in her classes, employs client counseling and drafting simulations and guides discussions by relating them to current legal controversies.

“Legal education does not have to be adversarial to produce lawyers who are successfull in adversarial settings,” said Burkstrand-Reid. “Students learn well in a relaxed environment. They are able to consider complex and controversial topics and learn that zealous advocacy does not require incivility or belligerence – it requires clarity of thought and reason. That said, they know that in my class being relaxed in tone does not mean that my expectations are relaxed. In fact, they are extremely high. If they are going to advocate in an area as emotional and political as family law, I expect them to know the law and the policy behind it and to know it well.”

In the classroom, Burkstrand-Reid also aims to foster discussions that enable students to understand all sides of an issue. “If you don’t understand all sides of an issue, you won’t be a good lawyer,” she observed. “It is gratifying for me when students closely examine their strongly held opinions and start to consider other perspectives. If they get to a point where they are having a hard time reconciling their personal beliefs, the law and arguments on the other side, all the better. This confusion, for lack of a better word, is evidence that their ability to analyze legal issues is advancing beyond the mere ability to understand a case and have a gut reaction to the holding.”

In addition to teaching, Burkstrand-Reid plans to continue her research on various topics including the impact of nontraditional gender roles on the development of family law, an area in which she specifically looks at the legal importance of men as primary family caregivers. She will also continue her research in the area of women’s reproductive health from conception through childbirth. She has already been invited to present her research at conferences around the country.

Burkstrand-Reid arrived at Nebraska Law with a diverse and impressive practice background. After graduating from law school, she served as a pro se law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and as an associate with the law firm Crowell & Moring LLP, where she had a broad-based litigation, counseling and pro bono practice. She took a leave of absence from her firm when she was awarded a Georgetown University Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship, during which time she worked on reproductive health law.

At the close of her fellowship, Burkstrand-Reid was invited by her alma mater, American University Washington College of Law, to teach as an adjunct faculty member and taught Family and Sex-Based Discrimination Law, Legal Writing and Introduction to Advocacy.
Nebraska Law deans share many things in common: a passion for the law, the ability to take initiative and lead and, above all, the desire to make the legal education at Nebraska Law the best it can be. Susan Poser personifies all of these qualities and much more. Poser began her deanship in May 2010 and has since kept very busy pursuing her vision for the future. “I started at the Law College because I wanted to be around students and teach,” said Poser. “I’m very happy to be back. I had an incredible experience in the chancellor’s office, but I missed the students and the academic enterprise.”

Poser’s pursuit of education began at Pennsylvania’s Swarthmore College where she received her B.A. with honors in Ancient Greek and Political Science. She traveled westward to earn her graduate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, including a J.D., Order of the Coif, from the Boalt Hall School of Law, as well as a Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy. Since law school, Poser has enjoyed an impressive legal career that has included a clerkship with Chief Judge Dolores K. Sloviter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, a successful legal practice in Philadelphia and a 12-year experience as a professor at the Law College, as well as a visiting professor position at her Berkeley alma mater.
Immediately prior to assuming her deanship, Poser served for several years as chief of staff and associate to Chancellor Harvey Perlman. She counts this administrative experience as instrumental in forming a broader perspective of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “As associate to the chancellor, I had a 30,000 foot view of the University,” said Poser. “I learned how it functioned as an organization and how its moving parts worked.” This perspective has proven helpful to Poser in her first few months as dean because it has enabled her to strengthen the Law College’s relationship with the University and the community. “I can see where the law school sits and how we can make more connections to the wider University and to the community,” said Poser.

Being exposed to the inner-workings of a large public university also helped Poser to identify aspects of Nebraska Law that need progression, enhancement and change. Among her top priorities as dean was strengthening the school’s admissions and communications efforts. In order to effectuate these goals, Poser made two key hires in Kirk Kluver, director of admissions, and Molly Brummond, director of communications and alumni relations. “They have incredible energy and expertise, and they have further professionalized the administrative staff,” said Poser. “We are very much an underrated law school. There are a lot of great things going on, and we have a great faculty that the world needs to know about.”

Poser believes that Kluver’s admissions experience will help Nebraska Law make connections in order to increase its diversity. “I hired an admissions director from undergraduate admissions with the theory that, in order to broaden our pool of students, we need someone who really understands admissions to generate a pool of candidates from around the state and country,” Poser also believes that the University’s move to the Big Ten Conference will enhance Nebraska Law’s reputation and attract new students. “A lot of students want to go to a Big Ten school,” said Poser. “It opens up a whole world and allows for collaboration with our peers in the Big Ten. It’s going to be great for the entire University.”

Poser also believes that Brummond’s marketing back-

ground will be instrumental in developing a strategy for building the Law College’s national reputation. So far the strategy has included making the school website more navigable and organized, sending out a professional collateral piece to every law professor in the country touting the achievements of Nebraska Law’s faculty and students, and highlighting new curriculum and facilities.

Brummond will also be assisting Poser in accomplishing another top priority: strengthening alumni connections and support. Poser believes that the Law College could benefit by learning from and encouraging the participation of alumni, particularly young alumni. As a result, the Young Alumni Council was formed. “Most alumni had a good experience at the Law College and want to become engaged and connected, and we need them to stay connected because that involvement enhances the education we provide. It is not always about the money,” said Poser. “The Young Alumni Council is made up of two people from every class starting with the 2010 graduates back to 2001, as well as two people in the third year class of 2011. This group is about giving us feedback, engaging with current students and helping us with admissions.”

In her first year, Poser also devoted a considerable amount of time to leading Nebraska Law through a reaccreditation process and curriculum review. The reaccreditation process typically occurs every seven years and includes an intensive self-assessment as well as collaboration with an ABA Site Team. “Reaccreditiation required us to do a self-study,
which is a long, detailed document addressing everything we do and assessing it honestly,” said Poser. “The site team read what we presented and visited in early March. Members of the team visited classes, talked to faculty, students, and alumni; and based on the information provided and their own observations, they will write a report to the ABA.”

The curriculum review will be a longer process encompassing a similar self-assessment of Nebraska Law’s course offerings, and will take into account the conclusions of several national studies that legal education needs to be made up of more skills-based classes. “Our main function is to train lawyers,” said Poser. “The legal field is changing and we need to make sure the curriculum is lining up with that.” In addition to reviewing the current curriculum, Poser plans to add new classes, build up clinical offerings and bring new faculty to the Law College. “We’re adding in the business and corporate area, space law and patent law,” said Poser. “Our LL.M. program in space, cyber and telecommunications law fills a niche nationally that no one else is doing.”

After Poser accomplishes some of her top priorities at the Law College, she looks forward to getting back into the classroom and teaching some of her courses, including Legal Profession. Throughout Poser’s career she has always maintained a reverence for the professional and ethical standards attorneys are charged with living by. This has driven her to become deeply involved in researching, teaching and writing about the issues surrounding professional responsibility and ethics.

In addition to teaching Legal Profession, Poser’s involvement in the field includes being the director of the Robert J. Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics at UNL. She has also served on various ethics committees in the Nebraska legal community including serving as the reporter for the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Committee on the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, serving on the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Ethics Committee and being appointed by the Nebraska Supreme Court to the District One Committee on Inquiry, which reviews disciplinary complaints against Nebraska attorneys. “Everyone wins and loses cases and learns to live with it. But the issues that are the most difficult and keep lawyers up at night are the ethical dilemmas because they do not necessarily test what you know, but what kind of lawyer you are. It is hard to anticipate many of these issues because they come in many forms and often by surprise. My goal when teaching professional responsibility is to help the students think about what their own approach to law practice is going to be by learning the rules and wrestling in class with some of the difficult issues that can arise in practice.”

Outside of the Law College, Poser enjoys playing piano and tennis and spending time with her husband and two daughters. ■
In July 2010, Molly Brummond joined Nebraska Law as the Law College’s first director of communications and alumni relations, bringing with her a wealth of experience and connections. A 2003 graduate of the College, Brummond practiced insurance defense and family law at the Lincoln firm Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Grimit & Witt, LLP. By 2006, however, Brummond was ready for a change. “I loved the profession of law, but not the business of law. I had a new baby at home and had serious doubts about my ability to achieve the work-life balance that I wanted for my family. So, when the opportunity arose, I made the move, which was absolutely the right thing for me,” she said.

Brummond was hired by ME Group, a regional mechanical and electrical engineering firm, in the dual role of in-house counsel and director of business development. As director of business development, Brummond honed her communication skills through marketing and developing relationships with clients. “That was such a unique opportunity. I learned so much about small business, the role that the construction industry plays in economic growth and how to leverage networks and resources in a productive way. It was my first real exposure to a business other than a law practice, and the experiences and skills that I developed really served as the impetus for what my career has become.”

Eventually, Brummond accepted a job as the director of development of Village Gardens, a traditional neighborhood development at 56th and Pine Lake Road in Lincoln. “It was a natural progression, really. I was immersed in construction and business, but it was here that communications and marketing skills became something that I used every day. I was selling the project to investors, business owners, homeowners and other stakeholders. The varying communications that it required were challenging and fulfilling.”

Throughout her career, Brummond maintained a relationship with the College of Law by judging competitions and speaking on panels about alternative legal careers. “I never dreamed that I would end up being employed here, but I always felt that if I could offer students some insight then I should. And so I did.”

Brummond’s role at the College has two distinct components: communications and alumni relations. She views the communications role as vitally important in building the College’s national reputation. “We have been going about our business here, and in true Nebraska form, have not been letting the world know about it. There are incredible things happening here, and it’s important not only for the College but for the University and the state of Nebraska that we tell that story.” Brummond will tell that story through various mediums – traditional press, social networking sites, collateral pieces, the Nebraska Transcript and the College’s website, among others.

As for alumni relations, Brummond has high hopes for engaging the alumni network and providing more resources for that network. “When people leave, they sometimes shut the door on the College, because they have spent so much time here and are ready to move on. My main goal is to keep alumni from completely shutting that door, to better harness all they have to offer and to help them realize that they have so much to give that will enhance the education our students receive,” Brummond said. Brummond wants Nebraska Law to be a better resource for alumni as well, “whether it is CLE, alumni access to the Career Services Office and ROSCOE or just access to each other, because this is not just a three-year experience but a community you join for a lifetime.”

While some might find the challenges presented by this dual role daunting, Brummond says she is more than up for it. “Working for the Law College has been sort of like coming home. I received an incredible education here. I met some of my very dearest friends here. It feels good to work at something that you have already invested in and has invested in you.”

“My main goal is to keep alumni from completely shutting that door, to better harness all they have to offer and to help them realize that they have so much to give that will enhance the education our students receive.”
New Assistant Dean for Admissions Kirk Kluver measures the success of his job by each class that walks through the Law College’s doors. “In coaching, you are only as good as your last game,” said Kluver. “In admissions, you are only as good as your last class. It’s an honor to be at Nebraska Law,” he added. “As a lifelong Nebraskan, I’m excited to represent my alma mater in this capacity.”

Before coming to the Law College, Kluver was the assistant director for out of state admissions in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions. During the course of this nine-year experience, he developed a passion for admissions and student recruitment. When the opportunity arose that allowed him more contact with students at the graduate level, however, Kluver took it.

“There are new challenges because the scope of law school admissions is different,” said Kluver. “I am used to bringing in a class of 4,000. Now the class size is 150, making it more personalized and competitive. It’s fun to be so hands on and to give that individualized attention to all aspects of the admissions process.”

Kluver’s expertise and enthusiasm for admissions comes at a much needed time, due to a three-year decline in student applicants at the Law College. Kluver has hit the ground running to remedy this downward trend by maintaining a busy fall recruitment schedule, which included attending law school open houses at various universities across the country; participating in Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) forums in Chicago, New York and Atlanta; and representing Nebraska Law at a variety of career fairs all over the state.

At each recruiting event, Kluver’s main agenda is increasing the pool of applicants in the hopes of garnering a class that is made up of bright individuals from different experiences and backgrounds. “It’s important to have intellectual diversity to contribute to a meaningful discourse in the classroom,” said Kluver. “The priority has been to identify, recruit and keep the best students in Nebraska, but it is also important to develop national markets and have a national reach.”

Kluver believes that the University’s recent move to the Big Ten Conference will be advantageous to the Law College in terms of attracting new recruits and developing a national presence. “Historically there are a large number of students who apply to Big Ten law schools and a large number of talented undergraduates at Big Ten schools who apply to ABA-approved law schools,” said Kluver. “The Big Ten has a strong academic reputation as a conference. Being affiliated with this group of schools may prompt students to take a look at the Law College when they might not have in previous years.”

Kluver also looks to increase the participation of the Law College’s alumni to help broaden the College’s national reach and to help recruit students. “A goal this spring is to engage alumni to become our representatives in parts of the country where we think we will have success, such as in Southern California, Texas and Florida.”

Aside from attending various recruiting events, Kluver believes it is important to develop a dynamic and comprehensive communication plan aimed at forming a personal relationship between the Law College and prospective students. In an effort to form this connection, Kluver personally calls every student offered admission, as well as sending out personal letters and hosting events.

Another important aspect in helping a student form a personal connection with a school is the campus visit. “The campus visit is extremely important to get the feeling of a place,” said Kluver. “The priority has been to identify, recruit and keep the best students in Nebraska, but it is also important to develop national markets and have a national reach.”

Kluver believes that Dean Susan Poser has established a great administrative team and is proud to be a part of it. “In admissions, it is important to feel good about the institution you are representing when you are standing behind a table at a recruitment event or calling students,” said Kluver. “It has been a whirlwind, but it is clear that there are great people here. We all believe this is an exciting time at Nebraska Law.”
My first year at the College of Law has been met with both challenges and opportunities. Ongoing reports from the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) indicate the number of applicants to ABA-approved law schools is down between 10 percent and 15 percent. Many speculate that news of the current legal job market and increasing costs of legal education are to blame for the application declines. Only 29 of the over 200 ABA-approved law schools have experienced application increases as of late February 2011. Fortunately, the College of Law is one of the them.

Amid the news of the declining national application pool, two things happened that will provide tremendous opportunities for the College of Law admissions operation and recruitment efforts in the years to come:

1) Jim Nearhood, ’76, made a gift to renovate Room 106 into a first-class admissions office (see the article on page 39). His donation will also be used to fund scholarships and support expanded admissions programming.

2) The University of Nebraska–Lincoln announced that it will become a member of the elite Big Ten Conference on July 1, 2011.

Nebraska students, alumni, staff, fans and casual observers quickly realized the impact this affiliation will have for our University. The move to the Big Ten has been discussed ad nauseam in the blogosphere, on talk radio and around the collective “Husker Nation” water cooler, but I will add my two cents on why I believe our status as a Big Ten law school will help our recruitment and admissions efforts going forward.

A National Reputation

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln will not officially become a member of the Big Ten until July, but from my perspective the benefits of membership began on June 11, 2010, shortly after Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney announced Nebraska was unanimously approved for membership by the Big Ten chancellors. I see this first-hand as I travel around the country attending law school recruitment events. A student in Minnesota approached my table and said, “I thought I would check out Nebraska now that you are part of the Big Ten.” A student in Arizona said he was narrowing his search “to the Big Ten law schools.” These are just two of many examples of how we are and will be “judged by the company we keep.” And what good company it is – very few if any conferences have the brand name, reputation and recognition of the Big Ten Conference. Our membership is affirmation of the progress that has been made at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln over the last decade.

