

Annual Review of the PEOPLE Committee and Foundation Endowments

[illegible]

Judge Lyle Strom High School Mock Trial Program



Professional Development for Nebraska Teachers



Law Day Job Shadowing for 5th graders

Championing Civility - 2018-19 LRE Theme

Highlighting civility and teaching life skills leading to the true exchange of ideas and opinions is central to this theme. The Nebraska State Bar Foundation has resources and programming that teachers can use with their students.

Serving the public and the profession for over 50 years

PEOPLE Committee Structure

The purpose of the PEOPLE (Public Education Outreach Promoting the Law & Equity) Committee is to inform and educate the public including students, adults and members of the media about the legal system in a proactive manner.



There are two subcommittees under the PEOPLE Committee, they are the Bench Media and the Law-Related Education (LRE) Committee. The Bench Media Committee relies on the volunteer efforts of both the legal and news reporting communities. The group is divided into three sub-committees with news reporters, judges and attorneys in each group.

The LRE Committee depends upon hundreds of volunteers to serve as attorney coaches, volunteer judges for the Mock Trial Program and the We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution Program.

PEOPLE Committee Objectives

- To inform and educate the public about the legal system in a proactive manner;
- To educate members of the media about the legal system;
- To offer professional development for Nebraska teachers; and
- To provide interactive LRE programs for teachers that will involve students learning about the legal system.

Collaboration with Nebraska Broadcasters ongoing

On August 15, a panel discussion was held with participants from the judiciary and the media. The panel was a result of a partnership with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association (NBA) in conjunction with its annual meeting. The panel included Rose Ann Shannon and Jacque Harms representing the media. Doris Huffman and Janet Bancroft were in attendance to answer questions.

The panel discussed news reporting with cameras in the courtroom as well as the use of the JUSTICE System software. Bill Kelly moderated the panel. At the request of attendees, the Bench Media Committee in partnership with the Judicial Branch Education and the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, committed to the creation of webinars on using the Court's JUSTICE software.

To maintain the success of news cameras in trial courts, broadcasters from the Bench Media Committee collaborated to produce a set of revised guidelines and courthouse customs. The rewrite addresses frequent points of concern and uses language that is more easily understood by non-lawyers; we continue to learn from our experiences and appreciate the input from broadcasters located across the state.

Bench Media builds on progress



Two high school students prepare to report on oral arguments.

March 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the Expanded Media Rule implementation for Nebraska's trial courts. The Bench Media committee continues its ongoing commitment to ensure the news media and courts have a professional and positive working relationship.

Significant among the past year's accomplishments, is the addition of an annual Mock Trial Student News Reporter Contest; when a team makes it to the state championship, the team members can include a news reporter. They will report on the first-round trial and then meet with media professionals and usually the presiding judge.

The news media reports on all aspects of the trial in a fair and complete manner. High school students will learn to identify, report and communicate the important facts of a trial to the public. Components of a trial will be explained, and students will have the opportunity to experience mentoring from media professionals.



L-R: Jacque Harms, Rose Ann Shannon and Bill Kelly

Creighton Prep Wins 2017 Judge Lyle Strom State Mock Trial Championship X 2

The two-day championship took place at the Sarpy County Courthouse and involved 12 teams from Mock Trial regions around the state.

Creighton Prep met the team from Columbus Scotus High School and won in the final round for the second year in row. Judge Bob O'Neal served as the host for the event. More than 60 attorneys from the area volunteered their time to serve as judges for the state championship. Prep then represented Nebraska at nationals held in Reno, Nevada.

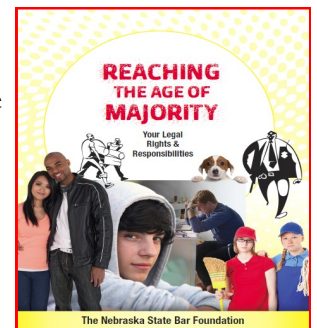
The 2018-19 Mock Trial season is now in progress. Regional Mock Trial competitions are underway and will conclude by November 21. This year there are 60 schools and 123 teams registered. The State Championship for the 12 regional winners is December 3-4, at the Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse, in Omaha. The team winning the 2018 competition will represent Nebraska at the National High School Mock Trial Championship, in Athens, Georgia, in May 2019.



2017 Mock Trial State Champion - Creighton Prep

Reaching the Age of Majority Booklet

The *Reaching the Age of Majority* booklet is an informative booklet, which covers many of the rights and responsibilities that come with adulthood. It covers a broad spectrum, ranging on topics from alcohol to employment law to tax responsibilities. Countless organizations request this book every year, including high schools, post-secondary educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, health professionals, members of the judiciary and libraries. This complimentary book is also given to high school seniors every year.



