



Celebrating 125 Years of the NSBA



Hon. Tricia A. Freeman

This year, 2025, marks the 125th anniversary of the Nebraska State Bar Association. Throughout its 125-year history, the NSBA has worked to fulfill its mission: helping Nebraska lawyers achieve the highest standards of competence, ethics, and professionalism and to protect and promote the administration of and access to justice.

You'll find throughout this edition of *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine examples of notable people and events that have populated and formed our rich history. Take some time to trace the timeline from where we started as a voluntary organization (1876) to when we officially organized (1900), became a mandatory bar (1937), published the first *Nebraska Lawyer* magazine (1997), added the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation as our fundraising arm (2003), weathered a completely virtual annual meeting (2020), and all the firsts in between. Then, make plans to join lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals from across Nebraska for this year's Annual Meeting in October.

The 2025 Annual Meeting theme is, "Celebrating 125 Years: Remembering Our Past as We Embrace the Future." This anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the dedication of the judges, attorneys, and legal educators who came before and shaped the legal landscape we stand upon today. It is also an opportunity to honor the contributions of our current members, including staff and volunteers, and look to the future as we work to advance justice, foster innovation, and mentor the next generation of Nebraska's lawyers.

Join us to celebrate the milestone you have helped to achieve!

2025 NSBA Annual Meeting

Continuing Legal Education

General Session

The 2025 NSBA Annual Meeting offers more than 65 hours of CLE and will feature several unique seminars, including our General Session where we welcome **Doron Gold, the Lawyer Therapist**. Doron is a psychotherapist and former practicing lawyer whose many years of experience working with lawyers in distress at the Ontario Lawyers' Assistance Program (OLAP) have given him a unique and valuable perspective on the challenges faced by legal professionals. In this session, Doron will discuss the generational divide within the legal profession on the topic of wellness; offer ways to challenge commonly held internal beliefs surrounding wellness and seeking help; and share practical advice for lawyers, firms, and the profession. Please join us for the General Session on **Thursday, October 9, from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.** *This program has been accredited for 1 hour of CLE credit, including 1.0 ethics hour.*

NSBA Ethics

In this two-hour ethics program, **Claude Ducloux** reviews two important but often under-discussed topics for those





practicing law: handling ethics complaints and developing resiliency. In this program, you'll learn tips for responding to ethics complaints (including when a complaint may have merit) and mental processes to allow you to endure setbacks in life and practice. We'll discuss attitude, mental balance, emotional intelligence, and strategies to help you when you're feeling overwhelmed. Please join us on **Wednesday, October 8, from 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.** for this insightful program. *This program has been accredited for 2 CLE ethics hours.*

There is Help – There is Hope

This program will address the risks of suicide and self-harm within the legal profession and examine what resources are available to individuals in crisis and people concerned about someone who may be at risk for suicide. **Dr. Dave Meirs, Senior Director of behavioral health services at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln**, will take us through QPR training, which trains participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk of suicide for help. The remainder of the program will focus on overcoming barriers that legal professionals have identified to getting help with mental health, substance use, or cognitive challenges. Please join us on **Friday, October 10, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** for this opportunity to strengthen your ability to respond to someone in crisis. *This program has been accredited for 2 CLE ethics hours.*

Social Events

Lunches

In addition to providing a top-notch lineup of CLE programs, which will discuss recent developments related to your areas of practice, the Annual Meeting provides us with opportunities to reconnect with our passion for the law and our colleagues across the state. The Wednesday **Alumni Luncheons** give you the opportunity to connect with other alumni from the University of Nebraska College of Law and Creighton University School of Law. We also offer a networking lunch for our members who are joining us from any other law school.

On Wednesday and Thursday, lunch will be available for purchase from the **Take'Em Catering** food truck from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

On Friday, please join us for the **Legacy Lunch**, where we will recognize our colleagues who are celebrating their 50th year of practice and our Nebraska Lawyers Foundation Advocates Circle and remember our colleagues who have passed away since our last Annual Meeting.

Receptions

Join us Wednesday evening for our cocktail reception, **Bench and Bar**, where we honor members of Nebraska's judiciary, and our Thursday night celebration, the **Presidents' Reception**, which will offer an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and trivia. Starting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, the Young Lawyers Section invites all NSBA Annual Meeting attendees for a fun and **relaxing networking reception** at **Smash Park La Vista**, 8121 S 125th St, La Vista, NE 68128.

Give Back


The Eleventh Annual Public Service Project starts now! We are partnering with Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers and the NSBA Leadership Academy for the "**Clear the List**" initiative! This impactful campaign is dedicated to strengthening child advocacy centers throughout our great state by providing essential resources and supplies. Visit <https://www.nebraskacacs.com/how-to-help/> or scan the QR Code onsite for more information and ways to donate!

Fun Walk/Run

New this year Hit the ground running (or walking) each morning with your fellow attendees! Meet in the Embassy Suites Hotel lobby **Wednesday through Friday at 6:00 a.m.** to join the group. All fitness levels welcome!

2025 Award Recipients

The NSBA Annual Meeting is also a time for us to recognize members of our profession for their exemplary service. Members are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to join the NSBA in thanking and recognizing the following recipients: the President's Professionalism Award, **J. Scott Paul**; the George H. Turner Award, **Hon. Joseph F. Bataillon**; the NSBA Diversity Award, **Yohance L. Christie**; the Award of Appreciation, Bradley D. Holtorf; the Award of Special Merit, the **Rules Subcommittee of Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Practice and Procedure** which includes Dwyer Arce, Professor John P. Lenich, Justice Jonathan Papik, Joy Shiffermiller, Judge Julie D. Smith, and Jeanette Stull; the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award, **Guillermo M. Martinez**; and the Jan Gradwohl Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award, **Elizabeth A. Waterman**.

Can't wait to see you there! 

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