A Spirit of Cooperation

One of the narratives surrounding the Big Ten membership is about the cooperation among the member institutions, I have found that a spirit of cooperation does exist. For instance, I was invited by the admissions offices of other Big Ten law schools to co-host a recruitment reception in Chicago at the LSAC Recruitment Forum. Perhaps they were being nice since I was the new kid on the block, but I left with a genuine sense of camaraderie among my admissions colleagues at other Big
Ten law schools. I got the feeling that they were not only proud of their respective institutions, but equally proud of the success and reputation of member law schools. The feeling was mutual. I have no doubt that students will benefit from this cooperation in ways that will reveal themselves over time.

**Recruiting In Big Ten Country**

Many Husker coaches have been asked how the move to the Big Ten will impact recruiting. My response is similar to theirs: we will continue to recruit nationally and believe our membership in the Big Ten will increase our national profile; I also expect to see a significant impact recruiting in “Big Ten country.”

In my former life as the assistant director of out-of-state recruitment for UNL, we were successful building markets in the all-important Big Ten region. We constantly faced the challenge of being an outsider to students in states that were extremely loyal to the Big Ten.

Early application numbers from students attending Big Ten institutions as undergraduates and from those residing in Big Ten states indicate that our “insider” status is already paying dividends. This is important since students attending Big Ten institutions as undergraduates apply to law school in large numbers.

The Law School Admissions Council publishes the Top 240 ABA Feeder Schools report each year that ranks undergraduate institutions by the number of students who apply to at least one ABA-approved law school. The University of Florida tops this list with 1183 of their students applying to at least one law school for the 2009-2010 admissions cycle. During the same period, only 131 students who received a Bachelors Degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln applied to at least one law school. This put UNL as the 145th largest feeder to ABA-approved law schools. As you would expect, UNL is the largest feeder to the College of Law, but the relatively small number of “local” applicants puts the College at a disadvantage in building a large applicant pool.

By comparison, there are seven Big Ten schools in the Top 25 in the Top 240 ABA Feeder School report. For the 2009-2010 admissions cycle, an average of 529 students attending a Big Ten institution as an undergraduate applied to at least one ABA-approved law school. In short, there is a real opportunity to grow our application pool from Big Ten undergraduate students.

Opportunity is probably the best way to describe our move to the Big Ten. I believe the next decade at the College of Law can be transformational, but much hard work is ahead given the local and national application trends, increasing costs of law school, the realities of a difficult legal job market and the increasing competitiveness for the best and brightest law students. In spite of these challenges, I am excited for the future of Nebraska Law and our future in the Big Ten. Please stop by the Nearhood Office of Admissions the next time you are on campus or perhaps I’ll see you in Madison, Iowa City, Minneapolis, Chicago, East Lansing, West Lafayette, State College, Bloomington, Ann Arbor, Columbus or Champaign-Urbana.
The Legal Market

It is an exciting yet challenging time for Nebraska Law’s Career Services Office. Signs of economic recovery are everywhere and, if you listen to the daily news, you would think the worst is over. However, despite Nebraska enjoying one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, many of our recent graduates are still facing a very tight market. In the last year, both state and federal positions have been lost due to budget cuts. On the heels of unprecedented legal layoffs nationwide, it is still unclear what the long-term effects will be on the market moving forward. Some prophesize a growing reliance on outsourcing, and thus forecast a reliance on domestic contract lawyers or a routine delegation of research problems to offshore attorneys in India and elsewhere.

There are, however, glimmers of hope for the future. We have seen an uptick in postings for new associates over the last few months. In addition, many hiring partners during the Spring On-Campus Interviews indicated that they are increasing their summer associate classes to pre-recession levels in anticipation of higher demand. In general, I am hopeful for the year to come.

The Dilemma

For the Career Services Office, the economic downturn has meant an increase in demand for counseling services from both current students and alumni. Some have been directly affected, losing their jobs as a result of the downturn, while others are justifiably anxious about what the economy will mean for their post-graduate choices. It became clear in 2010 that changes in the legal markets would require that our office engage in a more aggressive employer outreach program to ensure that opportunities for graduate employment were not being lost.

The dilemma we faced was how to expand employer outreach and increase the development of innovative programs without sacrificing the availability of one-on-one counseling. For the first five years as director of Career Services, I was solely responsible for both outreach and counseling. The counseling responsibilities meant providing services to 400+ JD students, all alumni and, for the past few years, those students enrolled in the Space and Telecommunications Law LLM program. Nationally, the average and counselor student ratio is 250:1. In light of increased demands and the need for more employer outreach, after consultations with Dean Poser, it was agreed that expansion of our office was needed to meet the needs of our constituents.

The Solution

I’m happy to report that after a nationwide search was conducted in fall 2010, Tracy Warren, ’03, was selected and joined our office in January 2011 as the Law College’s first-ever associate director of Career Services. Tracy brings a breadth of experience, including both private practice and government practice experience to her new role. During her first semester, she is becoming familiar with our programs and is already offering one-on-one counseling to our students. Between now and the fall of 2011, we will be engaged in the process of identifying areas of specialization for the director and associate director respectively. This specialization will allow us to make the most of our collaboration. For example, as a former judicial clerk, I anticipate retaining the primary role as judicial clerkship advisor and will coordinate our biannual judicial clerkship programs. Tracy, with her experience as an attorney for the State of Nebraska, will be the natural choice for taking the lead on expanding programs and information on government opportunities.

Having an associate director will allow us to expand employer outreach efforts in the coming year to include more non-traditional as well as corporate employers. Greater Nebraska is also an area offering opportunities for our young graduates. I want to make sure we are doing our part to educate our students on the quality work and the quality of life offered in some of these smaller communities. If you are practicing in Greater Nebraska, don’t be surprised to hear from us soon!

To learn more about the newest addition to Nebraska Law, read Tracy’s profile in the accompanying page of this article or stop by and introduce yourself the next time you are at the College. We feel lucky that she chose to join our team!
Introducing Tracy Warren, Associate Director of Career Services

**Background:**
Undergraduate:
- Northwest Missouri State University – B.S. in Psychology and Sociology, April, 2000
Law School:
- University of Nebraska College of Law, Class of 2003
Experience:
- Private Practice: Attorney with Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Grimit & Witt LLP
- Government: Assistant Attorney General, Nebraska Attorney General’s Office
Personal:
- Married to Jamie Warren, ’03; son Henry (age 2) & baby who will join the family at the end of April; enjoys reading (fiction – comedy and murder mysteries), baking (cakes, cookies and other sweet treats), spending time outside and attending sporting events.

**Why did you decide to join the Career Services Office?**

The position of associate director of Career Services was attractive to me because of the opportunities it offered to work with people. This position allows me to utilize my undergraduate degree in psychology and sociology in order to counsel students, while I can also use my experience in private and government practice to help them determine the direction they want their career paths to take. I have always had a genuine desire to help people and the student counseling opportunities, as well as the programming provided by the CSO, will definitely help me satisfy that aspiration.

**What are you most excited about?**

I am excited about returning to the College of Law and getting to know the students. I am eager to work with Tasha and to collaborate with her in expanding the different services the CSO can provide to students. Each of us has our own individual career path, which provides students with an invaluable resource to draw upon as they obtain their legal education and start their job search. Each student is unique, and I look forward to helping students determine what sets them apart from their classmates, decide what they want their career path to look like and establish the career opportunities that are right for them, whether that be a traditional legal career or a non-traditional one. I want to work hard at opening students’ eyes to more non-traditional legal careers and all of the doors that a law school education can open for them.

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**CSO Statistics for the Class of 2010**

Total Graduates = 122
116 Responses: 85.3%
Employed; 4.3% Enrolled in a degree program

**Employment Statistics – Area of Practice**
- Private Practice: 53%
- Business or Corporate Legal Department: 17%
- Government: 23%
  - Judicial Clerkship: 7
  - Federal: 5
  - State/Provincial: 6
  - Local: 5
  - Military: 0
  - Other: 0
- Public Interest/Non-Profit Organization (includes Public Defenders): 2%
  - Academic: 3%
  - Other: 1%

**2010 Starting Salaries for Law Firms**
- Average Salary: $60,750
- Median Salary: $51,500
- Salary Range: $32,500 - $150,000

**Geographic Distribution of Employment**
- East North Central: 1%
- West North Central: 83%
- South Atlantic: 4%
- West South Central: 2%
- Mountain: 6%
- Pacific: 2%
- International: 1%

**Bar Passage Rate for Class of 2010**
100% in Nebraska and 13 other states
Marcia Dority Baker’s thorough survey of articles and notices in the Nebraska Transcript regarding technology at the College of Law demonstrates two things: 1) Nebraska Law’s commitment to excellence and innovation, and 2) the faculty and staff’s patience, sense of humor and resourcefulness.

The simple recounting of events tells only a portion of the story. In the early days of technology, when overhead projectors were the state of the art in classroom technology, law schools didn’t have staffs dedicated to maintaining and implementing classroom technology. However, every school had librarians who traditionally handled things like photocopiers, micro fiche/film readers and printers and typing labs, and in the late-1970s, law schools had begun using computers for circulation, serials check-in and online catalogs. This “expertise” translated, in the minds of law school administrators of the day, into making librarians technology experts. As a result, law libraries became the place where technology was stored and maintained.

Law Librarians found themselves in the awkward position of having to wheel carts with overhead projectors and VCRs and monitors into classrooms and set up screens – a far cry from what most of us had learned in our graduate programs in library schools. Those of us who were here in those days can recall (with grimace and shiver) times when we were called upon to roll carts from the McCollum Hall, the main Law College building, to the Welpton Courtroom before the Kauffman Suite was built. In those days, the connector between the two buildings was covered with a roof, but no walls and the columns that ran down the walkway did little to stop the blowing wind and snow. How often we wished for carts with snow tires!

The 1986 gift from the Great Plains Tax Institute of computers, printers and software presented a special set of problems: where to put them, how to manage them and how to train people to use them. Next to the reserve room behind the circulation desk was the library’s collection of micro-format materials and microform readers and printers. We cleared out the microform room and moved it to the back of the reserve room to make room for our ten or so brand new IBM-PCs. The trickiest part was that in 1986, the PC was a very new product, and few of us had ever actually used one. And using them was not easy. The PCs had two 5.25” floppy drives, and each time you wanted to use one, you had to boot it up with DOS and then load the program that you wanted to use. After these two steps, we had to train students how to save documents to their own discs.

Another challenge was teaching students how to print documents that they had created. Law students regularly needed to print section symbols, but section symbols weren’t a regular part of the keyboard alternative keys in WordPerfect, the word-processing program of choice in those days. The library staff spent a great deal of time learning and then teaching students how to insert section symbols into their work.

Countless stories can be told of the “old days,” which today seem similar to describing the days of hand-crank telephones. Today we are very thankful for such modern advances as high-speed wireless internet/networking throughout the building, high-speed laser printers and projectors and computers built into every classroom. But, most of all, we’re very grateful for our new students who come to school with their own computers, which, more often than not, they actually know how to use.
The use of classroom technology to assist with teaching has evolved over the past 40 years. The standard chalkboard, chalk and eraser morphed into the white board and markers; overhead projectors sit in inventory while digital projectors hang overhead in the classrooms. All the classrooms at McCollum Hall have been remodeled, transformed or built to accommodate technology use by faculty and students.

After reviewing numerous issues of the Nebraska Transcript from 1970 through the present, it was fascinating to see just how much things have changed technologically in such a relatively short period of time. Included below are the technology highlights the College of Law has experienced throughout those years.

1975
Ross McCollum Hall, the East Campus home of the College of Law, officially opens for law school classes. The move from City Campus to East Campus provides the Law College with more space; updated classrooms and offices; accommodations for the civil clinic, law review and moot court; and room to grow. Classrooms are the standard 1970s model: long tables for students and a podium from which the faculty lecture. Classroom technology includes a portable overhead projector and VCRs with television monitors for faculty use when needed. Projection screens seem to be the constant technology hardware used throughout the years. (The Nebraska Transcript 9/6, 1975)

1976
A grant from the Lou Brown Foundation enables the Law College to create a Law Office Classroom in an unused faculty office. In a room next to the office, a closed-circuit television system allows faculty to watch and videotape Client Counseling interviews. The College also purchases a large screen (8’x7.5’) projection television that allows for large-scale presentation of educational movies, tapes and programs. Coaxial cable for closed circuit broadcasting from NETV and microphones are also added. Plans for video equipment, including cameras and televisions, are in progress. Eventually, the planned video system will allow for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) classes to be recorded and viewed at later dates or viewed in other classrooms. (The Nebraska Transcript 11/1, 1976)

1979
Nebraska Law graduates and law clerks encounter computers, such as the Lanier word-processing system, in law firms and offices. (The Nebraska Transcript 14/2, 1979)

1980
In March, a televised question and answer panel of minority lawyers is recorded to provide information about the Law College to potential applicants and promote the College of Law to minority students. (The Nebraska Transcript 14/3, 1980)

Over several days in September, a 12-hour videotaped seminar on Trial Skills is offered to Nebraska lawyers as part of a CLE program. (The Nebraska Transcript 14/3, 1980)

A gift of $450,000 to Nebraska Law funds a Lexis computer terminal for legal research. The gift is in memory of Justice Samuel Hopkins Sedgewick from his daughter, Myrna Sedgewick. The computer is available between 4 p.m. and 2 a.m. with priority use given to law faculty, law review and senior law students. (The Nebraska Transcript 14/3, 1980 & 15/4, 1981)

1981
Not all technology is found in the classroom: Professor Roger Kirst pilots “Computer Aided Instruction” at the Law College. Using a microcomputer and videodisc, students in Evidence and Trial Advocacy classes can work through segments of a trial to simulate different actions that may take place. (The Nebraska Transcript 16/2, 1981)

1982
There are big changes in the works for Client Counseling: the Law Office Classroom office is to be moved from the faculty wing to the Welpton Courtroom Complex that is being added to the Law College. The Law Office Classroom mimics a law office and includes several television cameras that are used to broadcast interviews into other classrooms or to record them for later use. (The Nebraska Transcript 16/3, 1982)

1983
A College of Law display at the Nebraska State Fair shows fairgoers what Nebraska Law has to offer in terms of activities and organizations. The display is also known as the “musical computer.” This interactive exhibit is a collaboration of a number of UNL departments: the Physics department loaned and programmed the computer, the displays and quizzes were created by the Nebraska Law staff, the faculty offered copies of articles or books and pamphlets were available from the Nebraska State Bar Association. (The Nebraska Transcript 17/2, 1983)

In March, the Nebraska Supreme Court is in session at the Law College. For the first time, television cameras are used in the courtroom for this yearly ritual. (The Nebraska Transcript 17/3, 1983)
The Welpton Courtroom is dedicated in November; modern technology includes state of the art electric, audio, video and computerized equipment in the Judges’ Chambers, Jury Room and Courtroom making it one of the best facilities in the country. (The Nebraska Transcript 17/3, 1983 & 18/2, 1984)