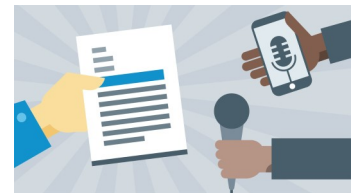
York College Hosts Constitution Day

Annually the Bar Foundation and Nebraska Supreme Court or the Nebraska Court of Appeals offer several opportunities for students, teachers and the public to observe oral arguments. Students are then encouraged to ask questions of the presiding judges at the end of each session.

This year to honor Constitution Day, York College Associate Professor of History Dr. Tim McNeese gave an introduction painting a picture of how Independence Hall may have been 231 years ago when Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and George Washington discerned the details of a new constitution. The Bar Foundation offers an annotated list of resources for teachers to use with their students in celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

Mock Trial Student News Reporter Contest Offers New Educational Opportunity

The 2018 Mock Trial Championship launches the inaugural Mock Trial Student News Reporter Contest in December. This contest was developed through a collaboration of the Bench Media Committee, Jim Timm, president/executive director of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association; and Doris Huffman, executive director of the Foundation. The Student News Reporter Contest has been added only to the state championship. Each team qualifying for state can add a student reporter to their team. This enables schools to draw students from other academic areas and offers another reality-based educational component to the Mock Trial Program. Preparatory materials are being developed to help students practice courtroom reporter skills at the local level.



James Madison Legacy Project (JMLP) Summer Institute for Middle and High School Students

This was the third and last year of the James Madison Legacy Project (JMLP), which provided funding for professional development on the We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution (WTP) program to middle and high school teachers in Nebraska. The JMLP is a research grant program obtained by the Center for Education with funding from the United States Department of Education. The Nebraska State Bar Foundation was a sub-grantee of the Center. The JMLP Institutes offered professional development programs to teachers to enable them to use the WTP curriculum in their classrooms.

Last March, a one-day WTP training was held in Lincoln where six Nebraska teachers heard from Michael Gooch, an attorney member of the Foundation, UNL Professor Thomas Berg; plus content-based and pedagogy presentations from Lori Broady, a Nebraska mentor teacher.

This summer's teacher Institute was held at the UNL College of Law, June 4-7. Twelve Nebraska teachers participated. They received 36 hours of professional development from four scholars and two Nebraska mentor teachers. The scholars presented in-depth topics to enrich the topics discussed in the WTP textbook and the curriculum used by teachers in the classroom. The signature feature of the WTP curriculum is having the students engage in a mock legislative hearing. The Summer Institute enables teachers to experience the curriculum as their students would and sharpens their teaching skills.

During a mock hearing, a small group of participants present a prepared four-minute answer to a question requiring critical thinking and research on the Constitution. Three individuals role-play as judges and engage in a six-minute discussion with follow-up questions to the participants.

Lincoln Southeast High School Wins Back-to-Back Titles at State We the People

The team from Lincoln's Southeast High School finished in first place to take the 2017 state championship title. The Southeast team also took the 2016 state championship title.

The State Hearings held at the University of Nebraska College of Law on December 18, 2017, saw the 23-member team display their knowledge over six units of study about the United States Constitution. The competition was judged by local attorneys, professors, secondary educators, journalists and other professionals in the community. More than 150 students from six Nebraska schools participated in the event.

The students heard a keynote speaker at the awards ceremony following the competition. Bar Foundation Vice President Steve Guenzel and the We the People State Coordinator Pam Hastings Carrier presented the awards to the students.

Taking second place in the competition was Lincoln East High School. Other schools receiving honorable mention in the finals were Johnson Brock, Lincoln Northeast, Lincoln Southwest, Lincoln North Star and Omaha Skutt teams.

The We the People program enjoys ongoing support from the Flavel A. Wright Fund for the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Fund is used to promote the study of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.



Lincoln Southeast High School - 2017 WTP Winner

The Bar Foundation's focus is "to serve the citizens of Nebraska and the legal profession through the administration and funding of innovative and creative programs directed toward the improvement of the administration of justice." By providing civic education programs, the Foundation is championing good citizenship statewide.

Dan Jewell Trial Institute Expands Capacity

The 2018 Institute grew from six to 12 attorney participants this year. The Institute offers talented and aspiring, but inexperienced lawyers an opportunity to try a hypothetical case in the most effective and professional manner. Held at the Creighton School of Law, July 20-21, the participating attorneys conducted *voir dire* examination and impaneled a six-person jury. They then made opening statements, presented



**Dan Jewell
Trial Institute**



testimonial and documentary evidence, cross-examined witnesses, conducted an instruction conference with the trial judge and made closing arguments. At the close of each phase of the trial, including after each witness, critiques were offered by the Trial Mentors. Participants also made their own observations and were able to ask questions of the mentors.

