



Nebraska State Bar Association

News Release

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NSBA 2018 Public Service Award Recipients

During the Nebraska State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, the Association recognizes members of the profession for their exemplary service. This year, please join us in thanking and recognizing the following individuals.



**The George H. Turner Award: Justice John F. Wright
(posthumously)**

The George H. Turner Award is presented to a member of the NSBA who has demonstrated exemplary efforts in furthering public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence in the legal profession. Justice Wright lead a life of service, both as a lawyer and as a Nebraska Supreme Court Justice. He was revered for his intelligence, humility, decisiveness, civility and leadership. On behalf of the NSBA we would like to thank him for his service to the courts, the profession and the citizens of Nebraska.



Award of Appreciation: William J. Lindsay, Jr.

The Award of Appreciation is presented to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding service creating a better understanding of the legal profession and the administration of justice. Bill Lindsay has devoted his time to serving: on the NSBA's House of Delegates; as Chair of the Real Estate, Probate & Trust Section; as a presenter at countless CLE seminars; as author of numerous articles in *The Nebraska Lawyer* and chapters in NSBA Practice Manuals; as a mentor on the Real Estate, Probate & Trust Section listserv; and most recently as a Professor of the Estates and Trusts course at Creighton University School of Law. He has generously given back to the profession—"helping lawyers help people" – which makes him an ideal recipient of the 2018 Award of Appreciation.



Award of Special Merit: Catherine M. Mahern and Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic

The Award of Special Merit is presented to an individual or organization for services advancing the legal profession, the administration of justice, and public interest. For 25 years, the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, under the leadership of Kate Mahern, has fulfilled a need for low-income Douglas County residents to receive legal assistance they would not have access to otherwise. Catherine Mahern and her staff are committed to helping students learn how to navigate the real-world practice of law. The Clinic educates and inspires law students to become lawyers with high professional values and encourages them to improve the profession by the example they set in their own practice. In recognition of their 25 years of service, we are proud to present both Catherine Mahern and the Abrahams Legal Clinic, with the Award of Special Merit.



NSBA Diversity Award: Jamie Cooper

The NSBA Diversity Award recognizes the outstanding efforts made by firms, organizations or individual attorneys in promoting diversity in the legal profession in the state of Nebraska. Jamie Cooper works to promote equity, access, and inclusion through her service on the boards of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals, the Union for Contemporary Arts and the Access to Justice Commission of the Nebraska Supreme Court. She willingly educates, mentors and facilitates connections to promote inclusion in the legal community and is a worthy recipient of the NSBA Diversity Award.



Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award: Judge Mary Gilbride

The Women and the Law Section of the NSBA is pleased to announce that it has selected Judge Mary Gilbride as the recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award. After graduating from Creighton University School of Law, Judge Gilbride began her legal career as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Leslie Boslaugh in 1982. Following her clerkship, she joined Peter Kiewit Son, Co. in Omaha as corporate counsel becoming the litigation manager and traveling through the country for Kiewitt. Judge Gilbride was a pioneer for women in Nebraska's legal community as she was the first female in the state to serve as a county court judge and a district court judge. She was appointed to the 5th judicial district county court bench in 1992, and in 1998, to the 5th judicial district court bench. Judge Gilbride has always made a concerted effort to mentor both young women and men in pursuit of a legal career. She has also served as a mentor to newly appointed judges and faculty for educational programs through the Judicial Branch Education program and has done extensive volunteer and committee work educating both new judges and the general public. She has been a frequent speaker regarding the role of the courts in society at local high schools since 1992. Judge Gilbride's contributions to the legal community are all indicative of her lifelong, resolute support for the advancement of women lawyers.



Outstanding Young Lawyer Award: Patrick M. Lee

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is presented annually to a young lawyer who has made exemplary contributions to the community and to public service, who has actively participated in state and local bar activities, and who stands out in the areas of professional knowledge, skill, integrity and courtesy. Patrick M. Lee, of the Buffalo County Attorney's Office, was supported in his nomination not just by his coworkers and other county attorneys, but by law enforcement and opposing counsel. He regularly prosecutes DUI and traffic cases, but his case experience is vast and includes juvenile, child support, vehicular homicide, theft, sexual assault, drugs, and burglaries.

In addition to displaying an impressive command of legal knowledge, preparedness in his practice, and professionalism and courtesy to all he encounters, Patrick has served as a mentor to many. As his nominator states, he never shies away from a challenge and is always sharing his knowledge of recent case law and happenings in court with others. Outside of the office, Patrick has presented at numerous conferences both locally and statewide teaching attorneys and law enforcement about the current and ever-changing state of DUI laws. Patrick also participated in Leadership Kearney and serves as a coach for his daughter's Little League team. Patrick is the ideal recipient of this award.