Stepping Out and Stepping Up
Young Lawyers Division Comes Into Its Own
In the YEAR of the VOLUNTEER

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President’s Message

The Inaugural OBA Gala Among Other Things…

On February 20, 2016, the Inaugural Omaha Bar Association Gala hosted by the OBA Young Lawyers Division “Stepped Out In Style.” A number of lawyers, law firms, and corporate legal departments sponsored the event along with a successful effort by the OBA YLD Chair Angela Lennon and YLD Gala Committee. Thank you. The event was well attended and the night also formally kicked off the OBA Year of the Volunteer. It is no surprise and a tribute to our members - by night’s end we had commitments of over 1,000 hours of public service by attendees. Well done! If you were unable to attend the Gala you can still signup to log your Volunteer hours online at the OBA website:  www.omahabarassociation.com

As we move into Spring, I am reminded of one of my favorite rainy day stories:

Overnight, a torrential rain storm soaked Southern Nebraska. When morning dawned the resulting floodwaters from the Missouri River came up about 5 feet into most of the homes in the area.

Sarah Smyth was sitting on top her roof with her next door neighbor, Molly Finnegan waiting for the emergency services to rescue them. Sarah noticed a lone straw hat floating near the house. Then she saw it float far out into the front yard, then float all the way back to the house, it kept floating away from the house, then back in. Her curiosity got the best of her, so she asked Molly, “Do you see that straw hat floating away from the house, then back again?”

“Oh yes, Sarah,” grinned Molly, “that’s Bill, my husband, wearing his gardening hat; he told me yesterday that he was going to cut the grass today come hell or high water.”

Come hell or high water, we renew our commitment to the OBA and our members as we prepare for a number of our annual events. The 10th Annual Seminar on Ethics and Professionalism will be on Friday, April 8th. The 4th Annual OBA YLD Nebraska v. Creighton game watch will be on Tuesday, April 26th followed by the Law Day lunch and celebration on Tuesday, May 3rd and our annual OBA Memorial Service on Wednesday, May 11th. There is more information on these and other upcoming events on the OBA website.

As always please feel free to contact me or any of our other OBA officers or members of the Executive Council if you have any ideas or would like to join an OBA Committee or participate further in our events. We are not a success without you. I continue to extend my thanks to you for your support and participation in the OBA. I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

John A. Menicucci Jr.

If you are aware of anyone within the Nebraska legal community (lawyers, law office personnel, judges, courthouse employees or law students) who suffers a sudden, catastrophic loss due to an unexpected event, illness or injury, the NSBA’s SOLACE Program can likely assist that person in some meaningful way.

Contact Mike Kinney at mkinney@ctagd.com and/or Liz Neeley at lneeley@nebar.com.
The Annual Wine and Beer Tasting on January 29th was a resounding success, with over 300 attendees enjoying the best offerings from Brix at Village Pointe.

Retiring Nebraska Supreme Court justice Hon. Michael McCormack was toasted by OBA President John Menicucci, Lynda Henningsen was thanked for *The Daily Record*’s sponsorship of the event, and Executive Director Dave Sommers wasouted on his turning 32 years old on the day of the event.

The annual Wine Tasting event draws veteran lawyers and new law school grads, all networking, laughing and getting to know each other.
Executive Director’s Column

As we enter our third month of 2016, the OBA is continuing its strong momentum from 2015, enjoying record attendees at the Wine and Beer Tasting at Brix in January, a full house at the Pub Quiz with the young doctors in early February, and a successful inaugural Gala event hosted by the Young Lawyers Division on February 20th. Thank you to all those who helped make those events a success: Lynda Henningsen and The Daily Record for sponsoring the Wine Tasting; Laura Pollack and the Metro Omaha Medical Society for co-sponsoring the Pub Quiz; to Angela Lennon, Hannah Wooldridge, Kate and Patrick McNamara, Jamie Applegarth, Jeremy Elliott, Sean Conway, Emily Blomstedt, Josh Erlanson, Jayne Wagner, Shirley Peng, Carol Cleaver, and Lorraine Boyd for their work in putting on and staffing the Gala. Thank you as well to Gala sponsors McGrath North, Slowiaczek Albers and Astley, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia, Fidelity National Title Group, Hauptman O’Brien, Husch Blackwell, Koley Jessen, Kutak Rock, Sibbernsen Strigenz & Sibbernsen, Walentine O’Toole, and D4 eDiscovery.

