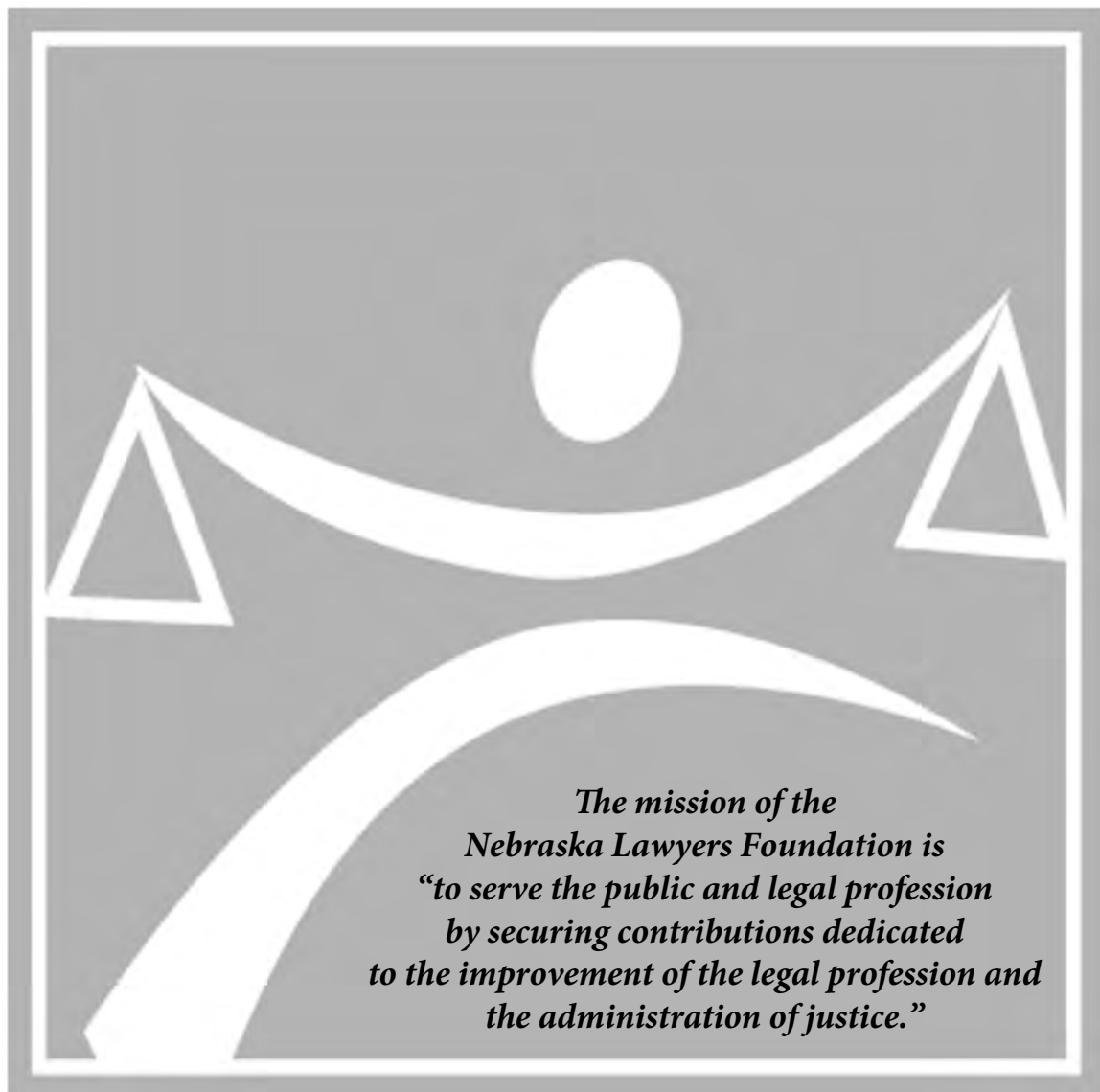


# NEBRASKA

*Lawyers Foundation*

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2014





**The Volunteer Lawyers Project is the only statewide pro bono program in Nebraska. The VLP was founded on the belief that *all* citizens should have access to the legal system. VLP is a program of last resort.**

VLP thanks you for your willingness to assist our clients over the last 12 months. Our program could not exist without your time and financial contributions. We look forward to working with you in the future to ensure that low income Nebraskans have access to the justice system.