1985
First year students learn how to search Westlaw and Lexis in Legal Research and Writing during the second semester. (The Nebraska Transcript 20/2, 1985)

1986
Nebraska Law CLE events are broadcast with help from the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute. Funds for a satellite dish were collected at past events, and a partnership with the Nebraska Educational Television (NETV) network will allow the CLE seminars, special lectures and programs to be shown through a closed circuit system at McCollum Hall. The Law College cannot broadcast out programming due to high equipment costs, but it can receive broadcast events. (The Nebraska Transcript 21/1, 1986)

1987
A permanent computer center is created in the College of Law library. Funding from Westlaw allows for five computer terminals and printers. The competition between Westlaw and Lexis provides law students and faculty with more computer terminals available for legal research. (The Nebraska Transcript 21/3&4, 1987)

1988
The Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) law fraternity creates “Pearls of Wisdom.” This videotape recording of Nebraska Law faculty members giving advice and using humor to explain the law is made for new law students and potential fraternity members. (The Nebraska Transcript 22/1&2, 1988)

1989
A seminar held at the Law College entitled “Selected Trial Advocacy and Evidence Issues” includes a demonstration of graphics from pie charts to computerized videotapes and three-dimensional graphics. (The Nebraska Transcript 23/1, 1989)

Professor Roger Kirst’s computer program for law students on the rules of evidence is expanded and used by the University of Minnesota for state judges. Marketing and publication of the disk is in discussion with a publication company. (The Nebraska Transcript 23/2&3, 1988)

The Legal Database, InfoTrac, a legal periodical indexing database, is available in the library. It provides article searching from 1980 to current. (The Nebraska Transcript 23/2&3, 1988)

The College of Law library will start replacing the card catalogue with an automated system in January 1990. This process, which includes the hardware and software equipment, startup costs and loading 1 million titles into the integrated library system, will cost approximately $1 million dollars. (The Nebraska Transcript 23/2&3, 1988)

1991
The Innovative Research Information System, also known as IRIS, is introduced as the new online library system for the University of Nebraska Libraries. Faculty and staff can search for material at the Law College Library and the University libraries using a microcomputer, modem, and telecommunication software. It is free to search in the Lincoln area and available throughout the state via other connected computers. (The Nebraska Transcript 25/2&3, 1991)

1992
The Marvin and Virginia Schmid Law Library is dedicated in September. The generous gift of $2 million from the Schmids allow the library to improve its
collection and upgrade the library computers. (The Nebraska Transcript 28/2, 1993)

1996
The Nebraska Transcript first lists an email address as part of the publication’s contact information. (The Nebraska Transcript 30/3, 1996)

The Schmid Law Library continues to lead as a resource for legal research via CD-ROMs, tutorials produced by the Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), library databases and Lexis and Westlaw. The library also provides Internet access to students in the computer labs. The Nebraska Institute for Technology in the Practice of Law is established. (The Nebraska Transcript 31/1, 1996)

1997
The College of Law goes on the World Wide Web with its website: http://www.unl.edu/lawcoll/ (The Nebraska Transcript 31/3, 1997)

1998
A section on technology is included in the remodel and addition proposal to McCollum Hall and the Schmid Law Library. (The Nebraska Transcript 33/1, 1998)

A link from the Law College’s homepage to Schmid Law Library’s website provides useful library resources available on the World Wide Web. (The Nebraska Transcript 33/1, 1998)

2000
Professor Bob Works reviews how technologies such as email, power point presentations and faculty websites have changed teaching and learning at Nebraska Law. The look and feel of classrooms has evolved as well; a classroom computer, projector, document camera or ELMO and large screens allow professors to quickly show the law to students. (The Nebraska Transcript 35/1, 2000)

2005
A major classroom remodel updates the technology in several classrooms and the Law College environment. During the summer of 2004, classrooms 121 and 124 are remodeled; over the next summer, classrooms 122, 125 and 113 (the “hanging room”) are also updated. The Courtroom is given a facelift and updated technology; other technology upgrades include the wireless network system, and more power and data outlets for faculty and students. (The Nebraska Transcript 39/1, 2005/06)

2007
Nebraska Law faculty use technology to help students study and learn in new ways. Professor Steven Bradford creates podcasts or digital recordings, available online, of his lectures. (The Nebraska Transcript 40/1, 2006/07)

2008
The Space and Telecom Law LL.M. program welcomes its first class. (The Nebraska Transcript 40/2, 2008)

2009
The Nebraska Law Review joins the digital world with its website and online journal; http://lawreview.unl.edu (The Nebraska Transcript 42/1, 2009)

As you can see, technology has changed how law students and faculty engage in the process of learning. Nebraska Law continues to improve and enhance the education process it provides, using technology as its evolution marches on.
Around the College

Recent Scholarship & Activities

2009-2010 Student Accolades

Graduation with Highest Distinction
Adam Barney
Edward Fox II
Stephanie Mahlin

Graduation with High Distinction
Dennis DeWald
Gregory Frayer
Cameron Guenzel
Daniel Hassing
Matthew Holman
John Jensen
Mary Lang
Jenna Perkins
Coady Pruett
Matthew Schaefer
Jessica Snowden
Ryan Sullivan
JoAnna Thomas

Graduation with Distinction
Brooke Allison
Amy Bartels
Adam Bates
Shawn Beaudette
Shannon Benash
Daniel Bruce
Clinton Cadwallader
Michelle Clark
Jordan Clegg
Maggie Cox
Javier Díaz
Anna Doss
Seth Felton

Jonathan Gargano
Lori Hack
Kimberly Hodge
Jennifer Jorgensen
Michael Kuzma
Tiffany Lee
John Lentz
Mindy Lester
Abigail Littrell
Gavin Parker
Ross Pesek
Matthew Poulsen
Tyler Pribbeno
Michelle Salter
Kimberly Stamp
Mitchell Stehik
Tara Tesmer
Amanda Venenga
Katherine Zielinski

Order of the Barrister
Amanda Baskin
Abigail Littrell
Jamie McAlister
Jenna Perkins
Coady Pruett
Ryan Sullivan
JoAnna Thomas
Amanda Venenga

Guy Cleveland Chambers Award for
Academic Excellence
Top graduating students
Edward Fox II
Stephanie Mahlin

Theodore C. Sorensen Fellowship
David Solheim, ’11

George L. Delacy Memorial Award
Excels in Constitutional Law and exemplifies compassion and understanding for human rights under the law
Robert Truhe, ’11

Credit Advisors Foundation Award
Excellent lawyering skills in civil clinic
David Arnold ’10
George Lyford, ’10
Josh Wunderlich, ’11
Kate Zielinski, ’10
Pat Gles Memorial Award
Outstanding Civil Clinic students
Kate Zielinski, ’10

Academy of Trial Attorneys Award
Outstanding Criminal Clinic student
Amanda Venenga, ’10

Silver Quill Award
Excellence in Legal Research & Writing
Lyudmila Kishchun, ’12

Gross & Welch Best Brief Award
Best brief in Legal Research & Writing
Jessica Beukelman, ’12
Robert Seybert, ’12

McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Legal Writing Award
John Beasley, ’12
Jessica Beukelman, ’12
Adam Hoesing, ’12
Lyudmila Kishchun, ’12
Michael McHale, ’12
Nathaniel Mustion, ’12
Benjamin Williams, ’12
Zachery Wilson, ’12
Emily Zimmer, ’12

National Moot Court Team
Edward Fox II, ’10
Abigail Littrell, ’10
JoAnna Thomas, ’10

Thomas Stinson Allen Moot Court Competition - first place
Austin Relph, ’11
Corey Wasserburger, ’11

Thomas Stinson Allen Moot Court Competition - best brief
Laura Arp, ’11
David Solheim, ’11

Roscoe Pound Award
Best oral advocate in Thomas Stinson Allen Moot Court Competition
Corey Wasserburger, ’11

Grether Moot Court Competition - first place
Jonathan Gardner, ’11
David Ullrich, ’11

Grether Moot Court Competition - Best Oral Advocate
Jonathan Gardner, ’11

Robert A. Cannon & Susan Jacobs Client Counseling Award
First-place team in Client Counseling Competition
Rachael Becker, ’11
Yasmeen Wells, ’11

First-Year Client Counseling Competition - first place
Johann Johnson, ’12
Ann Langemeier, ’12

National Trial Team
Coady Pruett, ’10
Ryan Sullivan, ’10
Amanda Venenga, ’10

ALI-ABA Scholarship & Leadership Award
John Lentz, ’10

American Bankruptcy Institute Award
Medal of Excellence
John Lentz, ’10

Animal Law Closing Argument Competition
Elisabeth Hurst, ’10
John Lentz, ’10
Stephanie Mikes, ’10

Robert G. Simmons Nebraska Law Practice Award
Clinton Cadwallader, ’10
Ross Pesek, ’10
2010 Family Traditions

At its 2010 graduation the College of Law continued its tradition of recognizing the significant contribution that family loyalty makes to Nebraska Law. At the Family Traditions Ceremony prior to graduation, 16 graduates were joined by family members who had also graduated from the Law College. The alumni were each presented with a plaque in the shape of the State of Nebraska with their names inscribed alongside the name of their current graduating relative.
Abby K. Osborn with her father-in-law, Rod-ney A. Osborn, ’71
Tanya M. Nodlinski with her uncle, Curt A. Bromm, ’70
George D. Lyford with his uncle, Daniel F. Kaplan, ’84, his mother, Debra K. Lyford ’77, his uncle, Samuel G. Kaplan, ’81, and his aunt Nancy Kimball Kaplan, 84
Brock D. Wurl with his mother-in-law, Jami O’Rourke Mendenhall representing his father-in-law, James M. O’Rourke, ’80
Mary Jo Lang with her sister, Colleen C. Lang, ’04
Mitchell C. Stehlik with his father, Galen E. Stehlik, ’78, and his mother, Anna L. (Anthony) Stehlik, ’78
Heather L. Sikyta with her father, Curtis A. Sikyta, ’78
Andrea L. Herstein with her mother, Patricia A. (Humlicek) Herstein, ’77
David H. Kalisek with his sister, Katherine S. Vogel, ’08
Tanya M. Nodlinski with her uncle, Curt A. Bromm, ’70
Abby K. Osborn with her father-in-law, Rod-ney A. Osborn, ’71
Heather L. Sikyta with her father, Curtis A. Sikyta, ’78
Mitchell C. Stehlik with his father, Galen E. Stehlik, ’78, and his mother, Anna L. (Anthony) Stehlik, ’78
Brock D. Wurl with his mother-in-law, Jami O’Rourke Mendenhall representing his father-in-law, James M. O’Rourke, ’80
Nebraska Law hosted a seminar featuring the award-winning documentary film, *Hitler’s Courts: Betrayal of the Rule of Law in Nazi Germany*. The seminar was conducted by Rodger Citron, professor of law at Touro College’s Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in Central Islip, N.Y., and Beth Seldin Dotan, executive director of the Institute for Holocaust Education based in Omaha. In her introduction of the film, Dotan emphasized the importance of teaching people in Nebraska about the issues raised by the Holocaust and how those issues relate to the present.

The film was a product of a 2005 international law conference held in Nuremberg, Germany, where legal professionals and students came together to remember the Nuremberg Trials and discuss how they contributed to the international rule of law today. *Hitler’s Courts* represents a series of interviews of the individual presenters at the conference who gave their thoughts on the role of law and lawyers during the Nazi era and how the breakdown of German law occurred.

The film underscored the fragility of democracy by telling the story of the breakdown from the perspective of German lawyers, judges and law professors, who watched as their constitutionally governed nation was eviscerated by Hitler. The film highlighted a quote from Edmond Burke that seemed to sum up the general lament of the individuals who were interviewed, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

After the film, Citron further emphasized the significance of the Nuremburg Trials. “The decision to follow a plan of summary execution was an extraordinary, novel and challenging undertaking.” Citron believes that today the trials were an instrumental step in formulating an international rule of law as well as international treaties on human rights. Citron also explained how the fundamental principles raised by the trials manifest in current law school curriculum such as legal philosophy, international law, constitutional law and criminal procedure courses. Citron ended the discussion of Hitler’s Courts in a way that resonated with the crowd, “Without the vigilance of lawyers, any nation is vulnerable to fear and propaganda.”

The film underscored the fragility of democracy by telling the story of the breakdown from the perspective of German lawyers, judges and law professors, who watched as their constitutionally governed nation was toppled by Hitler’s rhetoric.
Over the last decade, the Law College has undergone a transformation as nearly every room has been renovated. The most recent projects include the addition of two large classrooms on the west side of the building, and the renovation of the “pie rooms” into a 251-seat auditorium. Thank you to all of the generous alumni whose gifts made these projects possible.
Our Alumni

Alumni Assets

Nathan Eilers: A Global Career

By Emily Rose, Class of 2012

Nathan Eilers, ‘06, global international trade controls (ITC) compliance leader for GE Healthcare, was welcomed by Nebraska Law this fall as an International Trade and Customs Law guest lecturer. Eilers’ interest in international law was sparked at the Law College where he pursued a concentrated study in the subject. “There has always been something intriguing about the field. For me it is all about facilitating growth, both for companies and countries, by keeping goods flowing around the world. To be effective, there is constant action and reaction, because the best-laid plans won’t prevent problems from arising. You have to be ready to address almost any issue from one day to the next, and that keeps me interested and excited about the field,” said Eilers.

After graduating in 2006, Eilers became a consultant and in-house counsel at a customs brokerage and freight forwarding company. Eilers counts this first job as an important learning experience at the start of his career not only from a legal standpoint but also from the operational side of the business. Eilers said, “We expanded our consulting practice, which gave me exposure to a whole range of customs and trade issues across many different companies. The mix of legal and consulting work eventually led me to GE Healthcare.”

At GE Healthcare, Eilers took a position as a global leader for compliance projects as well as a manager of international trade controls. Customs and trade is a field that is constantly changing and evolving. As a result, part of the challenge as a compliance leader is to successfully analyze and navigate these changes. “The field is trending toward an increase in both laws on the books and enforcement actions,” Eilers said. “From a purely U.S. perspective, security concerns are causing our government to continually expand its reach, looking further into transactions and issues occurring entirely outside our national borders. In addition, other countries are maturing and developing trade laws where none existed or were previously unenforced. The mix results in an increasingly complex global business environment.”

Eilers considers his legal analytic and research skills as instrumental in successfully adapting to this dynamic environment. “Operating in so many countries, we are constantly trying to keep up with legal changes and analyze how they are ultimately going to affect the business. To minimize business impact, breaking down legal requirements into clear action plans and directives is essential,” he said.

While at GE Healthcare, Eilers has discovered that the most challenging aspects of his job are also the most satisfying. “Any time you can successfully navigate a legal issue that could potentially disrupt your supply chain, it is incredibly rewarding. These are usually time and expertise sensitive situations, so you have to be on your game. Incidentally, these are the most challenging situations and garner the most recognition from company leadership because the bottom line is directly impacted by the outcome.”