As mentioned throughout this newsletter and elsewhere, the Omaha Bar Association is working to make 2016 the “Year of the Volunteer”. We’re shining a light on all the volunteering done by members, and encouraging even more public service efforts. Interested in getting more involved? Check out the OBA website or send me an email, and we will get you signed up! On that note, we are entering the time of the year when we are looking for new committee chairs and leaders in the OBA. If you or someone you know may be interested in “stepping up” to the challenge, please let us know.

There is a plethora of upcoming events during this “high season” of OBA programming, so please look at the calendar and mark off the events you plan to attend. Whether it’s the Medical Legal Dinner, Ethics Seminar, YLD Baseball Game Watch, Law Day Lunch, or Legal Aid Golf Scramble (in place of Field Day), we have something you’ll want to attend.

Lastly, thank you to for renewing your membership in the OBA for 2016; we appreciate your support and membership, and look forward to seeing you at one of our many events!

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ON THE MOVE

The OBA congratulates Hon. Max J. Kelch on his appointment to the Nebraska Supreme Court to fill the vacancy of Hon. Michael McCormack’s retirement; Koley Jessen welcomes Lisa Lehan to the firm; Erickson Sederstrom announces new associate MaKenna Dopheide; Stinson Leonard welcomes Paul Gardner; Baird Holm welcomes Abigail Mohs as an associate; McGrath North welcomes Jay Koehn and Sarah Maresh as associates; Baylor Evnen welcomes Amanda Phillips to the firm; Dorman Lustgarten and Troia welcomes Elizabeth Henthorn and Katherine Doering to their office; Cline Williams welcomes Jason Yungtum to its Omaha location; Security National Bank welcomes Katie Lambert as trust officer; congratulations to Dan Wintz on joining his wife Margaret at Badura Law LLC; Larson Kupper welcomes Brian Moore to the firm; and Smith Slusky Law welcomes Tom McLeay to the firm.

MILESTONES

The Omaha Bar Association thanks Hon. Thomas Thalken, Hon. F.A. Gossett and Hon. Michael McCormack on their active participation in OBA events and wishes them well with their impending retirements; Koley Jessen congratulates Helmut Brugman on being promoted to shareholder; Mike Moran named partner at Engles Ketcham; congratulations to Jerry Slusky on his 27 years of organizing and hosting the Commercial Real Estate Summit in April; Baird Holm congratulates new partners Brent Beller, Michael Chase, Tyler Mullen, and Nick Rudman; Kutak Rock congratulates new partners P. Brian Bartels, Winifred Hawkins, Garth Glissman, Michael Mollner, Lisa Peters, and Dawn Roth; Husch Blackwell congratulates Henry Wiedrich on being named partner; Woods & Aitken names Erin Ebeler partner; Fraser Stryker congratulates Jordan Adam and Elizabeth Culhane on being named partner; congratulations to John Slowiaczek on being named president-elect of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; and congratulations to Kutak Rock and OBA past president Harold Rock on 50 years in operation.

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OBA Memorial Service

Remembering those we have lost in the last year

Friday, May 11th

Legislative Chambers of the Omaha-Douglas County Civic Center

11:30am-12:30pm

Members and guests are welcome

and twitter!

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www.omahabarassociation.com

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Civil Jury Verdicts

DOUGLAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
Jury Verdicts
Compiled by Michael D. Havlik

November 2015

CI 11-6453: Shala R. Chevalier v. Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha
Judge: W. Mark Ashford
Plaintiff’s Attorney: Joy Shiffermiller
Defendant’s Attorneys: A. Justin Cooper; Mark A. Mendenhall
Special Damages: Not specified
Verdict: Defendant [all theories of recovery]
Remarks: Plaintiff [P] alleged that Defendant [D] had employed her in variety of capacities [Drafter; Field Locator; Field Engineer I; Field Engineer II] since 1993. P further alleged (1) that she is disabled by Lyme Disease & that D was aware of her disability; (2) that she had applied for promotion to position of Field Engineering Supervisor; (3) that D had interviewed 11 applicants [8 men; 3 women] for position; & (4) that D had selected male applicant whose employment duration w/ D was shorter than P’s & whose qualifications were inferior to P’s. P further alleged (1) that D had based its rejection of her promotion application on her gender & her perceived disability; (2) that D had retaliated against her for filing discrimination claim w/ Nebraska Employment Opportunity Commission [NEOC]; & (3) that D’s adverse employment action based on her six-month, short-term disability leave of absence violated Family & Medical Leave Act.
D denied that it had discriminated against P, & it alleged that its treatment of P’s promotion application was based on legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons, including unsatisfactory job-performance appraisals. P then alleged that, until she had applied for promotion, her job-performance appraisals had been satisfactory.