**1. Self-Help Centers:** VLP coordinates and staffs the Self Help Desks located in Buffalo, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Madison and Scotts Bluff counties. In years past, the self-help centers have served over 4,000 pro se litigants.

**2. Direct Case Placement:** The core of the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) has been matching volunteer attorneys with individuals who need legal assistance on a pro bono or reduced fee basis. VLP offers direct case placement through its network of pro bono attorneys, but the intake process and referral source has changed. VLP no longer has the staff to operate a separate intake hotline/process. Referrals and intakes are received in the following ways:

- a. Referrals from Legal Aid of Nebraska:** VLP accepts 40 referrals a month from LAN.
- b. Referrals from Self Help Centers:** Some clients who visit the Self-Help Center have legal issues/situations where staff would advise them to seek legal counsel rather than proceeding as a pro se litigant. In these situations, VLP staff conducts a client intake, checks for conflicts, and works to place the case through VLP's volunteer network.
- c. Referrals from Domestic Violence Shelters:** VLP has had a long standing commitment to serving victims of domestic violence. When the need for legal services arises, domestic violence shelters will contact VLP directly to complete the intake process. In these situations, VLP staff will check for conflicts, and work to place the case through VLP's volunteer network.
- d. Referrals from private attorneys** where there is not a self-help desk located in their community.



**3. Partnership with Nebraska Families Collaborative for Reduced Fee Legal Assistance:** The Nebraska Families Collaborative (NFC), which provides child welfare support to families in Douglas and Sarpy Counties, serves many clients who need legal assistance in establishing a District Court Order regarding children subject to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction. VLP recruits a volunteer panel of attorneys located in Douglas and Sarpy Counties who are willing to assist NFC's clients in establishing a District Court Order regarding children subject to the Juvenile Court Jurisdiction. Once the conflict check is complete, attorneys are contacted on a rotating basis for case placement. NFC pays panel attorneys directly (from their funds) at a reduced rate of \$500 per case.

<p><b>Numbers Served in 2014:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4,018 served at Self-Help Desks</li><li>• 1,713 calls received</li><li>• 232 applications taken</li><li>• 80 cases placed</li></ul>
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT,  
CONTACT JEAN MCNEIL, (402) 475-7091, JMCNEIL@NEBAR.COM**



# 2014 VLP PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

*VLP wants to thank and recognize the following volunteer attorneys for accepting one or more cases in 2014.*

*(\*Denotes volunteers who accepted more than one case in 2014)*

Avis Andrews*	Michael Greenlee*	Jason Mielak	B. Gail Steen*
Shannon Benash*	Thomas Holyoke*	Michelle Mitchell*	Charles Steenson
Diane Berger*	James Hoppe*	John Morgan	William Steffens
Larry Beucke	Mark Jacobs*	Ann Moshman	Bruce Stephens
Troy Bird*	Ryan Kapsimallis	James Moylan*	Ryan Sullivan
Kimberly Booth	John Kinney	Ralph Peppard	Karin Walton
Amy Bowman	Joseph Kishiyama*	Molly Adair-Peterson	William C. Warnes
Woody Bradford	Jeanelle Kleveland	Shane Placek	Pete Wegman
D. Brandon Brinegar	Luke Klinker	James Reisinger	Ken Wentz
Eileen Reilly Buzzello*	John Lentz	Kristine Roberts	Neil Williams
Dennis Collins	William Madelung	John D. Rouse	Mary Wilson
Leta Fornoff	Mark Malousek	Patrick Runge	Margaret Zarbano*
Lisa Gonzalez*	Craig Martin	Kevin Ruser	
Vanessa Gorden*	Diane Metz	Eugene Schumacher	

*In addition to the pro bono cases served, these individuals served clients at the self-help desks in Buffalo, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Madison and Scotts Bluff counties.*