Eilers believes that emerging Nebraska Law graduates should look at the customs and trade field as a growing job market. “As the laws and regulations continue to expand and evolve on both national and international levels, the need for talented professionals will grow in proportion.” Eilers also described key experiences that help expose an individual to important areas involved in international trade law. “Any job experience that allows you to work directly with the various regulatory agencies in different global markets is a big advantage, especially early in your career. Additionally, those career options that give you exposure and training on the ‘business’ side of an organization, as well as the legal, will go a long way in developing you as a professional businessperson, not just an attorney.”
Nearhood Admissions Office: Alum’s Gift Helps College Attract Quality Students

By Angie Hohensee, Senior Director of Development

Nebraska Law has recently opened an impressive admissions and recruitment office within the College of Law building. The new admissions office is conveniently located adjacent to the Dean’s Office.

The creation and furnishing of the new admissions office in Room 106, a former seminar room, was made possible through a generous donation by Jim Nearhood, ’76. Nearhood’s donation also funds a scholarship that will enable the Law College to recruit and provide financial assistance to high-achieving students who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend law school. “We discussed with Jim our goal of building a high-quality, responsive and personalized recruitment program as we officially become a Big Ten law school. Seeing his positive reaction, we knew we had found the perfect partnership,” stated Susan Poser, dean of the College of Law.

Nearhood was born and raised in Lincoln. He obtained his undergraduate degree from UNL in 1972, and his law degree in 1976. After graduation, Nearhood moved to Arizona where he established Nearhood Law Offices, PLC, in Scottsdale. Drawing upon his Midwestern roots, Nearhood built his law practice on the foundation of high-quality, responsive and cost-effective legal services with a personalized, client-oriented approach. His firm provides representation in the areas of real estate transactions, property tax appeals, business law, estate planning and litigation. Nearhood is one of a handful of attorneys certified by the State Bar of Arizona as a real estate specialist.

“I owe a great deal of my success to the quality education that I received at the College of Law. I have achieved or exceeded my goals both professionally and financially. I feel it is now time to give back to the College of Law so that worthy students who lack financial means are given the opportunity for success. I also hope my gift will inspire my classmates and other alumni to contribute to the College of Law,” Nearhood stated.

Much like Nearhood’s dedication to the law and his commitment to his clients, the new admissions office is dedicated to providing prospective students and their families the individualized attention they desire and need. The new admissions office is an essential tool in the College of Law’s long-term commitment to attract and actively recruit students who will then get an excellent education and become leaders in Nebraska and around the nation.

We thank Jim Nearhood for his tremendous foresight and generous support and look forward to an ongoing partnership.
He wasn’t a lawyer, but University of Nebraska–Lincoln political science professor Arthur Bruce (“A.B.”) Winter’s lifelong passion was constitutional law. Now his daughter, Patricia (Trish) Winter, ’75, has established the Professor Arthur Bruce Winter Constitutional Law Scholar Award Fund as a memorial to her father’s personal and academic integrity and his commitment to superior scholarship. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the fund will provide an annual cash award to the outstanding student in the College of Law’s Constitutional Law I class.

Professor Winter fervently believed that the American system of government was strong because it is “a rule of laws, not a rule of men.” A native of Mount Vernon, N.Y., Winter served with the U.S. Navy during World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After the war, he received a B.A. in political science from Emory University, an M.S. in government management from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. in political science from Duke University.

A specialist in state and local government, Winter taught in the Department of Political Science at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln from 1954 until 1989. Honored with a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989, Winter also served as the director of the UNL Governmental Research Institute for 20 years. However, it was his enduring interest in constitutional law that led Winter to develop the demanding undergraduate Con Law course that inspired many of his students to pursue careers in law. In a tribute in the PS: Political Science & Politics journal following Winter’s death in 1993, his UNL colleague, Dr. Robert D. Miewald, noted that “[t]hree decades of pre-law majors were introduced to the majesty of the law through [Winter’s] rigorous methods of instruction.” Miewald also recalled wryly that Winter “insisted that his students love the law as much as he did” and that many of those students “still regard his classes with a combination of awe and admiration.”

One of those students is Lincoln’s director of urban development and former Nebraska state senator, David Landis, ’71, who took Winter’s Con Law class in the 1960s, during the political turmoil of the Vietnam War. At that time, Landis remembers, most undergraduates were antiwar, counterculture and saw themselves as reformers. “Doc Winter,” Landis recounts, “always took the contrarian view to provoke discussion.” This led to memorable, intriguing and exasperating debates, with 30 students “ganging up” on Winter. “It was a fair fight,” Landis recalls, laughing; “30 to 1 was about the right odds!” He also remembers numerous occasions after these provocative class discussions when he and other students would gather outside the classroom, still arguing about some particularly contentious issue. “By any standard at any time,” he declares, “that’s great teaching.”

At the same time, Landis and many other former students recognize that Winter’s intensity in the classroom reflected not only his love of teaching, but also his respect for and support of his students. Patricia Schuett Peterson, ’79, a partner in the Omaha office of the Kutak Rock law firm, relates that Winter opened her mind to a career opportunity in the law she had never previously considered.

His undergraduate assignments to brief cases and his enthusiasm for the “rule of law” during class discussions were the catalysts that sent Peterson “off to take the LSAT and apply to law school.” After 31 years of practicing law, Peterson says, “I still remember fondly his early words of encouragement.”
Nebraska District Court Judge, the Honorable Alan G. Gless, ’75, also recalls the strength and duration of that support. Winter was not Gless’ departmentally-assigned faculty adviser. “He was much more than that,” Gless emphasizes; “he was my personally chosen adviser.” Winter fostered Gless’ early love of constitutional law, worked with him through Gless’ choice between graduate school and law school and, as Gless observes, “encouraged me throughout my law school, legal and judicial careers.” In tribute to Winter’s lasting influence, Gless notes that Winter is the only one of his political science professors whose published work Gless has cited in his own published writings.

Winter’s personal and professional integrity were also hallmarks of his life. In his 1994 tribute, Dr. Robert Miewald observed that throughout Winter’s academic career, he was “a ferocious defender of academic freedom ... always insist[ing] that a university was a community of scholars and not just another bureaucracy.” Landis, too, admired Winter’s “ability to stand uncompromisingly” in the face of overwhelming opposition. Winter was never afraid to be the lone voice if he believed a cause was just. As Landis remarks, Winter taught him by example “that the rectitude of one’s argument or position lies in its ability to withstand reasoned challenges and not upon how many others agree with you.”

It was the memory of her father’s uncompromising integrity, his passion for constitutional law and his lifelong devotion to the teaching profession and to his students that motivated Trish Winter to create the Professor Arthur Bruce Winter Constitutional Law Scholar Award. “I wanted to honor my dad,” Winter says, “by carrying on his tradition of supporting academic excellence and encouraging students who are striving to achieve that excellence.” Winter hopes that the award will provide some well-deserved recognition and financial “encouragement” to outstanding Constitutional Law students as they work toward their academic and professional goals.

Winter also credits Judge Harry A. Spencer Professor of Law and former Law College Dean Steve Willborn with providing the inspiration for establishing this award at the College of Law. She notes that when Willborn became dean of the Law College, he made a special effort to “reach out” to alums like herself whose careers had taken them out of Nebraska. “Getting back in touch with the Law College in this way reminded me how much the College had contributed to my own education and to my career potential, as well as what the school means to current students, the legal profession and the State of Nebraska.” That got Winter thinking about how she could both honor her father’s memory and give back to other Law College students as they prepared for their careers. Winter also expressed gratitude to Dean Susan Poser, Associate Dean Glenda Pierce and UNL Foundation Development Officer Ben Zitek for their support and assistance as they worked with her to make the Award Fund a reality.

“My father was strong-willed, outspoken and unfailingly honest,” Winter observes. “It’s obvious that he also inspired his students to develop those traits, to challenge their own and others’ assumptions, and always to think independently. My hope is that this award will recognize Law College students who will bring that kind of integrity and clarity of thought to their profession.”

Former students, colleagues and friends of Dr. Winter who would like to honor his legacy may contribute to the Professor Arthur Bruce Winter Constitutional Law Scholar Award Fund through the UNL Foundation. For more information about this fund or to make a donation, please contact Ben Zitek at 402-458-1241 or bzitek@nufoundation.org.

The first recipient of the Professor Arthur Bruce Winter Constitutional Law Scholar Award was Lori Hoetger. Hoetger, a native of Northville, Mich., received the award at the beginning of the second semester of the 2010-2011 academic year.
Brandy Ingles Menaugh, '06, the director of compliance for the Creighton University Athletic Department, spoke to the College of Law’s Nebraska Entertainment and Sports Law Association (NESLA) student members and guests during the fall 2010 semester.

Ingles Menaugh got her start in compliance after she sent her résumé to the Western Atlantic Conference (WAC). After ten months at the WAC as its compliance and championships intern, she moved to the Horizon League as that conference’s assistant director of championships and compliance. While in that role, Ingles Menaugh assisted the Horizon League’s member institutions with compliance and legislative issues in addition to serving as the primary media contact for the swimming, diving and tennis teams. She also was the tournament manager for the league’s women’s basketball tournament and cross country championships. As part of her job, she processed eligibility paperwork, secondary violations, hardship waivers, National Letters-of-Intent and other compliance projects as assigned.

Two years later, Ingles Menaugh was ready to transition from working for conferences to working at the campus level where she would have more daily contact with administrators, coaches and student-athletes. She made that transition in August 2009 when she accepted her current position at Creighton University. In her role, Ingles Menaugh oversees all compliance matters for all of Creighton’s athletic teams, in addition to having administrative oversight of the softball and volleyball programs. “There are 14 sports teams on campus, all of which have coaches, student-athletes, booster groups and staff. I have to make sure everyone knows the rules,” Ingles Menaugh said. “Education is a huge part of the job, but at some point you have to trust that the coaches know what they’re doing and have enough integrity to self-report any violations.”

Educating about those rules requires Ingles Menaugh to follow the ever-changing rules and regulations promulgated by the NCAA. “They change each year, for each sport. So, it’s a constant challenge to stay on top of new legislation and how it affects the day to day operations of our coaches and staff.” Further complicating matters, those rules often require interpretation from the conference or the NCAA. “There is always a challenge, but it’s interesting, and I love working with the student-athletes and coaches. It’s been a great fit for me.”
Upon her arrival at the College of Law, Dean Susan Poser decided that the administration of the Law College would benefit from advice and input from alumni who had graduated within the last ten years. Thus, the Young Alumni Council was born. The council also includes two representatives from the 3L Class whose service on the council will extend past their graduation. In September 2010, the Young Alumni Council convened for its first meeting. At that meeting, a brainstorming session took place that resulted in several ideas that have since been implemented at the College, affirming Poser’s initial intuition. “This council brings the student perspective to the administration because these individuals were students in the recent past. These alumni provide a perspective that is very useful. I am so grateful for their service,” said Poser.

2010-2011 Young Alumni Council Members:

Laura Antonuccio, ’09
Yohance Christie, ’09
Daniel Dawes, ’06
Grayson Derrick, ’01
Erin Ebeler, ’08
Elizabeth Evans, ’11
Troy Kirk, ’02
Cyndi Lamm, ’04
David Lucas, ’01
Natalie Mackiel Jackson, ’05
Matt McGill, ’07
Tracy McKay-Mason, ’06
Kelly Orlando, ’04
Coady Pruett, ’10
Paula Lyon Quist, ’02
Kendra Ringenberg, ’03
Noha Sidhom, ’08
Benjamin Siminou, ’07
Angela Splittgerber, ’01
Tara Stingley, ’05
Robert Truhe, ’11
Even though I didn’t go into the practice of law,” said David Landis, ’72, “studying law at the Law College has been very profitable to me. It gave me what political scientists call efficacy – the belief that you can make a difference. Give me the problem, and I will work on it. I’m not without means, intellect or expertise to deal with problems. I owe the school the sense that I can make a difference, that I can wrestle problems to the ground and make progress. You don’t have to be in the practice of law to feel a sense of empowerment for the rest of your life.”

Landis certainly has made a difference – on the floor and back rooms of the legislature, on the local theater scene, in city government and as an adjunct professor teaching about negotiation at the College of Law.

To say that Lincoln is Landis’ hometown would be an understatement. “The longest I’ve ever been away from this city is for six weeks to go to officer training; other than that the longest I’ve been gone is three weeks.” He attended UNL as a political science and history major before moving on to the Law College.

“Even though I don’t see my law school colleagues very often and I’m not in the practice of law, I am surprised at how vibrant my memories of them are,” said Landis. “Law school was a very galvanizing experience. When you go through that experience, it binds you together with memories that you can recall 35 years later.

“The dominant memory that I have of being in law school is the charisma and intellectual ferment generated by a really interesting core of tenured long-serving professors. If you get a group of my colleagues together today the topic is the teachers. It’s not the parties; it’s not the fraternities. Only a few of us remember where we graduated in the class, but put us together and it will be David Dow, Roger Henderson, Larry Berger and EOB [Edmond O. Belsheim] – teachers who occupied that amphitheater and that raised stage and filled that hall with their intellect and, on occasion, their wit.”

Landis recalls in particular being a guest at a dinner at the home of Professor David Dow that had been put together by the Client Counseling class a few years after he graduated. “Dow cross examined me about some work I was doing for the Department of Labor, and I remember just in the course of trying to answer his questions, he made me think about what I was doing in a way I hadn’t thought about before; he just sparked ideas in that way.”

But law school was a challenge. “I had five part time jobs when I was in law school. I was a young father and my aim was balancing law school against a whole lot of other needs. And when you do that, you make a whole lot of compromises,” said Landis.

“So I was not Order of the Coif; I couldn’t reach out and touch the Order of the Coif.” The method of instruction was difficult, too. “The Socratic method was practiced much more rigorously then than it is now. You had the sense that you were on the grill or the spit as it was turning in whatever fire at whatever temperature that faculty member wanted it to be.”

Eventually Landis got off the spit. His first job after graduating in 1972 was completing some cases for Rex Fuller, ’72, who went into the Air Force. He tried his first and only case and won it. He then got a job on the Department of Labor appeals tribunal and worked for the Nebraska Legislature as a researcher. Shortly thereafter, he ran for a legislative seat himself. “I was intrigued by the nature of the work. I believed I could do that work, and I had no desire to wait until I was 65 and retired.”

So at age 28, Landis became a state senator after a campaign that took up “every waking moment for 11 months.” He ran...
for re-election many times, but after that first election Landis described himself as “an indifferent campaigner” because “conducting yourself in office so that you can keep the job was a trap for being a second-rate legislator.”

It was in the legislature that Landis was able to put to use the aspect of his law school education that he found the most riveting – “where the teachers went behind the rule to talk about what the law was trying to achieve; the black letter law wasn’t much help, but understanding the policy was.”

Landis is proud of his work in the legislature. “My staff counted up the bills for which I was the primary sponsor or chief co-sponsor, and there were 391 of them that passed in some form; that’s the most in the history of the state.” The work that was most important to him was in the field of alternative dispute resolution including the Dispute Resolution Act, confidentiality standards for mediators and negotiated rulemaking. He served as chair of the banking committee for 14 years and helped modernize Nebraska’s banking and insurance laws. “We did away with special treatment for various classifications of banks and produced a much more open system in which competition could thrive,” he said. “On the insurance side, we were in the lead in getting our laws revamped to the point that companies moved to Nebraska because of the quality of our laws and our administration.” On the revenue committee, he helped change the tax incentive program to include disclosure and wage standards.

