

## DANIEL D. JEWELL

The Dan Jewell Trial Institute is funded through a generous gift from the late Dan Jewell, a respected attorney and trial lawyer from Norfolk. Dan joined the Navy in 1942 and took part in the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day. Upon returning from his Navy service, Dan graduated with his J.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1949.

Dan was a member of the International Society of Barristers and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Dan served on the Nebraska State Bar Foundation Board for over 20 years.

Dan was an avid outdoorsman and adventurer who loved to share his passion with his friends and family. He was never afraid to express his opinion, accompanied by his quick wit and unique sense of humor. Dan left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

The Nebraska State Bar Foundation recognizes this generosity. Dan was a fierce advocate in the Nebraska Courtrooms and was committed to the profession and the advancement of the trial craft.



# NEBRASKA STATE BAR FOUNDATION



## Dan Jewell Trial Institute



We are excited to be offering the sixth Dan Jewell Trial Institute in-person at the Creighton University School of Law. There continues to be a pressing need for competent trial attorneys to advance justice in these times and the future. Participants will be challenged to prepare for and try a jury case through all phases from jury selection to summation. We look forward to sharing this exceptional experience with the attorneys selected to participate in the 2022 Institute.

## KILE W. JOHNSON, LINCOLN

Co-Chair, Dan Jewell Education Committee



Kile W. Johnson is the senior partner at Johnson Flodman Guenzel & Widger. He received his law degree in 1969 from the University of Nebraska College of Law and has been extensively involved in the practice of claims and litigation for over 40 years. Mr. Johnson is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has tried over 200 cases, including over 100 jury trials in the state and federal courts in Nebraska and has handled appeals before the Nebraska Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Johnson taught Trial Advocacy at the NU College of Law for many years.

## MELANIE J. WHITAMORE-MANTZIOS, LINCOLN

Co-Chair, Dan Jewell Education Committee



Melanie J. Whitmore-Mantzios is a partner with Wolfe, Snowden, Hurd, Ahl, Sitzmann, Tannehill, & Hahn. She received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law. She has prosecuted and defended professional licensure, employment, civil rights and personal injury claims through arbitration, hearing, trial and on appeal. She is experienced in premises liability and construction defect cases. She has served as an arbitrator and hearing officer. She is a member of LBA, NDCA, NATA, NSBA, ABOTA and DRI. She is a former member of the Robert Van Pelt Inn of Court and Past President of the Nebraska Chapter of ABOTA and the Federal Practice Committee.

**JULY 8-9, 2022**

**CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW SCHOOL**

**Tuition:** \$250

**CLE Credit:** 10.5 hours, approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court MCLE Commission.

**Application:** Please scan the QR code for the application.

**Applications due by June 3rd.** A total of 12 applicants will be accepted.



**Materials:** Course materials will be sent electronically on June 8 and are to be read in advance of the Institute. Each attorney participant is required to bring a laptop and course materials to the Institute.

**Questions:** Contact Doris Huffman at 402-475-1042 or email [danjewelltrialinstitute@nebarfnd.org](mailto:danjewelltrialinstitute@nebarfnd.org).

**THE JEWELL INSTITUTE WILL BE FOLLOWING THE LOCAL DHM'S AND CREIGHTON'S COVID PROTOCOLS.**

The Dan Jewell Trial Institute is designed to help less experienced Nebraska lawyers enhance their legal skills necessary to try a lawsuit. Attorney participants have an opportunity to:

- **Examine and impanel a six-person jury**
- **Deliver opening statements**
- **Call, examine and cross examine witnesses**
- **Produce deposition evidence**
- **Offer exhibits**
- **Review instructions and argue the case**

Issues presented in the selected case, which involves a contested will, are (1) whether the decedent has testamentary capacity, and (2) whether the will offered was procured by undue influence. A Nebraska judge will preside over the trial.