*We thank the following individuals for their time.*

Dan Alberts	Jessica Feinstein	Timothy Loudon	Danielle Savington
Katy Anderson	Stacie Goding	William Madelung	Michael Scahill
Marvin Anderson	Jocelyn Golden	John Marsh	Susan Schneider
Michael Baldwin	Vanessa Gorden	Molly Mazour	Al Schroeder
Melodie Bellamy	Andrew Hanquist	John McDermott	Judy Schwiekert
Dorothy Benton	Winifred Hawkins	Amanda McMahon	Leslie Shaver
Kelly Berens	Tim Hiatt	Andrea Miller	Paul Snyder
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Troy Bird	Ed Hoffman	Mike Mollner	Gail Steen
Matt Boyle	Dave Huston	Mike Moran	Mitch Stehlik
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Jim Busse	Jon Hunzeker	Maureen O'Connor	Douglas Stratton
Eileen Reilly Buzzello	Matt Jenkins	Bill O'Neil	Hon. Stephen Swartz
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Joe Dressen	Peter Kenney	Justin Quinn	Georgiene Radlick Wagoner
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Brandon Dugan	Susan M. Koenig	Jan Reeves	Lori Wilson
Audrey Elliott	Kendall Krajicek	Michael Rickert	Margaret Zarbano
Tim Engler	Steve Lefler	Dennis Riekenberg	
Shawn Farritor	Jonas Longoria	Hon. Pat Rogers	



# Volunteer Lawyers Project Needs Your Help

The NSBA Volunteers Lawyer Project matches indigent clients with volunteer attorneys statewide. In order to be successful we need your help. VLP seeks attorneys to agree to accept our cases. In order to make the system more efficient we ask all attorneys in the state to complete this form.

### CASE PLACEMENT

I agree to accept cases in the following areas:

- Guardianship of minor
- Guardianship of adults
- Domestic relations cases involving domestic violence
- Divorces with children
- Custody case
- Housing cases, including landlord/tenant
- Foreclosure
- Probate cases
- Will
- Disability cases
- Debt collection
- Bankruptcy
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Limited Scope:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SELF HELP DESKS

In addition, VLP operates Self Help Desks in several counties. Volunteer attorneys give pro se litigants information, advice and forms regarding their legal problems. The Self Help Desks are in need of additional volunteers.

VLP operates Self Help Desks in the following counties:

- Douglas (open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-2)
- Lancaster (open Monday 10-2, Thursday 9-1)
- Hall (open Friday 10-2)
- Buffalo (open the first Friday 10-2)
- Madison (open the third Friday 10-2)
- Scotts Bluff (open the first and third Thursday 11-1)

I am willing to help at the Self Help Desk.  
The Self Help Desk that I will help at is:

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas   | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hall      | <input type="checkbox"/> Scotts Bluff |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*"When I left the abusive household, I was very frightened . . . Thank you again - deeply - for what you did. Words alone can not describe the gratitude I feel."  
- a recipient of VLP services*

Return to: Jean McNeil,  
NSBA, 635 S 14th St. #200, Lincoln, NE 68508  
Fax to: (402) 475-7098  
Email: jmcneil@nebar.com



By addressing systemic barriers to equity and access, the Minority Justice Committee (MJC) improves the justice system and strengthens public trust and confidence in the courts and legal profession.

**The mission of the Committee is to:**

- Ensure equal access to justice for all Nebraskans
- Address racial disparities in both the juvenile and adult justice systems
- Increase the diversity of Nebraska’s judicial and legal workforce

Contributions to the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation support the work of the Minority Justice Committee. Below are just a few initiatives your contributions support:

**Reducing Language Barriers**

The Minority Justice Committee was recently awarded a grant from Woods Charitable Fund to pilot an on-call interpreter service for attorneys. In 2013, the MJC conducted an assessment of interpreter services in Nebraska’s state courts. One of the primary findings was that while the Nebraska Judicial Branch does a good job of providing high quality interpreter services for all in-court proceedings, the quality of communication for out-of-court communications, particularly between attorneys and their clients is lacking. The assessment revealed that many attorneys frequently use family members (including children) as well as “jail house” interpreters (other jailed defendants who claim to be bilingual). When these practices are utilized, serious concerns about both the quality of communication and attorney-client privilege are raised. When Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients are not able to effectively communicate with counsel prior to their hearing, it inhibits their ability to strategize a defense, develop a client-attorney relationship, contact witnesses on their behalf, etc. It may also deter them from using the court system to resolve issues (seek orders of protection, modify child support, etc.). The MJC also feels that the importance of accessing

quality interpreter services has been heightened recently by a case from Iowa that found that an attorney provided ineffective assistance of counsel, when they did not use a qualified interpreter for attorney client communications.

For more information about how to access free certified court interpreter services through the pilot project, call the NSBA at (402) 475-7091.

**Looking Towards the Future - LSAT Prep Scholarship Program**

The LSAT Prep Scholarship Program provides scholarships for Kaplan LSAT Prep courses and covers the cost of LSAT exam fees for recipients who are historically underrepresented in Nebraska’s law schools, demonstrate economic need, and reside in Nebraska.