Landis’ career in the legislature ended with the imposition of term limits. While he respects the will of the majority on that issue, he sees some drawbacks. “What I’ve been told by people around the system now is that power has moved to the executive branch and to the lobby because of the absence of a strong internal institutional memory.”

It was while he was in the legislature that Landis developed his interest in negotiation. “One of the skills I needed as a legislator was drawing various factions together to get things done,” Landis remembered. “I didn’t feel I was particularly well-versed in how to find agreement or resolve conflict, and what we were taught in law school back then was how to beat somebody in court. That doesn’t help you get 25 votes because you rarely argue people into agreement; you entice them by reaching out to their values and pointing out how this serves them, rather than educating them out of their value system or pointing out where they were wrong.”

His negotiation education began at the Harvard Program on Negotiation where he took classes from Roger Fischer, author of the classic negotiation book Getting To Yes, among others. “I spent a lot of time working on that, reading and journaling. And it wound its way into my parenting, into managing an office, into the floor of the legislature and the committee room and into my marriage” he said.

He moved from being a student of negotiation to being a teacher as well, teaching in the University’s Department of Public Administration and as a private consultant around the country. Then the Law College called. “The fact that I was asked would produce gales of laughter among my colleagues in law school. If anyone was to be picked out of our class as the person who would least likely ever teach a law school class, I would’ve won that award,” he said. It is clear that Landis loves teaching. That is demonstrated by the fact that, during the years that he was in the legislature, he was not paid for his teaching because, under a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling, doing so would violate the separation of powers doctrine.

In teaching his Negotiation course, Landis has two goals. The first is to impart to his students the body of advice that is out there on how to be an effective negotiator, even though that advice is sometimes contradictory. Secondly, he said, “I want my students to be able to generate from their experience additional advice for themselves. I want them to winnow through that advice for things that fit them well. I want them to do things because they have reflected on them, not just because it comes naturally, or comes off the top of their heads, or because it’s the easiest. I tell them, ‘If you can do that now, then you will continue to learn when you leave this classroom; you will be teaching yourself.’”

“‘If you can do that now, then you will continue to learn when you leave this classroom; you will be teaching yourself.”

Landis has the reputation as an engaging teacher. Part of the credit for that comes from his experience as an entertainer. He has been on the stage since he was 15 years old, acting, singing and storytelling. Explained Landis, “The stage is a vibrant place, a very alive place. I really enjoy it, so I’ve never stopped.”

Landis currently is using his many skills as director of Urban Development for the city of Lincoln where he works on parking issues, the negotiation of tax increment financing and creating public-private partnerships, which he describes as a kind of conflict resolution – “harmonizing interests, some of which are shared, some of which are complimentary and some of which are conflicting. In the end, the bargain has to be better for both sides than where they were before.” It sounds like the perfect job for a Nebraska Law grad, a negotiations expert and a lifetime resident of Lincoln.
Fifteen years ago Damon Barry had a plan. That plan certainly did not include attending law school or returning to that law school ten years post-graduation as an honored guest for Alumni Masters Week. At that time, he was an All-American in academics and football at the University of Washington. After playing in three Rose Bowls and winning a national championship, Barry planned on a career in the NFL. His father and brother both played in the NFL and his mother was a professional volleyball player. Barry’s plan seemed more like a destiny. Then, a serious back injury halted that destiny and his dreams of a football career. “After [the injury], my mom gave me three options; go to school to be a doctor, an architect or a lawyer,” Barry said.

Barry eventually decided to become a lawyer, but that wasn’t until after he started and sold his own non-profit company, United People. Through his work with United People, Barry realized that he wanted to get his J.D. as he was involved in strategic corporate planning for that business. “Lawyers have instant credibility. People look at [attorneys] differently, and they come to you first when they have trouble,” Barry said.

Once the decision to attend law school was made, Barry considered attending either the University of Washington or the University of Colorado. It was David Hill, ’70, a law professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, who told Barry to consider Nebraska Law. Hill made a call for Barry, and shortly thereafter Barry was offered a scholarship. He accepted, and since his graduation from the College in 2000, his career has skyrocketed beyond anything that Barry would have imagined 15 years ago. Because of this incredible success, Barry was honored in November as part of Alumni Masters Week. During his week on campus, he spent time interacting with the Law College’s students and faculty, as well as talking with minority undergraduate students and student athletes about all that an education from Nebraska Law offers.

Anyone who knows Damon would find it ironic that this outgoing individual was quiet during his first year at the Law College. “I was so petrified I wouldn’t graduate that I just wanted to keep my head down and do as well as I could my first year. But once...”
I figured out the law school thing, I [knew] there were other ways to make my experience [here] better, and that was to get more involved.”

“One thing I liked about law school was the ability to engage in extracurricular activities,” Barry said, “So Mark Soto, my ‘partner in crime,’ and I started a nightclub downtown and taught hip-hop and salsa dancing.” But it was the activities grounded in diversity of which Barry is most proud. “My second year, Mark and I started Diversity Day. We partnered with Lincoln Public Schools and the Dean’s Office, and gave 50-100 people of color who were seniors in high school exposure to law school.” Barry wanted the students to see that being a lawyer was more than what they saw on television. “We created a panel of law students to talk to the high school students about their interests, then an hour of professionals: judges, FBI agents, lawyers in private practice, and then the dean came in to tell them what to do to get into law school.”

In addition to Diversity Day, Barry brought BLSA (Black Law Students Association) back to the school. “We tried to create an environment that invoked participation for all students,” Barry said. So, BLSA, the Federalist Society and the Multi-Cultural Society teamed up to create a memorable debate between Professor Richard Duncan and Professor John Snowden. “We moderated, and it was only supposed to be an hour, but it ended up going two hours and being jam packed. It was a phenomenal thing where people got to express differences, and hear a debate between professors on the right and on the left.” The debate was one of Barry’s fondest memories at the Law College.

Barry clerked at Kutak Rock for a short time, but got his first “real” job after meeting on a plane the COO and president of the publicly traded company Barry works for today. During that conversation Barry admits, “I got lucky, but I was always prepared. I asked him about the difference between in-house counsel and private practice, got his card, wrote him a letter and got a call two weeks later to play golf the next time that I was in town. Two weeks later, I met him and was offered a job at lunch. You have to be prepared to walk through the door when it opens. It just so happens that I was.” The fortuitous meeting is how Barry became in-house counsel for CSG Systems International, Inc..

Once Barry was hired, he continued to take risks and excel, “Six months after starting, I asked for the opportunity to handle a discrimination issue. Usually they hired outside counsel, but I took a chance and went down to mediate. I became the expert in employment law for the company six months out of law school by taking a little chance and getting more exposure,” Barry said. Barry’s competitive attitude and ability to recognize opportunities has served him well, “The more you want, the more they think of you. Sixty-five people report to me every day, and I don’t just practice law. I have a real-estate role in operations, and deal with a $45 million budget for real estate, but I still practice law every day.”

His biggest professional accomplishment was in 2006. “We were selling a division of our company to another multi-national company and in the middle of negotiations we had an issue to resolve, a $350 million divestiture. We needed an attorney to handle employment, real estate, the contract and CALA. Twenty people were on the call, sitting in New York negotiating the deal, and I was only person with the skill set to resolve the issue. I had to set up my own corporation (Barry Legal Consultant Services), get malpractice insurance, start billing out services to the new company, get waivers from both sides and negotiate my salary and billable rate. To be able to figure out that challenge and understand the conflict of interest, I had to hire my own attorney. But it is an experience I’ll never forget,” he said.

Barry says his legal education gave him the foundation he needed to get where he is today. “Coming to law school was the best decision of your life,” Barry told Nebraska Law students during his lunch lecture. “A J.D. is the best degree
an individual can get, especially someone not quite sure what to do in life. And the Law College is a wonderful institution. The Law College is respected nationally. It is a top tier law school. People looked at it as an asset when I was going through the interviewing process.”

Another large part of Barry’s foundation is professionalism and community service. During his lecture Barry explained the importance of professionalism, “The legal profession can be competitive, dog eat dog, and sometimes there is arrogance when people become lawyers. It is important that you treat people the way you want to be treated. You never know when someone is looking at you or what they can do, so if that’s how you handle yourself all the time then that’s who you become. But if you treat them one way and another person differently that shows a lack of character.”

Barry also advised the students on what he looks for, in addition to professionalism, when he makes hiring decisions. “Individuals who do well in school are great, but I look for intangibles – stuff that’s not necessarily found on a resume such as leadership skills, a willingness to take risks and step outside their comfort zone. We can teach you the law, but I can’t teach someone to take risks and go the extra mile. If you have those skills, we can work around the rest.”

Despite his busy schedule, Barry makes time to serve organizations that help those who are traditionally underserved. “I’ve been very blessed; people have always supported and helped me so I want to do those things for others. One organization I work with is Kappa Alpha Psi; I mentor, sit down with individual students on a weekly basis to give them guidance,” Barry said. Barry is also a part of the Victims Advocate Witness Legal Committee and is the vice chair and on the Executive Board of the Law College’s Alumni Council. The Alumni Council advises the dean on various issues. “We all have a vision of where the school should go, so we’re a bouncing board. The dean can take our ideas, or not, but it is our way of participating in the direction of the law school.”

Barry spends his free time with his family. He is married to his college sweetheart, Heather Barry. The two broke up after five years of dating in college, but reunited in Europe six years later. “Heather was my first love and when you run into each other in London it is meant to be. Ultimately, she was only supposed to stay in London for three days, but that turned into a month. We traveled to Scotland for Christmas and New Year’s Eve, and that summer we got married.” The couple has been married for six years, and recently welcomed their first daughter, London, named for the city where they reunited. Despite his busy schedule, Barry has always made time for family. He stressed the importance of balance to students during his visit. “Family has always been important. My mother and father laid the foundation. So you just have to find time. You work to continue to grow and provide for your family, but the key is not to lose focus of what’s important. You can work yourself out of a marriage or being a good father. So, find a way to strike that balance. If that means coming home at 6:00 to have dinner with the family and put the baby to bed and then going back to work downstairs in your office, you can do that.”

Being a good husband and father always tops Barry’s goals, but he still strives to do more professionally. “I set goals annually, and review them quarterly. On a professional level, it is always working very hard at what I’m doing and being the best attorney for my company. But my ultimate goal is to take a management team of four to five people, find some financing and ultimately run a company; to create jobs for others and do it my way,” Barry said.

Barry looks back fondly on his time in Lincoln. “Clearly it was not the big robust city like some of the others, but when I think about my time in Nebraska, it is about the nice people; the people that were always willing to help you to move forward.”

Coming back for Alumni Master’s Week was a good experience for Barry, “It has been an honor and a pleasure to be a part of this week; I’ve had a wonderful time coming here. I hope it was worth everyone’s time. If I helped one person, then I did my job, and I’m happy with that.”
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

1950s

Richard A. Knudsen, ’50, was awarded the 2010 President’s Professionalism Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The award recognizes an individual for outstanding dedication to the profession, the legal community, the organized bar and the public. He is with the Knudsen Law Firm in Lincoln.

Donald W. Pederson, ’54, received the Sower Award from the Nebraska Humanities Council. Pederson served on the council’s board of directors for seven years and continues to serve on the board of directors of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment Fund.

Robert L. Walentine, ’58, retired from the Omaha firm he helped build – Walentine, O’Toole, McQuillan & Gordon.

1960s

Charles M. Pallesen, ’62, and his wife Lorraine, were presented the Bud Cuca Trustee of the Year Award by Leadership Lincoln.

John M. Wightman, ’63, Lexington, was re-elected to the Nebraska Legislature representing District 36.

Jeffre Cheuvront, ’64, Lancaster County District Court judge, announced that he will retire this summer after 38 years on the bench. Cheuvront has been a judge since 1973, when he was elected to the county court bench. He was appointed a district court judge by Gov. Bob Kerrey in 1983.

Thomas H. DeLay, ’65, is a partner in the Norfolk law firm Stratton, DeLay & Doele.

Harvey S. Perlman, ’66, chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, was named “Midlander of the Year” by the Omaha World-Herald. He was also inducted into the initial class of the York High School Hall of Fame.

O. William Von Seggern, ’66, has opened a law office in Falls City. He previously practiced in Grand Island and Omaha.

Everett Inbody, ’67, Wahoo, chief judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals, was awarded the Distinguished Judge for Service to the Judiciary Award. As co-chairman of the Commission of Children in the Courts, Judge Inbody utilized his experience in juvenile and criminal court to study appropriate steps for the judicial system to insure that the court system’s responsiveness to children. As a result of his commission’s work, Inbody implemented the Court of Appeals “rocket docket” for abuse/neglect cases to move cases of children through the system at a more rapid pace. Inbody, with the support of his fellow judges, also began implementation of a new system of advance case screening for the Court of Appeals. The court now reviews all cases in advance and disposes of certain cases without oral argument. Inbody was also recognized for his participation in several community activities including Jaycees, Nebraska Mock Trials, Law Day programs and, most notably, co-founder of the Wahoops Basketball program and tournament.

Kile W. Johnson, ’69, has been elected president of the Nebraska Bar Foundation. Johnson is a partner in the Lincoln law firm of Johnson Flodman Guenzel & Widger Law Firm.

1970s

Joseph G. Counsell Jr., ’70, has retired from the Army Corps of Engineer – Omaha – Office of Counsel after 37 years of service. Upon his retirement, Counsell was awarded The Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal for his supervisor service in the Corps of Engineers. He currently resides in Omaha with his wife Patt.

John Wells King, ’72, published “Considerations Unique to the Purchase and Sale of Broadcast Stations,” 19 Media Law & Policy 149. King practices at the Law Offices of John Wells King in Rockledge, Fla.
Richard G. Kopf, ’72, has announced that he will retire from active service in the federal courts in December 2011. Currently United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Kopf has been on the bench for 23 years. He will become a senior judge.

Gary E. Lacey, ’72, concluded his service as the Lancaster County Attorney on December 31, 2010, after 20 years in the position. During his tenure, Lacey helped establish a juvenile diversion program and the Child Advocacy Center, which will now bear his name, in addition to other initiatives focusing on juveniles.

Bryan C. Silverman, ’72, Alliance, has retired as Nebraska District Court judge for District 12.

James E. Gordon, ’74, has been elected chair-elect of the House of Delegates of the Nebraska State Bar Association. He is a partner with the Lincoln law firm of DeMars, Gordon, Olson, Zalewski, Wynner & Tollefsen.

Duane W. Schroeder, ’75, has retired from the practice of law after 36 years of practice in Wayne.

Paul Schudel, ’75, has become a Board of Regents member at Concordia University, Nebraska. The board members serve as the governing body of the university located in Seward. All Board of Regents members also serve as directors on the Concordia Foundation Inc., which provides leadership for the university’s advancement efforts. Schudel is a partner with Woods & Aitken in Lincoln.


Thomas A. Wurtz, ’75, Omaha, retired as president of the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD). Wurtz had been with MUD for 30 years, beginning as an attorney and then serving as general counsel and president.

Robert F. Bartle, ’76, was elected president of the Nebraska State Bar Association for 2011. Bartle is a partner in Bartle & Geier, a Lincoln law firm.

Susan Carlson, ’76, St. Louis, was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives for the 64th District, receiving more than 76% of the vote.