Judge: J Russell Derr
Plaintiff’s Attorney: Keith E. Ekstrom [Minnetonka, MN]; John J. Higgins
Defendant’s Attorney: David J. Schmitt
Special Damages: Not specified
Verdict: Plaintiff, $425,000.00 [10-2 verdict]
Remarks: Plaintiff [P] alleged that Defendant [D] had employed him as locomotive engineer & that, while thus employed, he was moving rail cars between Sioux City & Council Bluffs, Iowa. P further alleged that he had suffered physical & mental injuries, including traumatic brain injury & compression fracture of thoracic spine, when he jumped from his train’s locomotive to avoid impact of collision w/ another train on D’s tracks near Kennard, Nebraska. P further alleged that D had been negligent (1) in failing to provide him reasonably safe place to work; (2) in failing to provide P w/ safe equipment—including signals, radio communications, warnings regarding train movements & track obstructions—to perform his duties; (3) in failing to inspect, maintain, & repair its locomotives, rail cars, equipment, tracks, & premises; (4) in assigning P to perform unsafe job tasks & to work w/ unsafe locomotives, rail cars, & other equipment; & (5) in failing to provide P w/ proper instruction, training, & supervision in performing his duties.
D admitted that it had employed P as locomotive engineer, but it denied P’s remaining allegations. D denied that it had been negligent, & it asserted that it had provided P w/ information that he needed to be prepared to stop his train in event that track in front of him was occupied by another train. D alleged (1) that P’s injuries had resulted from his pre-existing condition(s) and/or his contributory negligence (a) by failing to remain alert & attentive; (b) by failing to observe Centralized Traffic Control (CTE) signals; (c) by failing to maintain reasonable control of his locomotive & train; & (d) by failing to exercise ordinary care for his own safety; & (2) that P had failed to mitigate his damages. D also alleged that it was entitled to set off, against any damage award, amounts it had paid to P for medical & other expenses.
The jury determined P’s damages to be $850,000, & it allocated 50% of negligence to P, 50% of negligence to D. The trial judge entered judgment for P in amount of $425,000.00.

Editor’s Note: Every effort is made to ensure accuracy. However, if you note an error in your case, please notify the OBA office.

Judge: Timothy P. Burns
Plaintiffs' Attorney: Matthew G. Miller
Defendant's Attorney: Joel D. Nelson
Case Type: Motor-Vehicle Negligence [wrongful death; underinsured motorist]
Special Damages: $118,805.18 [medical, funeral, & burial expenses]
Verdicts: Plaintiff Scott Lundberg, $750,000.00
Remarks: Plaintiff Yesha Lundberg, $750,000.

Case Type: Professional [medical] Malpractice [diagnosis: treatment] [wrongful death]
Defendants' Attorney: Joseph S. Daly
Plaintiff's Attorney: Dana C. Bradford
Judge: Shelly R. Stratman


Judge: Shelly R. Stratman
Plaintiff's Attorney: Dana C. Bradford
Defendants' Attorney: Joseph S. Daly
Case Type: Professional [medical] Malpractice [diagnosis: treatment] [wrongful death]
Special Damages: Not specified
Verdict: Defendant
Remarks: Plaintiff [P], Special Administrator of her deceased husband's estate, alleged that he had sought treatment at Defendant Methodist Hospital [D-Methodist] emergency room, complaining of chest pains, heart palpitations, high fever, & rash. P further alleged that, after ordering electrocardiogram [EKG] & chest x-ray, Defendant Stratton [D-Stratton], as employee of D-Methodist, had diagnosed D as suffering from "community-acquired pneumonia", and had discharged him w/o conducting sepsis work up. P further alleged that decedent continued to suffer high fever for several weeks, eventually becoming completely disoriented, at which time he was admitted to Immanuel Medical Center, where medical staff determined that he had suffered stroke caused by infectious endocarditis & vegetation of aortic valve. P alleged that decedent had remained in treatment @ Immanuel for several weeks until, following second stroke, he died. P further alleged that, w/ D's consent, they had settled their claims against other driver’s insurer for limits of his insurance policy, which were insufficient to fully compensate them for their damages, thus rendering him an "underinsured motorist"; & (3) that they had made demand on D for payment of "underinsured motorist" benefits pursuant to their own policy.