Omaha attorney Bob Mullin, Jr., served as the chair for the 2018 Dan Jewell Institute. Attorney participants were divided into six co-counsel teams and assigned the opposing sides of the case. Attorneys Dan Chesire, Bill Dittrick, Steve Gealy, Bill Lamson, Matt Miller and Susan Sapp served as trial mentors.



2018 Attorney Participants

Law Day Job Shadowing for 5th Graders

Fifth grade classes from Antelope, Buffalo, Holt, Kimball, Knox, Pawnee, Sarpy and Webster county schools gathered at their county courthouses to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of Law Day in 2018. Since 2012, The Foundation has sponsored a Law Day Job Shadowing experience for Nebraska elementary schools. This year's students experienced a number of different law-related jobs including working with crime dogs, as well as the more typical meeting with judges, clerks, lawyers and other personnel. Close to 6,500 students are alumni to the annual job shadowing activity.



**Law Day Job Shadowing at the Pawnee County Courthouse
in Pawnee City, NE**

60th Anniversary of Law Day

In honor of Law Day, the Foundation and Supreme Court coordinated a celebration with the Hall/Howard, Adams and Buffalo County Bar Associations, at the Saddle Club, in Grand Island, on May 3. Presentations were made recognizing Mock Trial attorney coaches; Goldilocks Day Certificates were awarded to two attorneys; a Legal Services Award was presented; Truancy Prevention Certificates were given out; and the Eyes of the Child Team members were recognized.

It is the practice of the Foundation to celebrate Law Day in a different community each year, cooperating with the local bar association and recognizing civic engagement.

On May 4, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments at the Grand Island High School. After oral arguments concluded, the high schools had the opportunity to ask the Court questions.

Law Day was established in 1958, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. In 1961, Congress, by joint resolution, designated May 1 its official date.



Charlie and Suzy Wright

Standing Bear Scholarships available

Standing Bear scholarships are awarded to regularly enrolled members of federally recognized Native American tribes eligible for resident tuition under the policy of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Each recipient must:

- have an undergraduate degree, and
- be admitted as a full-time student of the University of Nebraska College of Law.



Recipients are expected to complete a prescribed course of study and graduate; use their education to address issues of importance to their heritage; and develop leadership skills.

The Standing Bear Scholarship Fund was established through a generous gift from Charlie and Suzy Wright. The Fund provides financial support to Native American students attending the University of Nebraska College of

Law. Past recipients include Kate (Quinn) Martz, attorney at Baylor Evnen, Lincoln and Jennifer Bear Eagle, in-house counsel, Oglala Sioux Tribe Legal Department, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Infinity Fund Provides Operational Support

The Infinity Fund is a permanent endowment to ensure the administration and operation of **all** the Bar Foundation's programs and activities, including its Law-Related Education (LRE) programs, will always be financially supported.

The Foundation is Nebraska's State Center for Law-Related Education for the Public. All LRE programs are interactive and help bring the law, history and civics to life by offering education leading to practices necessary for good citizenship and civic engagement.

The Foundation has more than 10 named endowments directed toward specific programs. **None of the proceeds from these endowments is used for the administration of programs.** The Infinity Fund ensures the Foundation is able to meet its staffing and operational expenses. It also ensures the proceeds from the named endowments will go 100 percent toward the purposes outlined by the generous donors.

The Bar Foundation's Endowment Management Committee meets quarterly to oversee and manage all of the Foundation's investments.



Dan and Lorene Jewell Trial Education Fund

The late Dan Jewell was a well-respected attorney and trial lawyer from Norfolk. He served on the Bar Foundation Board of Directors for more than 20 years. Dan left a magnanimous gift to the Bar Foundation specifically for educating Nebraska trial attorneys. The Jewell Trial Education Fund was established as a permanent endowment. The Bar Foundation then created the Jewell Education Committee to determine how best to honor Dan's wishes. The Committee determined that offering a continuing legal education seminar would be most helpful to attorneys developing their trial skills. The Dan Jewell Trial Institute has been held for the past three summers.



Dan and Lorene Jewell



Bob and Joanne Berkshire

Robert and Joanne Berkshire Fund

Established in 2001, the Robert and Joanne Berkshire Fund is a permanent endowment administered by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. The distribution of income from the Fund is for Law-Related Education for the general public and continuing legal education for lawyers. The Foundation has awarded grants for CLE Programs.

Bob's career achievements were many and included being a Bar Foundation Fellow, a member of the Bar Foundation Board of Director's Executive Committee and Foundation President from 2008 to 2010.