The number of scholarships awarded annually is dependent on charitable contributions. The scholarship program reaches both traditional and non-traditional students from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. On average, students receive a 7 point increase on their LSAT exam score.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MINORITY JUSTICE PROGRAMS,  
CONTACT LIZ NEELEY, (402) 475-7091, LNEELEY@NEBAR.COM**



NLAP is a confidential program designed to assist lawyers, judges and law students through hardship, illness, addiction and other circumstances that may affect their professionalism or ability to practice law.

### NLAP Programs

- Firm and case management assistance in the occurrence of unexpected death, sickness or disability
- Help with aging and retirement issues
- Confidential substance abuse/mental health support, consultation and treatment referral
- Substance abuse education and prevention

### Large Firm, Small Practice and Solo Support

NLAP maintains a network of support for firms or solo practices that face hardship due to death, severe illness, accidents or disability within the practice. In these instances, management support and case referral and adoption are handled by the NLAP director or veteran Nebraska attorney volunteers.

### Dealing with Substance Abuse and Depression

The Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program offers help to lawyers, judges and law students troubled by substance abuse problems, stress, depression or any other disorder which may impair their ability to perform in a competent and professional manner.

The foundation of NLAP is a statewide network of judges and lawyers who understand. The NLAP director and the network of NLAP volunteers stand ready to assist their colleagues in all areas of recovery.

*It is no "overstatement" to observe and confess that I, as an alcoholic pursuing recovery from a hopeless state of mind and body, quite literally and unreservedly owe my very life, to the Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program.*

*The state of mind which prevailed upon and literally controlled virtually every element of my existence prior to making the decision to "live" and do so in a state of sobriety defies explanation. In the absence of timely intervention and the generous provision of recovery services to address that which I have come to accept as my illness, I am certain I would have perished*

*If unknown benefactors believed I would recover if I was provided the opportunity to do so I was clearly obliged to do my part. The ability to "imagine" a life without alcohol was restored. The hope of a new beginning became truth. It is this "hope" that sustains me. Because of the great kindness shown me nearly four years ago and the opportunity to participate in a recovery program which I could ill afford, I walk a different path today.*

*I am eternally indebted to the Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program (NLAP). I am proud to be a member of a profession which cares so much for its membership.*

*NLAP Recipient*

### Education and Prevention

Education continues to be an important component of NLAP. We believe recognition and prevention are the first line of defense in an effort to assist individuals and avoid harm to the public caused by impaired members of the legal community.

For assistance or to learn more, visit [www.nebar.com](http://www.nebar.com) or call our toll-free hotline listed below.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEBRASKA LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,  
CONTACT RICK ALLAN, (402) 475-6527, RALLAN@NEBAR.COM  
NLAP TOLL-FREE HOTLINE - 24 HOURS/7 DAYS A WEEK - (888) 584-NLAP (6527)**



## NEBRASKA LAWYERS FOUNDATION RURAL PRACTICE INITIATIVE

**The Nebraska State Bar Association increased its efforts in 2013 to manage the shortage of small town lawyers by starting a rural practice initiative. Currently, 12 of Nebraska's 93 counties have no lawyers.**

### Bus Tour

In partnership with the law schools, the NSBA hosts a bus tour which allows law students and new attorneys in practice two years or less to have the opportunity to travel to areas of Greater Nebraska during the law schools' spring breaks. Participants meet with local attorneys and business leaders and experience what each community has to offer a new attorney.

*"Twenty years ago, Chadron had 10 lawyers; Alliance had a dozen. Now, they each just have two or three. Clients in rural Nebraska who used to find a lawyer across the street may now drive 50, 60, sometimes 100 miles to find one."*

*- Howard Olsen, a lawyer in Scottsbluff, and a former president of the Nebraska State Bar Association*

### Clerkship Program & Interviewing Event

A summer clerkship program was also formed in 2013 to help place students and new attorneys in firms in Greater Nebraska. Students may apply for one or two 5-week clerkships. In 2015, the NSBA hosted its first Rural Practice Interview Event to try and connect law students and attorneys with potential employers.



## NEBRASKA LAWYERS FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**The mission of the NSBA Leadership Academy is to help attorneys make greater contributions to the legal profession and their community by helping them to develop leadership skills. The Academy is targeted for attorneys that will be in their third to fifteenth year of practice.**

### The goals of the Academy are:

- To nurture effective leadership with respect to ethical, professional and community service issues
- To build relationships among legal leaders from across the state and from across disciplines within the profession
- To raise the level of awareness among lawyers regarding the broad range of issues facing the legal profession
- To enhance the diversity of leaders within the legal profession and the community as a whole





On April 5, 2014 over 400 guests celebrated the evening and helped raise money to support the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Timothy and Melany O'Brien of Omaha served as co-chairs to the 2014 Barristers' Ball.