Case Type: Motor-Vehicle Negligence [wrongful death; underinsured motorist]
Defendant's Attorney: Joel D. Nelson
Plaintiffs' Attorney: Matthew G. Miller
Judge: Timothy P. Burns

Ken Kocanda v. Paul Knudsen

Judge: Thomas A. Otepka
Plaintiff's Attorneys: David D. Ernst & Kellie C. Olson
Defendant's Attorneys: Douglas L. Phillips [Sioux City, Iowa]; Robert M. Schartz
Case Type: Motor-Vehicle Negligence [U-turn crossing traffic lanes]
Special Damages: Not specified
Verdict: Plaintiff, $3,900.00
Remarks: Plaintiff [P] alleged that, as he was riding motorcycle westbound on Pacific St. near 72nd St. intersection, he sustained significant injuries when his motorcycle struck Defendant's [D] truck, which was attempting to make U-turn from outside [curb] lane of westbound traffic after exiting parking lot. P further alleged that D had been negligent (1) by failing to keep proper lookout; (2) by failing to yield right-of-way; & (3) by making illegal U-turn [for which D had received traffic citation].

In Amended Answer, D admitted (1) that he had been attempting to make U-turn & (2) that he had received traffic citation, but he denied that he had struck P’s motorcycle. D alleged [w/o specification] that P had been contributorily negligent.

January 2016

There were no civil-case jury verdicts during January of 2016.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the good work of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the Creighton University School of Law. I was privileged to begin my work as dean as the Law School enters its 112th year, and I look forward to working with the Omaha Bar Association for the good of our profession and the community.

In August, the Law School welcomed a larger class than the previous year of 119 students. More importantly, we maintained academic quality, increased diversity, and expanded our geographic reach to 23 states. The Law School also welcomed Professor Katharine Van Tassel, a national expert on health care law. In her first year, Professor Van Tassel has already worked with our faculty to create a certificate program in Health Law for our law students, and she is collaborating on a proposal for an M.L.S. degree in health law for non-attorneys.

Last Fall, the Law School also began the fifth year of its GOAL Program, where students spend a full semester in residence in Washington, D.C., and earn an M.S. degree in Government Organization and Leadership. The students also perform a full-time externship, with placements including the World Bank, the White House Fellows program, the Departments of Justice, and the Senate Finance Committee.

The Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic has continued to provide our students with opportunities to live the Creighton mission of using their education to serve justice. The Clinic provided extended representation to 162 clients, had four cases before the Nebraska Court of Appeals, and provided legal services at the Heart Ministry Center on food pantry days.

Already this Spring, our law students have had great success in competitions across the country. A Creighton team took first place overall and the award for best oralist at the 2016 Midwest Regional of the Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition in Dallas, earning the right to participate in the national competition in Washington, D.C. And another Creighton team took 2nd place at the 2016 ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition in Lincoln.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to let you know about the outstanding work at the Creighton University School of Law. I look forward to continuing our close relationship with the OBA community.

CHANGED FOR 2016: In place of the traditional OBA Field Day, the Omaha Bar Association is co-hosting the 4th Annual Legal Aid Golf Scramble and Reception on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at Indian Creek Golf Course. Please save the date, and support this golf tournament for a good cause!

4th Annual
Legal Aid of Nebraska Golf Scramble & Reception
Presented by Fidelity National Title Group & Omaha Bar Association

Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at Indian Creek Golf Course
www.LegalAidofNebraskaGolf.com
ATTENTION ATTORNEYS:
Be proactive - get your clients help before they see the judge!
National Safety Council, Nebraska programs are used by the Douglas County Court and approved by the state of Nebraska Probation Department for diversion and probation.

PROBATION OPPORTUNITIES

DUI First Offender Program (English & Spanish)
10 hours, two 3 1/2 hour sessions 6pm-9:30pm and one 3 hour session 6pm-9pm.........................Tuition: $169
Includes Victim Impact Panel.

DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES

Alcohol Education/Minor in Possession (English & Spanish)
8 hours, one session, 8am-5pm ..................Tuition: $79

Adult Anger Management
9 hours, three sessions, 6pm-9pm...........Tuition: $119
Spanish Adult Anger Management (call for details)

Juvenile/Teen Anger Management
9 hours, three sessions, 6pm-9pm ..........Tuition: $79

Appropriate Decision Making for Adults
8 hours, one session, 8am-5pm ..................Tuition: $99
Spanish Decision Making for Adults (call for details)

Appropriate Decision Making for Teens
8 hours, one session 8am-4pm or two sessions 6pm-10pm.........................Tuition: $79

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OBA Lawyer Referral Service
Maximizing Its Online Presence

In an effort to stay at the forefront of the public’s search for Omaha attorneys, the OBA’s Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) has recently increased its purchase of online advertising, revamped its website, created Facebook and Twitter accounts, and will soon be unveiling a blog on its website in the coming months.