Lauren J. Caster, ’76, a director with the Phoenix law firm Fennemore Craig, has been named Phoenix Water Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

Carl J. Circo, ’76, professor of law at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, published “An Educational Partnership Model for Establishing, Structuring, and Implementing a Successful Corporate Counsel Externship,” 17 Clinical Law Review 99.

Stephen W. Robertson, ’76, was appointed commissioner of the Indiana Department of Insurance by Gov. Mitch Daniels. He had been with the department since 2008, most recently as executive director.

Deborah R. Gilg, ’77, U.S. attorney for the District of Nebraska, spoke at the December 2010 College of Law graduation ceremony. Gilg was the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Contributor to Women and the Law Award presented by the Women and the Law Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association. The award recognizes the lifelong accomplishments of an individual who has directly contributed to the active integration and participation of women in the Nebraska system of justice.

Charles F. Rolph, ’77, has been named director of advanced sales for Nationwide Financial Services, Inc., a unit of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., Columbus, Ohio.

Paul E. Hofmeister, ’78, has been named in-house counsel for Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff. He was previously with Chaloupka, Holyoke, Hofmeister, Snyder & Chaloupka.

C. Dean McGrath, Jr., ’78, has become affiliated with Gross & Welch law firm as an of counsel attorney. McGrath also has his own private practice in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in government and regulatory law.

Douglas L. Warner, ’78, an assistant attorney with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office received the Nebraska U.S. Attorney’s Office Perseverance Award at the Coordinating Committee’s Criminal Justice Conference in Kearney for his work on a rape and murder case that had been cold for years.

Marsha E. Fangmeyer, ’79, was elected president-elect designate of the Nebraska State Bar Association. She is a partner with the Kearney law firm of Knapp, Fangmeyer, Aschwege, Besse & Marsh.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

1970s

Daniel Fullner, ’79, was married on December 31, 2010, to Jan Lintner. Fullner is a partner with Egley, Fullner, Montag & Hockabout in Madison and Norfolk.

Kerry L. Kester, 79, served as lead editor of the fourth edition of the American Bar Association’s The Design-Build Deskbook: A Blueprint for Design-Build Procurement Across the United States and Canada. Kester is a managing partner with Woods & Aitken in Lincoln.

Paula J. Metcalf, 79, has been named vice president of gift planning and general counsel of the Lincoln Community Foundation. She practiced with Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson & Endacott in Lincoln for 24 years.

1980s


David J. Dempsey, ’80, is the author of two books, Legally Speaking: “40 Powerful Presentation Principles Lawyers Need to Know” (Kaplan 2009) and Present Your Way to the Top! (McGraw Hill NY, 2010). He is a partner in the Atlanta, Ga., firm Coleman & Dempsey.

John C. McClure, ’80, vice president of governmental affairs and general counsel for the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), has assumed the position of interim CEO and president of NPPD.

William J. Mueller, ’80, of the Mueller Robak law firm has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the field of government relations law. The guide, which is created from 3.1 million peer evaluations, is compromised of the nation’s top attorneys in key practice areas.

Don Nelsen, ’80, has been named by the board of Victoria Oil & Gas Plc in Logbaba, Cameroon, as the company’s new country manager. Nelsen is a 30-year veteran of the international oil and gas industry as an engineer, international business specialist and lawyer. Before joining VOG, he worked as country manager for Conoco Phillips and Noble Energy in Cameroon and Venezuela in successful exploration and development operations.

James E. Doyle, IV, ’81, Lexington, of the Eleventh Judicial District was awarded the 2010 Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community Award. Judge Doyle is the chairman of the Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Problem-Solving Courts. Doyle also serves on the Case Management Committee for Nebraska Trial Courts and the Nebraska Supreme Court Automation Advisory Committee. Through his efforts, Doyle has garnered strong support for the drug court system within his judicial district. Doyle has also utilized grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to host a nationally recognized training conducted by the National Drug Court Institute and National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Daniel L. Hartnett, ’81, has been elected to the Board of Governors for the Iowa State Bar Association. Hartnett practices law with Crary, Huff, Inkster, Ringenberg, Hartnett & Storm in Sioux City, Iowa.

Connie R. Collingsworth, ’82, Seattle, Wash., will be featured in upcoming “Put Yourself on the Map” commercials aired by the UNL at home football and basketball games in the 2011-2012 seasons. Collingsworth is general counsel and secretary of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
1980s

**Thomas L. Hafmeister**, '82, associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and associate professor of medical education at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, has published “Castles Made of Sand? Rediscovering Child Abuse and Society’s Response,” 6 Ohio Northern University Law Review 819.

**Susan M. Koenig**, '82, was awarded the 2010 Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award by the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation. She received the award for her dedication to representing those in need, making a real difference in the lives of individuals in Grand Island and surrounding communities. Koenig practices with Mayer, Burns, Koenig & Janulewicz in Grand Island.

**Glenda J. Pierce**, '82, has been elected First Supreme Court District representative to the Nebraska State Bar Association Executive Council. Pierce is associate dean at the College of Law.

**Patrick J. Barrett**, '83, a partner in Fraser Stryker, has been named by Best Lawyers as the “Omaha Best Lawyers Labor and Employment Lawyer of the Year” for 2011. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is so honored. He has also been elected as a fellow to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

**David D. Ernst**, '83, a partner in the Omaha law firm of Pansing, Hogan, Ernst & Bachman, has been named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

**Alicia E. Santos**, '83, LL.M. ’10, has been named assistant director of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

**Dean J. Sitzmann**, '83, an attorney with the Lincoln law firm of Wolfe, Snowden, Hurd, Luers & Ahl, has been invited to join the Council on Litigation Management.

**Herbert E. Cihak**, '84, associate dean for library and information services and professor of law at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif., spoke at the China-United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries in Beijing, China, on “Law Library Issues: Staffing and Costs.”

**Douglas R. Hart**, '84, has joined the Los Angeles office of Sidley Austin as a partner. He is part of the firm’s labor and employment practice with emphasis on wage and hour and employment discrimination class action litigation. Hart was named “Attorney of the Year” by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for his efforts in defending the department in a gender discrimination class action case.

**Douglas L. Stratton**, '84, is a partner in the Norfolk law firm Stratton, DeLay & Doele.

**Lisa M. Burianek**, '85, received the New York State Bar Association’s 2010 Citation for Special Achievement in Public Service. The award recognizes the special achievements of public service attorneys in projects or events that have a significant positive impact on the community. Burianek was honored for her negotiating skills and advocacy in the cause for a greener environment. Burianek has been an assistant attorney general for the State of New York since 1993 and is currently a deputy bureau chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau in the New York State Department of Law, managing staff in the Albany and Buffalo EPB offices.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

1980s

Sandra M. Frantz, '85, along with her husband, Darik Von Loh, '99, owns Drac’s Place, a seasonal Halloween store in Lincoln. The two are also law partners in the law firm Hernandez Frantz, Von Loh.

Kim M. Robak, '85, of the Mueller Robak law firm, has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the field of government relations law. The guide, which is created from 3.1 million peer evaluations, is comprised of the nation’s top attorneys in key practice areas.

Dale Shotkoski, '85, was appointed city attorney for the City of Fremont.

John C. Vitek, '85, has joined the Milwaukee office of Mallery & Zimmerman as a shareholder. He practices with the firm’s tax, real estate and corporate/business/health-care groups.

Gerald Wolff, '85, was named Idaho Prosecutor of the Year by the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Wolff heads Canyon County, Idaho’s efforts to prosecute gang-related and drug crimes.

Theresa M. Dowling, '86, has opened a law practice in Omaha specializing in all areas of litigation and construction law.

Terry Rickers, '86, has been appointed District Court judge for the Fifth Judicial District of Iowa by Gov. Chet Culver. Prior to his appointment, Rickers was in private practice in Newton, Iowa, and served as a magistrate judge.


Jane E. Burke, '87, has been named counsel on unauthorized practice of law for the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Amy L. Peck, '87, has been named of counsel at Jackson Lewis in Omaha. Peck, an employment law attorney, focuses on immigration law.

Alaina Burtenshaw, '87, has been named chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada by Gov. Brian Sandoval. Burtenshaw joined the agency in 1992, working as staff counsel and assistant staff counsel on electrical, natural gas and water cases, and has served as a commissioner since January 2010.

Joel E. Carlson, '88, is an associate with the Norfolk law firm Stratton, DeLay & Deole.

Sandra (Mulhair) Cinnamon, '89, graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Doctorate in Education in December 2010.

Ann M. Frohman, '89, has resigned as director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance. Frohman was appointed director in 2007. She had also served as acting director, deputy director, general counsel and staff attorney.

D. Eugene Garner, '89, is part of the newly merged Mc-Cook firm of Mousel, Brooks, Garner & Schneider.

Beth A. Townsend, '89, has been appointed by Gov. Terry E. Branstad to direct the State of Iowa’s Civil Rights Commission.

Kathryn J. Derr, '90, has joined Parsonage, Vandenack & Williams in Omaha as of counsel. She practices in the areas of business, business litigation, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy.

Mark A. Fahleson, '92, a partner with Rembolt Ludtke, a Lincoln law firm, has been elected to the board of directors of the Nebraska Defense Counsel Association, which consists of Nebraska attorneys who seek to defend civil claims and litigation, and has been named chair of the Employment Law Committee of DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar.

Sylvester J. Orsi, '92, has joined Baird Holm in Omaha. He focuses his practice on banking and finance, corporate and business and securities law.

Jamie Mues Jankovitz, '93, has been named a partner in the Grand Island law firm Bradley, Elsbernd, Andersen, Kneale & Mues Jankovitz. She practices primarily in estate planning, elder law/Medicaid, probate, real estate, banking and finance and corporate implementation.

Jon C. Bruning, '94, Nebraska attorney general, was co-recipient, with Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale, of the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Special Merit Award, which recognizes significant and continuing contributions to the legal profession. Bruning and Gale, as members of the Nebraska Board of Pardons, supported the commutation of a life sentence of an inmate because they found that the case presented special circumstances sufficient to break a 20-year impasse on exercising the power of mercy entrusted to the Board of Pardons. Bruning also traveled to Iraq to help launch a program to improve that country’s legal system by training judges and jurists.

Thomas K. Massey, '94, has been appointed vice president of Cost Effective Solutions, a subsidiary of Nelnet. Massey is in charge of sales, marketing and branding responsibilities for the Lincoln company’s IT and cloud computing services.

William R. Head, '95, has been selected as vice president of governmental affairs for the Consumer Healthcare Products Association in Washington, D.C. Head is responsible for the association’s state and federal government affairs departments and its political action committee. He also serves as a member of the association’s senior management team.

Robert S. Brigham, '96, was re-elected to the Wahoo Public Schools Board of Education. He is serving as president of the board.

R. Christopher Reade, '96, has been named “2010 Pro Bono Attorney of the Decade” by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Reade practices with Reade & Associates in Las Vegas.


Faith Spar, '96, is a member of the 2010 entering LL.M. class at the University of Michigan Law School.

Matthew Maser, '97, has joined Five Points Bank in Grand Island as senior vice president and general counsel. His responsibilities include assisting in the overall management of the bank, working with the Trust Department, working with the investment portfolio, making loans and managing the bank’s legal activities. Maser previously practiced law for 13 years and was an equity shareholder at Koley & Jessen.

Robert A. Mooney, '97, has been elected a shareholder in the Omaha law firm Gross & Welsh. Mooney practice focuses on insurance defense, medical malpractice defense, personal injury, commercial and appellate litigation.

Peter A. Pirsch, '97, Omaha, was re-elected to the Nebraska Legislature representing District 04.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

1990s

Colin C. Theis, '97, has opened the Omaha law firm of Brown & Theis, which represents plaintiffs in personal injury and workers’ compensation matters.

Michael Johnson, '99, has joined Executive Wealth Management, a Lincoln based financial and investment firm.

Suzanne M. Rodekohr, '99, has been elected a partner in the Kansas City office of Bryan Cave. Rodekohr practice focuses on all aspects of business taxation matters including tax planning and structuring, mergers, acquisitions and reorganizations.

Scott J. Tingelhoff, '99, was re-elected Saunders County attorney. He received the Nebraska U.S. Attorney’s Office Perseverance Award at the Coordinating Committee’s Criminal Justice Conference in Kearney for his work on a rape and murder case that had been cold for years.

Kelly N. Tollefsen, '99, has joined the DeMars, Gordon, Olson, Zalewski, Wynner & Tollefsen law firm as a partner. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate, adoption, corporate/transactional law, family law and general civil litigation.

Darik Von Loh, '99, along with his wife, Sandra M. Frantz, '85, owns Drac’s Place, a seasonal Halloween store in Lincoln. The two are also law partners in the law firm Hernandez Frantz, Von Loh.

2000s

James D. Hamilton, '00, has joined the Lincoln office of Erickson Sederstrom. Hamilton’s primary area of practice is workers’ compensation.

Kathryn E. Jones, '00, has been named a partner at Kutak Rock in Omaha. She conducts a litigation and appellate practice with emphasis on employment law matters and business-related disputes.

Kerry Reisdorf, '00, has joined Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Steward law firm in Kansas City. In her practice, she advises and defends clients with regard to all aspects of the employer/employee relationship, including compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, and Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, National Labor Relations Act and state and local employment statutes.

Nathan A. Schneider, '00, is part of the newly merged McCook firm of Mousel, Brooks, Garner & Schneider.

Heather M. Tiltmann, '00, has been named head of the human resources practice group at Whyte Hirschbeck Dudek in Milwaukee, Wis. Tiltmann is a shareholder with the firm where her practice is devoted to representing and counseling local, regional and national employers in all aspects of labor, employment and immigration law.

David K. Lucas, '01, has become a member of Sherman & Howard at the firm’s Denver office. Lucas’ public finance practice concentrates on government financings for counties, municipalities, school districts and other special taxing districts.

Jason A. Ossian, '01, has been named a partner in the Gering law firm of Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek & Ossian. His practice focuses on family law, criminal law and litigation.

Adam J. Prochaska, '01, an attorney with Harding & Schultz in Lincoln, has obtained the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Associate credential from the United States Green Building Council. The credential attests to demonstrated knowledge and skill in understanding and supporting green design, construction and operations.

Curtis D. Ruwe, '01, has been elected a shareholder in the Minneapolis law firm of Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala. Ruwe is co-chair of the firm’s insurance coverage practice group and focuses on commercial insurance coverage and defending professional liability claims.
2000s


Valencia N. Davis, ’02, is teaching Criminal Pre-Trial Drafting at Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee, Fla., as an adjunct professor. She is senior staff attorney for Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga.

Christopher R. Miller, ’02, and Mark P. Grell, ’02, have opened Miller Grell Law Group in the Haymarket area of Lincoln. Miller Grell is a litigation firm specializing in workers’ compensation, insurance disputes, personal injury, products liability and business litigation.

Monica K. Miller, ’02, published “How Judges Decide Whether Social Parents Have Parental Rights: A Five-Factor Typology,” 49 Family Court Review 72. Miller is an associate professor at the University of Nevada-Reno with a split appointment between the Criminal Justice Department and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology. She is also an adjunct faculty at the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies and a faculty associate for the Women’s Studies Program.