Each attorney participant is assigned a mentor who will critique the participant's performance. Each trial will have two attorney participants representing the proponent and two attorney participants representing the opponent of the will, in this case.

## DAN JEWELL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kile W. Johnson, Lincoln, Co-Chair

Melanie J. Whittamore-Mantzios,  
Lincoln, Co-Chair

Dennis W. Collins, Norfolk, Vice Chair

Patricia J. Bramhall, Papillion

Stephen M. Bruckner, Omaha

Stephen S. Gealy, Lincoln

Charles F. Gotch, Omaha

Thomas M. Locher, Omaha

Robert D. Mullin, Jr., Omaha

Hon. Stephanie F. Stacy, Lincoln

## DAN JEWELL TRIAL INSTITUTE JUDGES



**HON. JOHN H. MARSH,  
KEARNEY**

Judge John Marsh is a District Court Judge for the 9th Judicial District. He received his law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1985. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he served as the Dawson County Attorney, as a Deputy Lincoln County Attorney, as the Deputy Buffalo County Public Defender and was in private practice in Kearney. Judge Marsh taught Business Law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Nebraska - Kearney. Judge Marsh is a Bar Foundation Fellow. He is a member of the Buffalo County Bar Association and the Nebraska District Judges Association.



**HON. MICHAEL D. NELSON,  
OMAHA**

Judge Michael Nelson serves as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Nebraska. Prior to his appointment he practiced before federal and state courts for more than 25 years. He received his J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1991. Judge Nelson is a Bar Foundation Fellow. Judge Nelson is a recipient of UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Rising Star Alumni Achievement Award. He also received the Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service from UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service. Judge Nelson has been an Adjunct Professor at UNO and previously served as a Commissioner for the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy.



**HON. FRANCIE C. RIEDMANN,  
OMAHA**

Judge Francie Riedmann serves on the Nebraska Court of Appeals, representing the 3rd Judicial District. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice in the Omaha law firms of Gross & Welch and Blackwell Sanders. She received her J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1993. Judge Riedmann is a Bar Foundation Fellow and a Litigation Counsel of America Fellow. She has received the American Jurisprudence Award (Trusts and Estates, Property, and Insurance), and she was on the Creighton Law Review Associate Staff. Judge Riedmann is Co-Chair of the Nebraska Supreme Court's Commission on Children in the Courts and the Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships. Judge Riedmann serves as a team coach for High School Mock Trial.



## PROGRAM

### DAY 1

8 a.m. Welcome; Trial  
8:30 a.m. Voir Dire; Jury Selection  
10:15 a.m. Recess (15 min.)  
10:30 a.m. Opening Statements  
Noon – 1 p.m. Lunch  
1:15 p.m. Trial  
2:45 p.m. Recess (15 min.)  
3-5 p.m. Trial

### DAY 2

8:30 a.m. Trial and Arguments  
10:15 a.m. Recess (15 min.)  
10:30 a.m. Arguments and Critiques  
Noon Recognition Luncheon  
1 p.m. Adjourn

## DAN JEWELL TRIAL INSTITUTE MENTORS



### MICHELLE D. EPSTEIN, OMAHA

Michelle D. Epstein is a partner at Ausman Law Firm. She represents plaintiffs in personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, and medical malpractice cases. She received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2000. She has tried over 30 cases in Nebraska and Iowa state and federal courts. Ms. Epstein has served as a member of the Federal Practice Committee and is a member of the Nebraska Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Commission. She is a member of the NSBA and the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys.



### STEVEN W. OLSEN, SCOTTSBLUFF

Steven W. Olsen is President of Simmons Olsen Law Firm. He received his J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1983. Mr. Olsen's practice has included both civil defense and plaintiff's personal injury litigation. His cases have ranged from injury accidents, products liability, wrongful death, the defense of nursing home claims, sexual assault claims, medical and legal malpractice to property and commercial matters. Mr. Olsen is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a past president of the Nebraska Defense Counsel Association.