All this effort has helped boost the LRS to the front page of most every online search engine result, and increased significantly the number of referrals made through online requests. The LRS may be over 50 years old, but we know how to keep relevant to changing directory searches!

OBA Members

The OBA Lawyer Referral Service is seeking additional attorneys in the following practice areas:
Federal Worker’s Compensation
Federal and General Employment Law
School Law
Municipal Law
Administrative Law
Foreclosure

Please call Donna at (402)280-3606 for more details.
Stepping Out in Style!

The Pella at Blackstone provided a heavenly backdrop for the first annual OBA Young Lawyers Division Gala. The former church is part of the restoration of historic buildings in Midtown.
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Legal Community Steps Up and Out at Gala
Young Lawyers Division Event a Success in its First Year

On Saturday, February 20th, 120 OBA members and guests enjoyed a fun evening celebrating volunteerism in the legal community and, secondarily, fabulous footwear. The event, entitled “Stepping Out In Style: A Gala Evening”, was held on an unseasonably warm evening at The Pella at Blackstone, a renovated and repurposed church located at 41st and Farnam. Although the dress attire suggestion was cocktail/formal, attendees were encouraged to “show off their shoes” by wearing their fanciest, funniest, or most creative shoes they owned.

Hosted by the OBA’s Young Lawyers Division, the Gala was put on for the purpose of showcasing members of the community who “step up” and volunteer their time in significant ways, as well as to encourage volunteer efforts going forward. To make sure the tone of the evening didn’t get too serious, past Omaha Barristers Club president Sean Conway was enlisted as emcee, and given the green light to work in a stand up routine that didn’t disappoint.

The awards presented were the Omaha Bar Association’s Outstanding Volunteer Award. Nine individuals and organizations were recognized for their volunteer contributions in the legal community. Each of the recipients has shown extraordinary generosity in supporting the three pillars of the Omaha Bar Association: Service, Education, and Community Engagement.

2016 Omaha Bar Association Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients Are:

For Service
Dan Lennon, Fidelity National Title Group
For organizing Legal Aid of Nebraska’s annual golf scramble fundraiser (4th year, this year, with the OBA)

Jackson Lewis LLP (Omaha Office)
For committing 50 hours per attorney per year at the Douglas County Self Help Desk

For Community Engagement
James Boesen, Sherrets Bruno & Vogt
For organizing the original social programming for the OBA’s Young Lawyers Division

Tom Gaughen, First National Bank & J. Terry Macnamara, McGrath North
For Tom’s longstanding organization and support of the OBA Fall Kickoff BBQ and for J. Terry’s work organizing and starting the event 46 years ago

For Education
Nickie Konen, Fraser Stryker
For organizing and executing the OBA Young Lawyers Division CLE opportunities

J. Scott Paul, McGrath North
For creating, organizing, and putting on the annual Seminar on Ethics and Professionalism at Creighton School of Law
Not to be outdone, the end of the evening was capped off with Susan Koenig and Tanner Clark serving as judges of the shoe contest and handing out the following awards:

- **Most Creative Shoes**
  Jackie & Will Acosta-Trejo

- **Most Colorful Shoes**
  Jamie Hurst & Josh Woolf

- **Snazziest Shoes**
  Tom Gaughen & Nickie Konen

- **Worst Shoes**
  Brady Hoekstra

In addition to all the fun had and recognition received, the OBA Public Service Committee was pleased to report pledges of over 1100 hours of volunteering of 2016 by the close of the event, surpassing the 1000 hours goal set in January. The goal has now been revised to 2000 hours, to keep the momentum going. Thank you to all those who made the event a success!
It Takes a Village (of Volunteers) to Raise a Bar

By: Dave Sommers

This bar association, our members, and the Omaha legal community as a whole is phenomenal. It’s true. I’ve been in the Executive Director chair at the Omaha Bar Association for over three years now, and I am continually amazed on a weekly basis by all the selfless acts done by members of this community.

The good works range from pro bono representation, working on an OBA committee or leadership, speaking at CLE, serving on non-profit boards of directors, volunteering at CASA, helping staff and present at OBA events, mentoring new attorneys, serving on the Omaha Lawyer Referral Service… the list goes on and on. In the last year alone, the Omaha Bar Association has benefitted from the direct support and volunteer involvement of over 275 individuals. On behalf of the OBA, I want to say we are humbled and honored by all you do to support the legal community and the Omaha community in general.

