

## 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

## 2024



## Dan Jewell Trial Institute



*Message from*

### DAN PLACZEK, Omaha

Chair, Dan Jewell Education Committee

On behalf of the Bar Foundation, I'm pleased to serve as Chair for the 2024 Dan Jewell Trial Institute. To master any skill, whether it's hitting a baseball, digging a volleyball, or playing the piano, we must practice. The same is true of trying lawsuits. We must practice to develop our trial skills. The Dan Jewell Trial Institute gives budding trial lawyers the chance to practice. Better yet, it allows them to practice in front of experienced trial lawyers who will offer tips and

insights to help the participants hone their skills. This is a rare opportunity and I encourage you to apply for this dynamic Institute.

Daniel M. Placzek is a retired trial attorney who was a partner at the Grand Island law firm of Leining, 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. Mr. Placzek is a Bar Foundation Fellow.

**JULY 15-16, 2024**

**Scott Conference Center  
Omaha**

**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 May 15th, 2024.**

A total of 12 applicants will be accepted.



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

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

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

Chair Daniel M. Placzek, Omaha

Vice Chair Dennis W. Collins, Norfolk

Stephen M. Bruckner, Omaha

Mark D. Fitzgerald, Norfolk

Stephen S. Gealy, Lincoln

Charles F. Gotch, Omaha

Robert D. Mullin, Jr., Omaha

Shaylene M. Smith, Crete

Hon. Stephanie F. Stacy, Lincoln

Melanie J. Whittamore-Mantzios, Lincoln

## DAN JEWELL TRIAL INSTITUTE JUDGES



**HON. SUSAN M. BAZIS,**  
Omaha

Hon. Susan Bazis is a United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. She earned her law degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1993. Prior to being appointed to the Federal bench, she was a judge of the County Court, 4th Judicial District, from 2007 through 2016 and was the presiding judge for four years. Prior to 2007, Judge Bazis was in private practice in Omaha. She is a Bar Foundation Fellow, and the Counselor for the Robert M. Spire Inns of Court. Judge Bazis was Committee Chair of the Advisory Council on Public Guardianship; past Co-Chair of the Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships, and a former member of the National College of Probate Judges. Judge Bazis is the Mock Trial Committee Chair for the Bar Foundation.



**HON. RACHEL A. DAUGHERTY,**  
Aurora

Hon. Rachel Daugherty is a District Judge for the 5th Judicial District. She received her law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1995. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked at the law firm of Myers and Daugherty in Grand Island. Judge Daugherty is a member of the NSBA and the District Judges Association. She has served on the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts and is currently the Co-Chair for the Supreme Court Committee on Self-Represented Litigants. Judge Daugherty volunteers for the Judge Lyle Strom High School Mock Trial Program and Foundation's Law Day Job Shadowing for 5th graders and is a Bar Foundation Fellow.



**HON. ANDREW R. JACOBSEN,**  
Lincoln

Hon. Andrew Jacobsen was appointed to the 3rd Judicial District in Lancaster County in 2011. He received his law degree in 1989 from the University of Nebraska College of Law. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he served as the Deputy County Attorney of Lancaster County from 1990 to 2011. Judge Jacobsen served as an instructor of the Trial Advocacy at The National Advocacy Center in South Carolina from 2002-2005. He also served as a presiding judge of the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court from 2016 to 2024. Judge Jacobsen is a Master of the Bench for the Robert Van Pelt Inns of Court. He is a member of the NSBA and a member of the District Court Judges Association.

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1

8:00 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 and Examination of Witnesses
Noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Trial
2:45 p.m.	Recess (15 min.)
3:00 – 5:00 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
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn

## DAN JEWELL TRIAL INSTITUTE MENTORS



### MARK A. CHRISTENSEN, Lincoln

Mark Christensen is the Senior Partner at Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P. and his practice focuses on medical malpractice defense, legal malpractice defense, personal injury cases and commercial litigation. He is a 1984 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law. Mr. Christensen is a Fellow

of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Litigation Counsel of America. He is an Associate and Past President of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and a member of The National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Mr. Christensen is a member of NATA and NDCA Past President. He is a Bar Foundation Fellow and was named the NDCA 2023 Defense Counsel of the year.



### STEPHEN S. GEALY, Lincoln

Stephen Gealy is of counsel with Baylor Evnen Wolf & Tannehill, 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, an Emeritus Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and a diplomate member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Mr. Gealy was an Adjunct Professor at the UNL College of Law for 25 years.



### CLARENCE E. MOCK, III Oakland

Clarence Mock is a 1977 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law and is the former Burt County Attorney. He has served as past President of both the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association and NATA. In 2003, he was

inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. In recognition of his work as a criminal defense attorney, Mr. Mock was awarded the Don Fiedler Award. He is founder and President of Johnson & Mock, which has offices located in Oakland and Omaha.



### ROBERT G. PAHLKE, Scottsbluff

Bob Pahlke practices with the Robert Pahlke Law Group, and frequently works with lawyers throughout the country. He is a 1975 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law. Mr. Pahlke has tried personal injury, product liability, FELA, and medical malpractice cases for over 30 years. He has tried over 50 cases.

He loves working with young lawyers, particularly his kids, Spencer, Paige, and Jackson, all trial lawyers. One of his most treasured moments was a paralyzed client thanking him for making the rest of his life possible. He is a member of the American Association for Justice, the ABA, NATA (President, 1990-1991), the American Board of Trial Advocates and Bar Foundation Lifetime Fellow. Mr. Pahlke has been recognized by the National Trial Lawyers Association.



### JAMES J. PALOUCZEK, North Platte

James Paloucek is a partner with Paloucek, Herman & Wurl. He is a trial lawyer who has represented victims of injury and their families in tort and workers' compensation litigation for 35 years. Mr. Paloucek received his law degree from Notre Dame Law School in 1989. He was

attorney coach of North Platte High School's mock trial team for seven years, including the state champion and national tournament qualifying team of 1996. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, is a board member and past president of NATA, and has served on numerous judicial nominating commissions. Mr. Paloucek has been a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars on matters involving trial practice.



### SHAYLA M. REED, Omaha

Shayla Reed founded Reed Law Offices, and her practice focuses exclusively on nursing home neglect and abuse cases. She received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1999. Ms. Reed serves on the American Association for Justice (AAJ) National College of Advocacy Board of Trustees and has taught

trial advocacy skills at many CLE programs including AAJ's Ultimate Trial Advocacy Course: The Art of Persuasion held at Harvard Law School. She is past Chair of the American Association for Justice Nursing Home Litigation Group. Ms. Reed is a graduate of the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College. She is a member of the AAJ, NATA and is a Bar Foundation Lifetime Fellow.

## NEBRASKA STATE BAR FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 95103  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5103



**JULY 15  
AND 16, 2024**

**Scott  
Conference  
Center  
Omaha**

“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. Urbom*  
Dowding, Dowding,  
Dowding & Urbom, 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