### STEPHEN S. GEALY, LINCOLN

Stephen S. Gealy is of counsel with Baylor Evnen LLP. He is a defense lawyer and mediator whose trial experience has ranged from soft tissue injury and minor property damage claims to catastrophic injury and wrongful death suits, many of which have involved the commercial transportation industry. He received his J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1982. Mr. Gealy is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers and a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Mr. Gealy was an Adjunct Professor at the NU College of Law for 25 years.



### DANIEL M. PLACZEK, OMAHA

Daniel M. Placzek is a retired trial attorney who was a partner at the Grand Island law firm of Leininger, Smith, Johnson, Baack, Placzek & Allen for 36 years. He received his J.D., with distinction, from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1981. When he retired, Mr. Placzek was a Fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers, and was a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. His practice included insurance defense, the representation of injured persons, criminal law, and business litigation.



### DEBORAH K. GILG, OMAHA

Deborah R. Gilg is a retired U.S. Attorney for Nebraska. She received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1977. Ms. Gilg was a rural private practice attorney in western Nebraska and served sixteen years as the County Attorney for Keith County. She is founder of Fearless, Fierce and Forward, a women empowerment education and training organization. Ms. Gilg is Adjunct Faculty at ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and teaches Trial Advocacy. She has received the UNL College of Law Outstanding Public Alumna Award, the Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award and most recently The Laurie Smith Camp Integrity in Service Award.



### THOMAS M. LOCHER, OMAHA

Thomas M. Locher is affiliated with Locher, Pavelka, Dostal, Braddy and Hammes, L.L.C. He received his J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1978 and has since been in the civil litigation and appellate practice in Iowa, Nebraska and Federal Courts. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, an Associate in the American Board of Trial Advocates, a Great Plains Super Lawyer in Civil Litigation Defense, Plaintiff Personal Injury and Insurance Coverage and a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Mr. Locher serves on the Board of Nebraska State Bar Foundation and the Nebraska Client Assistance Fund.

JULY 8 AND 9, 2022



# THANK YOU

A special thanks  
to the  
Creighton University  
School of Law  
for providing  
meeting space.

“A good trial lawyer learns how to try a case by doing it and learning from those who have done it. The Dan Jewell Trial Institute gives young attorneys a chance to put on a case, but what I most appreciated was the advice given by the mentor attorneys. The guidance of the experienced mentor attorneys at the Trial Institute gives you a chance to hear the unwritten tips and war stories from some of Nebraska’s best.”

— *Jared Krejci*

Smith, Johnson, Baack,  
Placzek, Allen, Connick &  
Hansen, Grand Island

“The Dan Jewell Trial Institute provided a great venue for experienced attorneys and seasoned judges to teach me many things I’ll keep as arrows in my quiver for years to come.”

— *Danny C. Leavitt*  
Terrence J. Salerno &  
Associates, Omaha

“The Dan Jewell Trial Institute gives young lawyers the opportunity to fully prepare and try a case, an invaluable experience in learning and honing trial practice skills. The Bar Foundation did a great job organizing the event. The judges and mentors offered many lessons from their extensive trial-practice experience, which I expect to use for the rest of my career. It was a fun and enjoyable two days.”

— *Amy M. Locher*

Locher Pavelka Dostal Braddy & Hammes,  
Omaha

“The Dan Jewell Trial Institute is the best opportunity available for young Nebraska attorneys to practice and develop jury trial skills. Honestly, it’s not for everyone.”

— *Jonathan D. Urbon*

Dowding, Dowding,  
Dowding & Urbon, Lincoln

“I have no doubt that I will benefit from my experience at the Dan Jewell Trial Institute for my entire career. The detailed instruction and feedback from two eminent trial attorneys—plus a federal court judge—absolutely transformed my trial practice. I highly recommend this Institute.”

— *Cameron E. Guenzel*

Johnson Flodman Guenzel & Widger, Lincoln