There’s a famous proverb that states, “It takes a village to raise a child.” In this job I find that it truly does take an incredible number of people and volunteered time to make the Omaha legal community the best it can possibly be. We support each other, we help those in need, and we represent the highest ideals of the profession. Thank you to the following people who have “stepped up” and answered the call of volunteering!

(Names Listed Alphabetically)

Bonnie Borcya, Erickson Sederstrom
Ann Borer, Douglas County Law Library
Lorraine Boyd, The Daily Record
Lynette Boyle, Tietjen Simon & Boyle
Woody Bradford, Houghton Bradford Whitted
Joe Bradley
Will Bradshaw, West Corporation
Kelly Brandon, Fieldler & Timmer
Anne Breitkreutz, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia
Charlie Bressman, Anderson Bressman & Hoffman
Jon Brown, Valentine O’Toole
Kim Brown, Baird Holm
William Brown, Brown & Brown
John Brownrigg
Steve Bruckner, Fraser Stryker
Helmut Brugman, Koley Jessen
Hon. Bob Burkhard
George Butterfield, Creighton University School of Law
Eileen Buzzello, Reisinger Booth & Associates
Clayton Byam, Byam & Hoarty
Joe Byam, Byam & Hoarty
Erica Carr, Dodge County Attorney’s Office
Patrick Cavanaugh, The Cavanaugh Law Firm
Caitlin Cedfeldt
Cassidy Chapman
Adam Charlson, BoysTown
Kelly Chesire-Olson, Pansing Hogan
Daniel Christensen, UNL College of Law
Misty Christo
Carol Cleaver, Nebraska State Bar Association
Hon. J. Michael Coffey, Douglas County District Court
Jennifer Colwell, McGill Gotsdiner
Sean Conway, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia
Patrick Cooper, Fraser Stryker
Torri Criger, The Nebraska Medical Center
Nick Critelli, Critelli Law
Richard Croker, Croker Huck
Mike D. Nelson
Rodney Dahlquist, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia
Joe Daly, Sodoto Daly
Nicole Day, Nebraska Paralegals Association
Sam DelSenno, D4 eDiscovery
Richard Dewitt, Croker Huck
Karen Dixon, Creighton University School of Law
Katherine Doehring, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia
Patrick Donahue, Cassem Tierney
Stu Dornan, Dornan Lustgarten & Troia
Chuck Dorwart, Dorwart Law
Hon. Sandra Dougherty
Ryan Dougherty, Houghton Bradford Whitted
Jack Douglas, Cassem Tierney
Ashley Drexy-Buhman, Stalnecker Becker & Buresh
Angela Dunne, Koenig Dunne
Michael Dyer, Dyer Law

Will Acosta-Trejo, City Attorney’s Office
Neeraj Agarwal, Clarity Development Company
Ashley Albertsen, Oestmann & Albertsen
Vicky Amen, Amen Business Law
Emily Anderson, Kutak Rock
Joe Andres, Andres Law Offices
Will Andres, Andres Law Offices
Jamie Applegarth
J.T. Archer, Fidelity National Title Group
Sheila Benson, Omaha Legal Professionals Association
Mark Bertolini, Bertolini Schroeder & Blount
Samantha Billings
Robin Binning, Binning & Plambeck
Bill Birkel, McGrath North
Rob Black, Law Office of J. Robert Black
Natalie Blanke, Securities America
Emily Blomstedt, Fraser Stryker
James Boesen, Sherrer's Bruno & Vogt
Gail Boliver, Boliver Law Firm
Charity Bolling, Fidelity National Title Group
Amy Bones, Children's Hospital
Scot Bonnesen, Scot Bonnesen Law Offices
Kim Booth, Reisinger Booth & Associates
Elizabeth Borchers, Marks Clare & Richards

Will Acosta-Trejo, City Attorney’s Office
Neeraj Agarwal, Clarity Development Company
Ashley Albertsen, Oestmann & Albertsen
Vicky Amen, Amen Business Law
Emily Anderson, Kutak Rock
Joe Andres, Andres Law Offices
Will Andres, Andres Law Offices
Jamie Applegarth
J.T. Archer, Fidelity National Title Group
Sheila Benson, Omaha Legal Professionals Association
Mark Bertolini, Bertolini Schroeder & Blount
Samantha Billings
Robin Binning, Binning & Plambeck
Bill Birkel, McGrath North
Rob Black, Law Office of J. Robert Black
Natalie Blanke, Securities America
Emily Blomstedt, Fraser Stryker
James Boesen, Sherrer's Bruno & Vogt
Gail Boliver, Boliver Law Firm
Charity Bolling, Fidelity National Title Group
Amy Bones, Children's Hospital
Scot Bonnesen, Scot Bonnesen Law Offices
Kim Booth, Reisinger Booth & Associates
Elizabeth Borchers, Marks Clare & Richards
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<td>Katherine Mock</td>
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If you are interested in joining the newsletter committee and writing an occasional article for this publication, contact Dave at omahabarassociation@creighton.edu

Business Mediator

I have enjoyed counseling clients on their rights and strategic options for more than 20 years. I welcome the opportunity to help smart lawyers find their client’s best alternative to litigation.