Proceeds from the Barristers' Ball support the VLP's case placement and support with volunteer lawyers and the court house self-help desks in Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, Madison, Omaha, and Scottsbluff.

This year's Ball was a success and raised over \$60,000 to help the VLP assist those who have nowhere else to go for legal assistance.

Individuals recognized for their efforts and support of the VLP were:

Visionary Award Winners

**FITZGERALD VETTER & TEMPLE**

Norfolk

**MICHELLE M. MITCHELL**

Mitchell Law Office, Lincoln

**MARK JACOBS**

Katskee Henatsch & Suing, Omaha

Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award Winner

**JAMES H. TRUELL**

Truell Murray & Associates, Grand Island

*The following firms and corporations graciously supported the 2014 Barristers' Ball*

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**Eleventh Annual  
Greater Nebraska Golf Tournament**

Deep in the heartland of America, on the rim of the Snake River Canyon near Valentine, Nebraska is The Prairie Club. 90 golfers took to the first tee for the eleventh annual Greater Nebraska Golf Tournament on June 20, 2014. With the help of over 40 sponsors, the tournament raised nearly \$12,000 to support the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Proceeds of the event benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Project, the NSBA/NLF's statewide pro bono legal assistance program helping low-income Nebraskans with civil legal problems.

The NLF would like to sincerely thank all participants, sponsors and raffle item donors. Your contributions have made a big difference towards making Nebraska more just and equitable for all.

**2015 Greater Nebraska Golf Tournament  
June 22, 2015  
Prairie Club, Valentine**

**Thank You to the Sponsors of the 11th Annual Greater Nebraska Golf Scramble!**

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**RAFFLE PRIZES**

- One Round of Golf for Four with Cart - Donated by The Prairie Club
- Hole In One Contest - Sponsored by Mercer Consumer
- 6-pack cooler and Titleist Pro V1 golf balls - Donated by ABA Retirement Funds Program
- Hot/Cold Packs - Donated by Hyatt Place-Lincoln
- \$100 gift certificates for Championship Winner - Donated by Fraser Stryker PC LLO



The following is a list of donors and sponsors for fiscal year 2014. (January 1 - December 31, 2014)
We extend our heartfelt thanks for their generosity.

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I would like to make a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: The Volunteer Lawyers Project

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: The Minority Justice Committee

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: The Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: Leadership Academy

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation (distributed across all programs)

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I (we) hereby authorize the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation, hereinafter called NLF, to electronically debit my (our) account (and if necessary electronically credit my (our) account to correct erroneous debits) indicated below and the Financial Institution named below, hereinafter called FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, to debit same to such account. I (we) acknowledge the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