Danielle Conrad, ’03, Lincoln, was re-elected to the Nebraska Legislature representing District 46.

Ryan R. Fuller, ’03, and Katie Colleran were married on July 17, 2010, at the Museum of Visual Materials in Sioux Falls, S.D. Fuller is a revenue officer for the Internal Revenue Service. The couple lives in Sioux Falls.

Neleigh N. Korth, ’03, has been named Kearney County attorney. She previously was deputy Keith County attorney.

Ingolf D. Maurstad, ’03, has been named a partner at the law firm of Dalke, Smith & Maurstad in Beatrice. Maurstad’s practice includes general trial law, collections, estate planning and administration, real estate, tax planning, business transactions and entity formation, family law and criminal defense.

David A. Prange, ’03, has joined the Minneapolis office of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi as an associate. Prange practices in the area of intellectual property litigation with an emphasis on patents, trademarks and trade secrets.

Eric Williams, ’03, is an associate at Svehla Law Offices in York.

David J. A. Bargen, ’04, has been elected to the University of Nebraska at Kearney Alumni Association board. Bargen practices with Rembolt Ludtke in Lincoln.

Tracey L. Buettner, ’04, is an associate with the Norfolk law firm Stratton, DeLay & Doele.

Ellen A. Deaver, ’04, has been named a partner in the Lincoln law firm of Atwood, Holsten, Brown & Deaver. Deaver practices primarily in the areas of workers’ compensation and personal injury.

Shane R. Deaver, ’04, has been named a partner at Kutak Rock in Omaha. He works within the firm’s tax credit practice group and focuses on low-income housing, new markets, historic rehabilitation and renewable energy tax credits, as well as other state and federal financial products.

Amanda J. Karr, ’04, is an associate with the Thompson Law Office in Omaha. She has a general practice including family law, estate planning and civil litigation.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

2000s

Jill R. Martin, ’04, has been promoted to associate trust counsel at Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company in Milwaukee, Wis., where she focuses on estate planning, probate and tax. She was also inducted into the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Blugold Hall of Fame. She and her husband, Shane, live in Waukesha, Wis.

Erin M. O’Gara, ’04, has been named a partner at Kutak Rock in Omaha. She concentrates her practice on commercial real estate transactions and commercial lending secured by real estate.

Jennifer D. Tricker, ’04, has been made a partner at Baird Holm in Omaha. Tricker is a litigation partner with a practice focusing on the defense of catastrophic transportation claims, product liability issues, premises liability, construction and general commercial matters.

Renee Eveland, ’05, has been named a partner at Wolfe, Snowden, Hurd, Luers & Ahl in Lincoln. Eveland’s practice focuses on insurance and malpractice defense litigation and appellate advocacy.

Mitchel L. Greenwell, ’05, has opened Greenwell Bruner in Kearney.

Andrew J. Kafka, ’05, Lincoln, has been promoted by Union Bank & Trust to assistant vice president and trust officer in the Personal Trust & Wealth Management department.

John J. Levy, ’05, has been named executive director of the Heart Ministry Center, which provides basic necessities, educational opportunities, health outreach events and support to individuals and families in north Omaha and surrounding areas. Levy formerly practiced law with Baird Holm in Omaha.

Daniel Dawes, ’06, co-authored Understanding Health Reform: A Community Guide for African Americans, a guidebook published by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation on the landmark health reform law. Dawes is one of 13 experts serving on the Congressional Black Caucus’ Health Equity Leadership Commission.

Jessica Feinstein, ’06, has joined Jackson Lewis in Omaha as an associate. She specializes in immigration law, including business immigration, employment visas, permanent residence labor certification and deportation.

Andrea D. Miller, ’06, has become a shareholder with Simmons Olsen law firm in Scottsbluff. She focuses her practice in the area of family law and civil litigation.

Paul A. Payne, ’06, Brian A. Coon, ’06, Lisa M. Gonzalez, ’06 and Sophia M. Alvarez, ’06, have joined the Lincoln law firm of Ritnour, Payne & Coon, which specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody/support.

Jerod L. Trouba, ’06, is an associate with the Lincoln law firm of DeMars, Gordon, Olson, Zalewski, Wynner & Tollefsen. He practices in all areas of litigation, concentrating in criminal defense, domestic, construction, insurance and landlord/tenant law.

Andy Wilcox, ’06, married Christine Higgins, ’08, on June 26, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Island. He owns Go Big Red Commercial Real Estate in Kansas City, Mo.

Jordon W. Adam, ’07, has joined Fraser Stryker in Omaha as an associate. His practice focuses on insurance, commercial and personal injury litigation.

Carl Anderson, ’07, has transitioned to a new career as a Spanish teacher for Lexington Public Schools. Anderson previously worked as a deputy county attorney in Dawson County, Nebraska.

Dan Carnaham, ’07, has left the Omaha area, where he worked as a corporate lawyer, and moved to his hometown of Chadron with his wife Denise. There he has stated his own one-man practice.

Heidi M. Hayes, ’07, has been named a partner at the Lincoln law firm of Morrow, Poppe, Watermeier & Lonowski.
2000s

**Joseph A. Kishiyama**, ’07, has been named a shareholder and director of the Scottsbluff law firm of Chaloupka, Holyoke, Snyder, Chaloupka, Longoria & Kishiyama. His practice focuses on estate and gift planning, estate and trust law, taxation, real estate and business law.

**Kimberly Loontjer**, ’07, has joined the staff at Wheat Ridge Ministries as the assistant director of ministry programs, where she manages and evaluates grant programs and aids overall program planning. In Fall 2010, she was honored with the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Lincoln Lutheran High School.

**Brent Meyer**, ’07, and **Abby Smith**, ’07, were married on October 23, 2010, in Lincoln. Meyer is an associate at Carlock, Copeland & Stair in Atlanta, Ga. Smith is an attorney with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Lumpkin, Ga.

**Matthew S. Torres**, ’07, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Ritnour, Payne & Coon, which specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody/support.

**Jennifer L. Tricker**, ’07, has joined the law firm of Schwartzkopf Schroff & Tricker as a partner. Her practice focuses exclusively on estate and business planning and estate administration.

**Aaron Brown**, ’08, has opened the Omaha law firm of Brown & Theis, which represents plaintiffs in personal injury and workers’ compensation matters.


**Torrey Janus-Gerdes**, ’08, has joined the litigation practice group as an associate at Baylor Evnen in Lincoln.

**Jennifer Kuehler**, ’08, has been appointed as executive director of the Columbus Public Schools Foundation. Previously, she was public information coordinator at the Albion-based Project Response.

**Timothy Paul Matas**, ’08, will play trombone with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra at the 36th Annual Glenn Miller Music Festival in Clarinda, Iowa. Matas is an attorney with the Platte County Public Defender’s Office.

**Todd D. Morten**, ’08, has joined the Madelung Law Office in Gering. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense, family law and bankruptcy.

**Colin Mues**, ’08, has joined the litigation practice group at the Baylor Evnen in Lincoln. Mues comes to the firm with experience in civil and commercial litigations, workers’ compensation, insurance defense, real estate, intellectual property and general corporate law.

**Linda Pelow**, ’08, is an administrative law judge for the State of Arizona.

**Katherine S. Kalisek Vogel**, ’08, has joined the Knudsen Law Firm in Lincoln, where her practice focuses on water law and general litigation.

**Christie Higgins Wilcox**, ’08, married **Andy Wilcox**, ’06, on June 26, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Island. She works at Union Bank & Trust as an officer in Credit Administration. Her responsibilities include serving as a liaison between Union Bank & Trust and Perry Law Firm, drafting and reviewing contracts, assisting with litigation and collections and participating in the Risk Management process.

**Sean Zahtab**, ’08, was featured in the August 30, 2010, edition of People magazine. The article, “Katrina Five Years Later – The Storm Brought Us Together,” describes how Zehtab and his wife met in New Orleans while volunteering their time by giving legal aid to hurricane victims for the Student Hurricane Network.
Our Alumni

AlumNotes

2000s

Jonathan S. Camp, ’09, has become associated with Capital Consulting and Asset Management in Lincoln. He has also started his own law firm, Camp Law Offices, as well as conducting commercial historical building renovation.

Jack Ehrich, ’09, has become an associate with the Omaha law firm of Pickens & Green in its estate planning practice. He specializes in living trusts.

Anthony R. Essay, ’09, of the Principal Financial Group Mountain Plains Business Center, has been named New Associate of the Year and has qualified for the company’s Premier Club. Among all new producers of the Nebraska region, Essay has been recognized as the top sales leader. He focuses in the areas of business planning and estate planning.

Darin Knepper, ’09, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Ritnour, Payne & Coon, which specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody/support.

Sarah J. Morris, ’09, LL.M. ’10, has been named policy analyst for the New American Foundation’s Open Technology Initiative where she assists in the research and development of policy proposals related to open technologies, broadband access and emerging technological issues. The foundation is headquartered in Washington D.C., and has a significant presence in California. Morris previously served as a Google policy fellow with the Media Access Project.

Maria J. Thietje, ’09, has become an associate with DeMars, Gordon, Olson, Zalewski, Wynn & Tollefson law firm. Her practice focuses on litigation involving child support enforcement, paternity, estate planning and employment law.

Laura Troshynski, ’09, is an associate with Pederson Law Office in North Platte. Her practice focuses on general legal issues, bankruptcy, estate planning, wills and trusts and business and corporation law.

Dyana Wolkenhauer, ’09, has joined the Lincoln law firm of Perry, Guthery, Hasse & Gessford as an associate attorney.

2010s

Brooke Allison, ’10, has joined the Gallager & Kennedy law firm in Phoenix, Ariz. Her practice focuses on general commercial litigation and bankruptcy law.

Kurt D. Arganbright, ’10, joined the Arganbright law office in the general practice of law in Valentine. The practice is owned by Kurt’s father Warren, who graduated from the College of Law in 1975.

Katie S. Baltensperger, ’10, has become an associate with Simmons Olsen law firm in Scottsbluff.

Adam Barney, ’10, has joined the Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather law office in Omaha as an associate. His areas of practice are litigation and franchising and distribution.

Amy L. Bartels, ’10, is working for the Office of Admissions at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Tyler Bartruff, ’10, has been hired on at McDermott & Miller, a certified accounting firm in Omaha. Bartruff provides the office with services such as individual income tax preparation, partnerships, corporate and business reorganization tax planning, estate and gift tax planning and audits and compilations.

Adam P. Bates, ’10, is a compliance attorney for the Des Moines, Iowa, company PolicyWorks, which provides regulatory compliance services to the Iowa credit union leagues.
2010s

Shawn D. Beaudette, ’10, has been named an associate with Lammli & Locke law firm in Norfolk. His primary practice areas are personal injury, family law, estate planning, wills, trusts and real estate.

Nichole A. Bohl, ’10, Seth J. Felton, ’10, Jonathan B. Gargano, ’10, and Michael Koberlein, ’10, have joined the Lincoln law firm of Ritnour, Payne & Coon, which specializes in criminal defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, divorce and child custody/support.

Daniel Bruce, ’10, is an associate at Kutak Rock in Omaha. He works in the corporate department with an emphasis on intellectual property matters.

Clint Cadwallader, ’10, has joined Fraser Stryker in Omaha. He is working in a variety of practice areas including business law, corporate law, commercial law, real estate and litigation, trial and appellate practice.

Carrie Christensen, ’10, is a judicial law clerk with the Fourth Judicial District Court of Nebraska in Omaha.

Maggie Lynn Cox, ’10, is serving a two-year judicial clerkship for Judge Lyle E. Strom of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska in Omaha.

Anna Doss, ’10, has been named an associate of the Dallas law firm of Quilling, Selander, Lownds, Winslett & Moser. Her practice is focused in the areas of business and insurance litigation and employment law.

Edward Fox II, ’10, is a litigation associate practicing in the area of financial services with the Kutak Rock Firm in Omaha.

Gregory Frayser, ’10, is an associate at Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather law office in Lincoln. He concentrates his practice in bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, banking and financial institutions, and real estate and environmental law.

Brandy M. Ingles, ’10, was married to Joe G. Menaugh on December 31, 2010, at First Central Congregational Church in Omaha.

John A. Lentz, ’10, has joined Lepant Law Office in Lincoln as an associate. His practice areas include bankruptcy, estate planning, business planning and general civil and criminal litigation. Lentz submitted a paper to the University of Oklahoma’s American Indian Law Review and won first place in the American Indian Law Writing Competition. The article will be published as the special feature in Volume 35.

Mary Jo Lang, ’10, Omaha, is enrolled in NYU’s Graduate Tax Program. The program is widely viewed as the preeminent program of its kind.

Stephanie Mahlin, ’10, has joined Koley Jessen in Omaha as an associate in the firm’s M&A/securities and business/general counsel practice groups.

Gavin Parker, ’10, has joined the Houston, Texas, law firm of Boyar & Miller as an associate in the firm’s Business Group.

Tyler Pribbeno, ’10, has joined the Burke Law Office in Imperial as an associate attorney.

Coady Pruett, ’10, has joined the Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather law office in Lincoln as an associate. Pruett practices in areas of litigation, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights.

Kristine Roberts, ’10, is an associate in the Wiseman Law Office in Fremont.

Matthew T. Schaefer, ’10, is an associate with the Mueller Robak law firm in Lincoln.

Tara Tesmer, ’10, has become an associate with the Rembolt Ludtke law firm. Tesmer’s practice is concentrated in the areas of civil litigation and employment and labor law.

Matthew J. Turman, ’10, has joined Kovarik, Ellison & Mathis firm in Gering as an associate.

Joshua Wendell, ’10, has joined the Ogallala law firm of McQuillian & McQuillian. His practice focuses on estate planning, real estate and contract work. In addition to his law career, Wendell owns a ranch in Blaine County.

Brock D. Wurl, ’10, has joined Norman, Paloucek & Herman Law Offices as an associate. The firm has offices in North Platte and Curtis.

Jon Vince, LL.M. ’10, was awarded the 2010 Society of Satellite Professionals International Scholarship and recognized as part of the SSPI Satellite Scholars program.
**In Memoriam**

**1930s**

*Milo M. Jensen,* '39, passed away on March 2, 2011, in Geneva. He was 96 years old. During World War II, he served in Europe, Sicily and North Africa and was awarded four bronze stars. For many years, he was a claims manager for National Farmers Union Insurance Co. in Denver.

**1940s**

*John A. Allen,* '41, passed away on October 20, 2010, at his home in Destin, Fla. He was 91 years old. A World War II and Korean War veteran, Allen was employed by State Farm Insurance for 38 years, where he received his CPCU and CLU designations.

*J. Hammond McNish,* '41, died on July 22, 2010, at his home in Lawrence, Kan. He was 93 years old. McNish practiced law in Sidney from 1948 to 1970. For many years, he was an adjunct professor of business law at the University of Kansas School of Business and served as the KU faculty representative to the Big 8 Athletic Conference and a member of the board of the KU Athletic Corporation. He was a board member of the Douglas County Bank and Tuf Wear Manufacturing Co. McNish was the recipient the Kansas University HOPE Award and the Henry A. Budd Award for distinguished teaching in business.