Aaron D. Weiner
aweiner@akclaw.com
402.392.1250
The Lawyer Referral Service of the Omaha Bar Association hosted its annual December CLE (Continuing Legal Education) seminar in December. Nearly 100 participants earned 2.5 hours of CLE credits, part of which was an Ethics credit. First presenter H. Daniel Smith of Smith Slusky Law (right) joked that “I’m going to do the ethics portion of my talk first, because it’s obvious some of you might be a little compromised, having put your ethics CLE off till the last possible moment!”

The three sessions on various aspects of technology and the law practice were presented by Smith (Mark Weber, Nebraska Counsel for Discipline, was not able to make it); the second by Mary Vandenack of Vandenack Williams; and the final session by Susan Koenig of Koenig | Dunne Divorce Law.
The Nebraska Paralegal Association (“NePA”) held its 2015 Recognition Breakfast, Annual Meeting and Fall Seminar on September 17th and 18th at UNO’s Thomson Center. The two-day event started with Douglas County Attorney, Donald W. Kleine as the guest speaker for the Recognition breakfast. Following the Breakfast, NePA conducted its formal business in its Annual Meeting and Officer Elections. NePA named the following officers for 2015-2016:

Laurie S. Vik, ACP, President
Mindy Ware, ACP, Past President
Teri Gibbons, President-Elect
Sandra L. Armstrong, CP, Vice-President
Lauriel L. Nelson, Secretary
Bridget M. Stuhr, Treasurer
Anna Palmer, ACP, Parliamentarian
Nicole M. Day, CP, Website Administrator
Kimberly A.S. Brown, ACP, Publication Editor

Following the Annual Meeting and Officer Elections, the seminar included speakers on cybersecurity, elder abuse within the banking system, forensic science, disability rights, same sex-marriage laws, and free legal research.

NePA will hold its Spring Seminar on April 29, 2016 at The Cornhusker in Lincoln, Nebraska. To celebrate NePA’s 40th Anniversary, NePA will hold an Evening Meet & Greet at The Cornhusker on Thursday evening, April 28, 2016. NePA will also have special activities and gifts for those in attendance. Please plan to join us for this celebration! Visit NePA’s website at http://nebraskaparalegal.org for more details coming soon.

NePA’s District I held its winter luncheons on January 27, 2016 and February 25, 2016. In January, Meaghan M. Gandy, Associate of Kutak Rock, presented “Nebraska’s New Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.” In February, Philip Katz of Koenig|Dunne Divorce Law and Adam Astley, Principal of Slowiaczek|Albers|Astley presented, “Domestic Delegation: The Uniform Deployed Parents Custody & Visitation Act.” NePA will hold its next District I luncheon and meeting on March 23rd with Andrea Frazier, State Program Manager of Mothers Against Drunk Driving presenting "MADD Court Monitoring Program." Please contact Katie Wibbels, CP at kwibbels@childrensomaha.org for more information or registration information.

NePA’s District II held its Quarterly Lunch Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, on February 10, 2016, with Carol Cleaver, Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project; Sara Weber, Director of Continuing Legal Education; and Liz Neely, Executive Director from the Nebraska Bar Association as special guest speakers. Please contact Barbara Levos at blevos@remboltlawfirm.com with questions or information relating to future presentations in Lincoln.

For more information on NePA events, membership and career opportunities, visit our website, read our e-zine the In Brief on our website at www.nebraskaparalegal.org, and check us out on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Nebraska-Paralegal-Association-NePA/101739993223184.
Law Day 2016 Luncheon
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Omaha Marriott (Regency)
11:45am - 1:00pm
Featuring Speaker Tom Riley
Theme: “Miranda: More than Words”
Approximately 40 lawyers and doctors met up in February at the Midtown Crossing Club Room for another Pub Quiz, co-sponsored by the OBA Young Lawyers Division and the Metro Omaha Medical Society. All of the questions had to do with law and medicine in pop culture and the news, with references to Netflix’s Making a Murderer; films such as Outbreak and Erin Brockovich; and famous physicians, including “Che” Guevara and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The winning team, “Hung Jury,” included lawyers Danielle Dring, Alexis Wright, Bob Sherrets, James Boesen, doctor Alex Dworak, and law student Eric Dworak. The winners were each awarded a bottle of wine.