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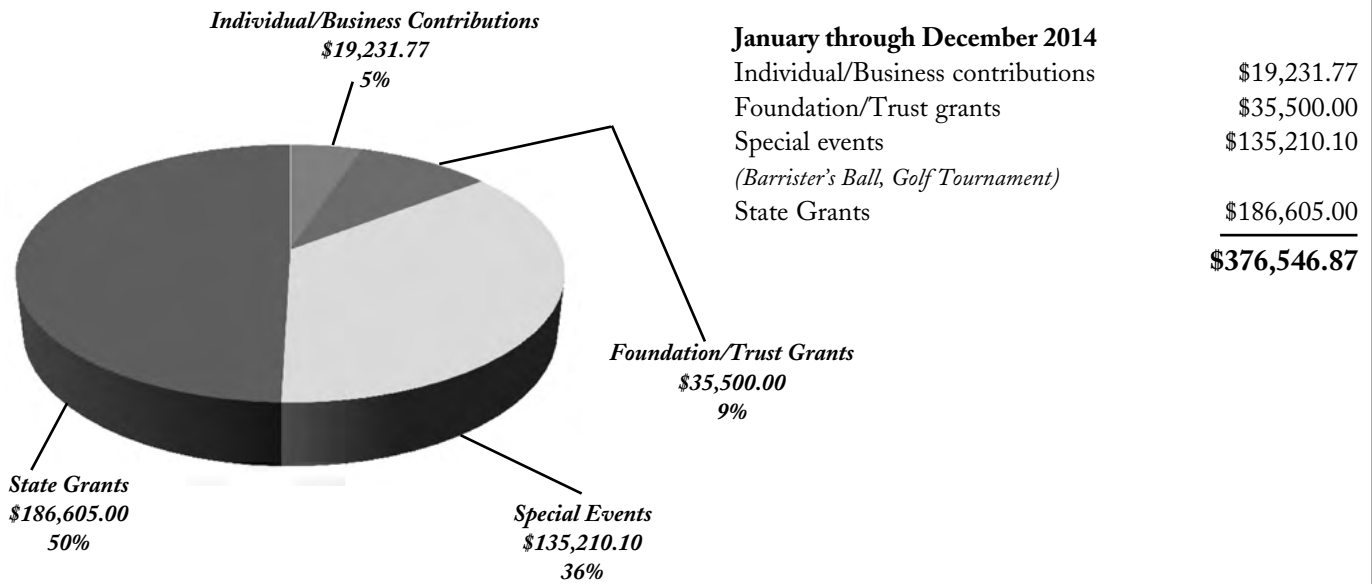
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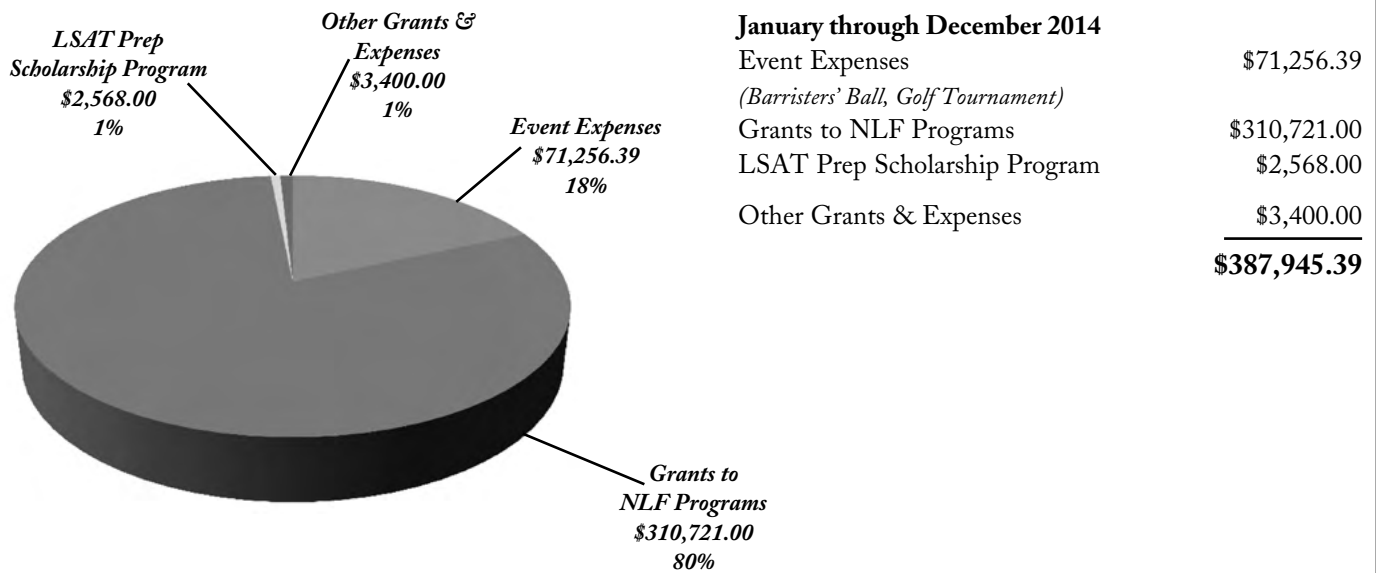


# 2014 REVENUE/EXPENSE SUMMARY

## The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation Program Revenue Summary



## The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation Program Expense Summary





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If every Nebraska attorney agreed to do one or more of the following, our ability to serve the public and legal community would grow exponentially:

- **Donate cash equal to one hour of your billing rate** - Donate the equivalent of an hour or more of billing to the NLF. You may designate your contribution to any of our signature programs if you choose.
- **Accept a pro bono case** - The need is great. Commit to helping one of our clients navigate the civil legal system. You'll be glad you did. Call the NSBA at (402) 475-7091 and ask to speak with Volunteer Lawyers Project Director Jean McNeil.
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