*Frederick C. Gilbert,* '42, died on August 25, 2010, in Omaha at the age of 93. He was a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association for more than 68 years.

*Richard C. Peck,* '42, died on May 20, 2010, at age 92. When he was appointed in 1975, Peck became the first full-time U.S. magistrate judge in Nebraska. After doing Army counterintelligence work during World War II, he was in private practice in Plattsmouth. He also served as Cass County attorney, chief assistant U.S. attorney and clerk of the U.S. District Court in Omaha. He retired in 1992.

**1950s**

*Elmer J. Jackson,* '47, died on January 23, 2011, at the age of 90. The Elmer J. Jackson Law Scholarship Fund was established at the College of Law by Plains Petroleum Company to commemorate Jackson’s life on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of Plains Petroleum Company.

*James I. Shamberg,* '47, died on July 1, 2010, at age 89. He practiced law in Grand Island for 60 years, many with the law firm of Shamberg, Wolf, McDermott & Depue. Shamberg also served as deputy Hall County attorney for several years. In 2000, he received the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He also served as a member of the University of Nebraska President’s Advisory Council.

*C. Keith Windrum,* '47, died on October 11, 2010, in Boise, Idaho, at the age of 89. He completed 50 missions as a pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress in the North African theater during World War II. He was an attorney in Gothenburg from 1948 until 1972, when he was appointed district judge of the 13th Judicial District. He retired in 1983.

*William C. Hastings,* '48, former chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, died on July 17, 2010, in Lincoln. He was 89 years old. Hastings served as a Lancaster County district judge from 1965 to 1979, when he was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court. He became chief justice in 1987 and retired from the court in 1995. While on the court, Hastings was one of the primary advocates for establishing the Nebraska Court of Appeals.

*Theodore C. Sorensen,* '50, died October 31, 2010, in New York City after suffering a stroke. He was 82. Sorensen was a Nebraska native who served as speechwriter, advisor and confidant to President John F. Kennedy. During the time Kennedy was in the Senate, he won a Pulitzer Prize for Profiles in Courage, a book many would later credit Sorensen with having a strong hand in writing. As speech writer for the nation’s 35th president, Sorensen had a hand in penning some of the most stirring prose in American political history including Kennedy’s 1961 inaugural address – “Ask not what your country can do for you.” During the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, Sorensen was credited with drafting important communications to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that helped take the superpowers from the brink of nuclear war. Sorensen noted that this was probably the most important writing he ever did. After Kennedy’s assassination in 1963, Sorensen left the White House and started a four-decade career as an attorney in New York specializing in international law, mostly as a senior partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He would go on to write numerous books, many about Kennedy and his legacy. Sorensen often spoke fondly about...
Bevin B. Bump, '52, died on December 30, 2010, at the age of 84. He was a navigator aboard the U.S.S. Kula Gulf during World War II. Bump was an attorney with Bump & Bump in Chadron and served as Chadron city attorney for 53 years and Dawes County attorney for 13 years. He was president of the Nebraska State Bar Association in 1990-91.

John Brogan, '54, died on January 1, 2011, at the age of 81. His work career began as a claims adjustor and defense counsel for USF&G before settling in York to set up a private law practice in 1955. He started Brogan Abstract Company in York in 1960, which later merged to become York County Title Company.

Robert H. Berkshire, '55, died on February 9, 2011, from complications of leukemia. He was 82 years old. Berkshire served as a U.S. assistant attorney and for many years engaged in a general law practice in Omaha with emphasis on estate planning, probate, corporate and real estate. He recently completed a two-year term as president of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. At the Nebraska State Bar Association annual meeting in October 2010, Berkshire received the George H. Turner Award, which recognized his dedication to furthering public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence in the legal system. A letter winner in track at UNL, Berkshire began the Relay Club, which raises money for the UNL track team.

John B. (Jack) Henley, '63, died on September 16, 2010, at the age of 63. Henley was a long term resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., where he practiced law.

David N. Shepherd, '65, died on June 28, 2010, in Mesa, Ariz., following a prolonged illness. He was 69 years old. Shepherd worked for a number of years at Lee Booksellers in Lincoln.

Paul M. Conley, '68, died on July 18, 2010, at the age of 65. Conley was a lifelong resident and a solo practitioner in Lincoln. His general practice encompassed, among others, real estate, family law and bankruptcy. He was the recipient of the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award in 2007 in recognition of his service to the public as a volunteer attorney with the NSBA Volunteer Lawyers Project. Before establishing the Conley Law Office, he worked at Legal Aid and the Public Defender’s Office. He also taught business law at UNL.

George D. Watson, '75, died on June 26, 2010, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 60 years old. Watson practiced law at the Chadron law firm of Crites, Shaffer, Connealy & Watson and was a Chadron State College professor of justice studies, teaching criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence and the department’s honors program. While he was at Chadron State, the number of justice study majors increased from 15 to 170. He was a recipient of the Nebraska State College System’s Teaching Excellence Award, the Nebraska Department of Justice Outstanding Law Enforcement Teaching Award and the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska Outstanding Law Enforcement Educator Award. He was a member of the Nebraska Crime Commission and chair of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council. He was the author of Prairie Justice: A Legal History of Dawes County.

David G. Wondra, '77, died on December 1, 2010. He was 62 years old. He was a lawyer in Minden, first with Meier & Adams, and then with Adkins & Wondra. He became Kearney County attorney in 1989.

John M. Boehm, '78, died at his home on March 16, 2011, at the age of 62. A graduate of the West Point Military Academy, Boehm was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was a partner with Butler, Galter, O’Brien & Boehm Law Offices in Lincoln and also served as the Nebraska Tax Commissioner and in the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office. He was co-founder of the Lincoln Rugby Football Club.

Ray Frank “George” Boehmer, Jr., '78, died on May 8, 2010, at the age of 56. Boehmer was an attorney, an overseas liaison and chief production manager in Bangladesh for a company in the garment industry and a designer and importer of fine carpets.

Susan M. Roberts, ’80, died on November 22, 2010, at Hospice House in Omaha after a long battle with cancer. She was 56 years old. Roberts taught social studies with Omaha Public Schools for 20 years.

Jesse O. Irwin II, ’83, passed away on December 29, 2010, in Omaha at the age of 70. He served in the Army in Vietnam and Germany and spoke German and Japanese. Before going to the Law College, he was a boxing coach, a disk jockey, a race relations instructor and a pilot. After his graduation, he purchased and renovated a building, the “White Elephant,” where he practiced law until he retired in 2009.

Craig T. Kimsel, ’97, died April 28, 2009, in his home in Honolulu, Hawaii, after being murdered by the ex-boyfriend of a client and friend. Kimsel practiced as a defense attorney in Honolulu.
Our Alumni

Alumni Accolades

2010 Alumni Council Awards

Congratulations to the 2010 Alumni Council Award Recipients:

Woods & Aitken Outstanding Student Award – Coady Pruett, ’10
Distinguished Faculty Award – Professor Steven L. Willborn
Distinguished Alumni Award – Robert J. Korba, ’68
Outstanding Service Award – Robert, ’55 and Joanne Berkshire

Korba Family
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Our Alumni
Reunion 2010

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2011 Reunion
Friday, September 16, 2011
Country Club of Lincoln
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The Report on Giving recognizes all donors who made gifts to the University of Nebraska College of Law during the 2009-2010 fiscal year which spans between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Any gift recorded before July 1, 2009 was part of the previous year’s totals; any gift recorded after June 30, 2010 will be recognized in next year’s report. We are pleased to report that during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the College of Law received $1,273,579. This amount includes $196,439.18 in gifts to the Annual Drive. Our sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the drive.

To all who contributed during the 2009-2010 annual drive, we are deeply appreciative. Thank you for supporting student dreams, professor passions and facility improvements. The continued success and strength of the College is a direct reflection of your generous support. The most fulfilling part of development is meeting those who feel that an investment in legal education is a worthwhile investment in the future. The Report on Giving for the 2010-2011 year will be in the Fall 2011 Nebraska Transcript.

Considerable care has gone into the preparation of this report. Each donor is very important and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the Report on Giving. In the event there is an omission or inaccuracy, we sincerely apologize. Please bring any errors to our attention.

You may contact the Director of Communications and Alumni Relations, Molly Brummond, at 402-472-8375 or by email at mbrummond2@unl.edu.
The Alumni Council recognizes the generosity of the many alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska College of Law who made gifts during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

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Gary N. Clatterbuck
Timothy E. Divis
Keith J. Gredys
Michael G. Hybl
Marcia A. Johnson
Stephen M. Krumm
Marian J. Masid
Thomas M. Maul
Steven R. Mills
Joseph A. Morris
William J. Mueller
David W. Pederson
Michael J. Sloan
Donald L. Swanson
James R. Wefso
Rebecca A. Winston

Class of 1981
Kathryn A. Bellman, Ph.D.
Elisabeth Bridge
Kent N. Campbell
Robert C. Corn
John C. Evans
Alrlen W. Langvardt
Timothy D. Loudon
Kathryn A. Olson
Robert R. Otte
Daniel M. Placek
John E. Samson
Charles W. Sorenson, Jr.
Gregory M. Thomas
Laureen K. Van Norman
John C. Wiltse

Class of 1982
Daniel J. Amen
George M. Blauvelt
Steven D. Boyd
Robert E. Burns, Jr.
Pamela A. Buttram
Chris A. Horacek
Alvin R. Pahlke
Donald D. Ross
Bradley P. Roth
Mark M. Schorr
James C. Stecker
Lorri K. Steen
Alan J. White
Linda L. Willard
Neil E. Williams
Mark J. Young

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Tamara J. Augustine
Gregory B. Bartels
Stephen S. Gealy

Class of 1984
Thomas E. Geu
Richard A. Hartfield
Michael J. Linder
James E. Perry
Richard T. Seckman
Bryan E. Slone
Tyler J. Sutton
Tracy Taylor Bridges
Alfred E. Willett
Martha K. Zajicek

Class of 1985
Keith E. Moxon
George S. Nash
William M. Ojile, Jr.
Robert W. Shively, Jr.

Class of 1986
Christine E. Denicola
Ann D. Diers
Christina D. Dodds
Robert P. Foster, Jr.
Greg P. Gillis
John D. Hunter
Glen n W. Morton
Craig L. Nelson
Lisa D. Price
Kathleen E. Rockey
John L. Spray
Hans H. Thielman
Michael L. Walcott
Susan C. Williams

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Miles M. Dewhirst
Walter D. James, III
Scott D. Johnston
Frank L. Labrador
Peter F. Sauer
Lawrence M. Zavadil

Class of 1988
Marie L. Buckley
Jeffrey A. Nix
Bradley R. Nygren

Class of 1989
Cathleen H. Allen
Julia A. Belles
Timothy D. Brown
Stephen J. Henning
Joseph A. Jordano
Robert J. Parker, Jr.
Marybeth Ruskamp
Lisa R. Thayer
Victoria L. Westerhaus
John J. Wilson, III

Class of 1990
Robin L. Binning
Mark A. Brohman
Julie A. Burns
ArLinda R. Crump
Eric L. Dillow
Kathryn J. Geiler
David A. Miller
Robert A. Monniere

Class of 1991
Dorothy C. Anderson
Joseph F. Bachmann
Robert L. Eden
Scott K. McCarthy
Pamela B. Peck
Michele L. Wielde

Class of 1992
Ruriko E. Bishop
Michael K. Bydalek
SaraBeth Donovan
DaNay A. Kalkowski
Report on Giving

Lance W. Kotschwar
Robert J. McCormick
James R. Nygren
Jerald L. Ostdiek
Thomas W. Pittman
Jeanette L. Stull
William J. Toulouse

Class of 1993
Sharon L. Bartter
Billie J. A. Blaine
Michael R. Contarino
Ennio J. Corsi
Darin Mackender
Rex J. Moats
Cheryl J. Peckenpaugh
Kirk S. Peterson
Melanie S. Rose
Steven M. Thomas
Carlos M. Rivera

Class of 1994
Tony J. Brock
Jon C. Bruning
Stephen A. Burt
Tabitha J. Campbell
Mark E. Dietrich, M.D.
Stephen M. Foster
Gerry B. Holman
Kent A. Meyerhooff
Scott A. Meyerson
Thomas P. Schenken
Kelly T. Shattuck
Thomas C. Wolfe
Damon O. Barry
Daniel J. Epstein
Jeffrey D. Holloway
Michael G. Rogers
Dale R. Shook

Class of 1995
Judy R. Scdoris
Robby J. Shortridge
James C. Ziter
Maureen E. Lamski
Brian S. Nielsen
Erika K. Schafer
Karey A. Skiermont
Amy J. Vyhlidal
Lori C. Wood

Class of 1996
Kristin E. Reynolds
Robert M. Schafer
Daniel Torrens
Carlos G. Alfaro
Aliza Anvari
Sunah K. Lee
Zachary W. Peterson
Daniel G. Van Gorp

Class of 1997
Elizabeth L. Hocking
Jeffery R. Kirkpatrick
William C. Montoya
Joel D. Nelson
Thomas L. Selken
Brian J. Davis
Jason J. Lessmeier
Karen K. Weinhold

Class of 1998
Jeanette L. Stull
William J. Toulouse

Class of 1999
Thersa A. Fromm
Jennifer L. Hanson
Gretchen A. Oltman
Suzanne M. Rodekohr

Class of 2000
Damon O. Barry
Daniel J. Epstein
Jeffrey D. Holloway
Michael G. Rogers
Dale R. Shook

Class of 2001
Maureen E. Lamski
Brian S. Nielsen
Erika K. Schafer
Karey A. Skiermont
Amy J. Vyhlidal
Lori C. Wood

Class of 2002
Tasha A. Everman
Tracy L. Jamison
Joseph J. Kehm
Paula S. Quist
Jessica C. Sidders

Class of 2003
Carlos G. Alfaro
Aliza Anvari
Sunah K. Lee
Zachary W. Peterson
Daniel G. Van Gorp

Class of 2004
Brian J. Davis
Jason J. Lessmeier
Karen K. Weinhold

Class of 2005
Sean M. Gleason
Calendar of Events

May 2011:
May 7, 2011
- Family Traditions Ceremony, 1:30 p.m. Lied Center for Performing Arts
- Commencement, 3:00 p.m. Lied Center for Performing Events
  (This is a ticketed event)

May 10, 2011
- Denver Area Alumni Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  Sherman & Howard LLC, 633 17th Street, Suite 3000, Denver, Colorado

May 12-13, 2011
- CLE: 2011 Estate & Business Planning Seminar
  (To register contact mtintera@unlnotes.unl.edu)

June 2011:
June 11, 2011
- Meadowlark Music Festival on East Campus, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
  Concerts and Activities at the Law College.
  Family friendly and no cost to attend!

August 2011:
August 18-19, 2011
- Student Orientation for Class of 2014

August 22, 2011
- Fall Semester Begins

September 2011:
September 7, 2011
- On-Campus Interviews

September 9, 2011
- CLE: 2011 Annual Institute on the Survey of Nebraska Law,
  Hamann Auditorium at the College of Law

September 16, 2011
- Alumni Council Executive Committee meeting
- Young Alumni Council meeting
- Reunion 2011 at Country Club of Lincoln, 6:00 p.m.