Young Lawyers Division Aces Latest Pub Quiz

The winning team (left) gloat over their victory, although scores were close and the inclusion of a doctor on their team earned them the extra points that assured a win!
Omaha Bar Association & Creighton University School of Law
10th Annual Seminar on Ethics & Professionalism
Friday, April 8
2:15 – 4:45 p.m.
Creighton University Harper Center
Hixson-Lied Auditorium
Special Guest Speakers:
Hon. John M. Gerrard,
U.S. District Court
Stephen Sieberson
Creighton School of Law
2 hrs of CLE applied for in NE and IA
Seminar is FREE to OBA members,
$75 for non-members

Register online by Friday, April 1, at www.omahabarassociation.com,
or call Dave at 402-280-3607.

OBA Young Lawyers Division
Baseball Game Watch
Tuesday, April 26, 2016
TD Ameritrade Ballpark
Creighton v. UNL
6:30 p.m. game start

Pre-Game “Warm-up” Reception at the Slowdown starting at 5:15 p.m.

Visit omahabarassociation.com for more information
By: Valentina Saavedra, President

OLPA is currently seeking nominations for our Boss of the Year award and has just recently finished accepting nominations for the Legal Professional of the Year award. The award recipients will be presented their respective honors at our Annual Awards & Installation Banquet on April 20, 2016.

We will also be naming our annual scholarship award winners at the banquet. Dennis Thomte of Thomte Patent Law Office and Tim J. Kielty of Tim J. Kielty, PC have both generously donated to our scholarship fund. Their generosity has made it possible for us to award two local worthy students who are pursuing a degree in the legal field, instead of just one.

OLPA members put forth a great deal of effort throughout the year to raise funds for the scholarship awards as well. There is also a scholarship contest conducted by our state association Nebraska Legal Professionals Association (NLPA). Visit our website at olpa.wildapricot.org for details about the local scholarship contest as well as the state-level contest.

OLPA members Donna Olson and Jean Roeder continue to work on the Law Day Essay Contest in collaboration with the OBA. Local 8th grade students are encouraged to submit an essay on this year’s theme, Miranda: More Than Words. Entries for the Law Day Essay Contest are due by March 28, 2016. More information regarding this contest is also available on our website.

In February we welcomed many new guests to our Membership Drive Meeting. Guests and members alike enjoyed a presentation on all-important topic of Elder Law by Catherine M. Swiniarski. Our fiscal year begins April 1, 2016 so now is the perfect time to join OLPA. We will be holding elections for the upcoming year at our March 16, 2016 meeting.

Being an OLPA member provides many leadership opportunities in addition to the amazing educational events. I am particularly exited about this year’s Spring Seminar. For just $25 attendees will enjoy three educational presentations, continental breakfast and lunch.

The seminar’s first presenter is Mark Langan, Retired Omaha Police Officer, Vice President of Field Operations for the Nebraska Humane Society and author of the book “Busting Bad Guys.” Then we will have Ray Somberg, the President and Executive Director of the First Responders Foundation educating us about the First Responders Foundation. And last, but not least, Rich Hoffman, Assistant Vice President of Forensics and Lead Examiner for UnitedLex, will share with us all we need to know about computer forensics and cyber security. If any of you have had the opportunity to hear these speakers before, you know that this is an excellent chance to further your knowledge in the legal field.

Visit our website at olpa.wildapricot.org for more information about membership, awards, contests, seminars and upcoming meetings. Or contact me directly at valentina@huskerlaw.com or 402-415-2525.

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March 2016
15 Tuesday
Medical Legal Dinner
Omaha Marriott (Regency)

April 2016
8 Friday
10th Annual Seminar on Ethics and Professionalism
Creighton University Hixson-Lied Auditorium

26 Tuesday
UNL v. Creighton Baseball GameWatch
TD Ameritrade Ballpark

May 2016
3 Tuesday
Law Day Lunch
Omaha Marriott (Regency)

11 Wednesday
Memorial Service
Douglas County Legislative Chambers

June 2016
2 Thursday
4th Annual Legal Aid Scramble
Indian Creek Golf Course

Please check the calendar on the OBA’s Website for more details on upcoming scheduled events.
omahabarassociation.com