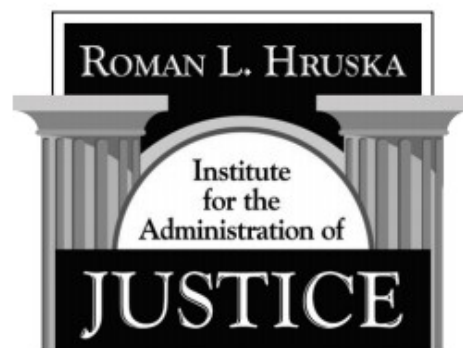
Roman L. Hruska Institute for Administration of Justice

The Hruska Institute Fund was established in 1995, to educate lawyers, law students and the public-at-large in Nebraska about the importance of the administration of justice, particularly at the federal level through the conduct of symposia or lectures. A special effort is made to reflect the issues and activities to which Senator Roman L. Hruska devoted his career.

The Institute recognizes the late Senator Roman L. Hruska who served as United States Senator for Nebraska from 1954 to 1977. Senator Hruska

participated prominently in efforts to enhance the administration of justice in the Federal Courts; such as many of the crime control reform acts of the 1970s.

Institute speakers have included five United States Supreme Court Justices.



Mock Trial Endowment

The Nebraska State Bar Foundation established the Mock Trial Endowment to perpetuate the Judge Lyle Strom High School Mock Trial Program.

Purposes of the Mock Trial Endowment are:

- To support and administer the Mock Trial program statewide.
- To ensure an annual State Championship competition and recognition banquet for the students.
- To help defray travel costs for sending the state championship team to the National High School Mock Trial Championship.
- To help standardize the program from region to region.

The Mock Trial Program started in Nebraska in 1981, and the first state-wide competition was held in 1983. Nebraska participated in the first multi-state competition held in Des Moines, Iowa. The Ogallala High School team won the multi-state competition in 1984. In 1987, the Bar Foundation Board of Directors approved a NSBA grant request to fund the program in the amount of \$9,350 for the following year.

In 1998 at the request of the Bar Association, the Bar Foundation assumed all of the administrative duties and funding of the Mock Trial Program. In 2001, the Bar Foundation hosted the most successful National High School Mock Trial Championship in Omaha. Due to the successful fundraising for nationals that year, the remaining funds created the Mock Trial Endowment.



Flavel A. Wright Fund for the Study of Constitutional Law and Bill of Rights



Flavel Wright

On the occasion of his 91st birthday, Flavel A. Wright was honored by his son, attorney William F. Wright, through the establishment of a Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fund dedicated to the study of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Known as “Flav” to his fellow lawyers, the senior Mr. Wright was the Bar Foundation’s first president, serving from 1963-1968.

The Fund is used to promote the study of the Bill of Rights by students in grades four through six and the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in grades seven through 12.

Stipends may be awarded for Nebraska-based teachers to defray tuition and expenses in attending programs or institutes to study the Bill of Rights and the Constitution for presentation to Nebraska students.

This Fund ensures that the Bar Foundation’s First President is leaving a legacy that will continue his vision for the Foundation’s State Center for Law-Related Education for the Public for many years to come.

Svoboda Legal Education Fund Bolsters Law-Related Education Activities



George and Melrae Svoboda

Past Foundation President George Svoboda and his wife Melrae, from Fremont, established this permanently endowed fund exclusively for Law-Related Education Programs for the public. Administered by the Bar Foundation, the income earned from the Fund is used for expenses associated with any existing or future LRE programs.

George is an exemplary example of commitment to civic engagement for his service to his country, community, the law profession and the citizens of Nebraska.

Gross Fund Offers Financial Assistance to Help Nebraska Lawyers



In 1996 at the request of the Bar Association, the Foundation assumed the administration of the Daniel J. Gross Fund.

This endowment has funds available to help **active** practicing Nebraska lawyers, their spouses and children.

Daniel J. Gross
F • U • N • D

This is a unique Fund created to “aid the charitable and welfare purposes of active practicing Nebraska lawyers and their families through the relief of the poverty of such lawyers and their families.”

The Fund is available for such individuals who are in financial distress. A subjective evaluation of each request will be made by the trustees. All inquiries are confidential. For more information please contact Doris Huffman at: doris@nebarfnd.org or 402-475-1042.

Law Dean Endowments

As a tribute to former Creighton University Law School Dean Larry Raful and former University of Nebraska College of Law Dean Harvey Perlman, the Bar Foundation established two permanent endowments in the amount of \$25,000 each in 2000.

These two distinguished lawyer-educators are recognized for their long-term service through the Lawrence Raful Fund and the Harvey and Susan Perlman Professorship Fund. Additional gifts may be added to each endowment at any time.

Doris J. Huffman
Executive Director
635 S. 14th Street, Suite 120
P.O. Box 95103
Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone: 402-475-1042
Toll Free: 800-773-5396
Fax: 402-475-7106
Email: doris@nebarfnd.org
www.nebarfnd.org



NEBRASKA STATE BAR FOUNDATION