

Newsletter

Omaha Bar Association

Vol. XXXXI
No. 1
March 2015



WHAT'S NEXT



FOR THE OBA

INSIDE

Pages 2-3...President's Message

Page 4...Executive Director's Column

Page 5...Milestones & Moves

Page 6...OBA Holiday Party

Page 7...Leadership Nomination Info

Page 8...OBA Membership Application

Page 9...Alfred G. Ellick Award

Page 10...Lunch with Fenner

Page 11...Nebraska Paralegal Association

Page 12...Young Lawyers Division:

Meet Patrick McNamara

Page 13...Lawyer Referral Service

Page 14...Civil Jury Verdicts &

Wine Tasting

Pages 15-16...Legalscopes

Page 17...OLPA

Page 18...Hockey Hangout

Page 19...OBA LRS CLE MashUp



facebook®

LinkedIn

Pay Dues Online
(Please have a Credit Card Ready)



omahabarassociation.com

President's Message

OBA Seizing Momentum in 2015

In competitive sport, individual participants and teams must use their strengths to seize momentum during competition. The Omaha Bar Association ("OBA") is no different than those competitive individuals and sport teams when it comes to the OBA's ability to provide programs and services to our members. To survive and to thrive in the increasingly competitive world of providing legal programs, and services, the OBA must use the governing judgment of its leaders, the numerous skills of its Executive Director, the strength of its programs, the power of its membership, and the long-standing relationships with the Nebraska State Bar and the American Bar Associations to rise above other organizations that compete for your time, talent, and investment.

Those of us in OBA leadership positions and its management understand fully that we are here as your representatives to guide the OBA in a direction that is focused on our members – focused on you! To that end, let me be the first to thank each of you for renewing your membership in the OBA. I also want to thank you for participating in our programs and attending our numerous events. If you are considering joining or renewing, please do that now!

For those of you who who not only show up to our events – many times with a guest, and also serve on one or more of the Omaha Bar Association's Committees, we can't thank you enough! Your service and investment to the benefit of the Omaha Bar Association is appreciated well beyond this acknowledgment. Without your time and talent, our Association ceases to have purposeful meaning and value.

Even though our membership renewals are scheduled on a calendar year, our slate of OBA events is technically half completed. Like all great sport Champions, the OBA is riding a powerful wave of momentum after successfully completing the Young Lawyer Division Hockey watch and our 14th Annual Wine Tasting events in January, as well as the OBA's 20th Annual "Lunch with Fenner" in February, and the "Medical Legal Dinner" in March. Those recent OBA events follow several other successful OBA events held during July through December, 2014.



Looking forward, the OBA offers its members several opportunities for continuing legal education, social interaction, networking, and association with other lawyers. If you have not registered already, then go to www.omahabarassociation.com to sign up for the 9th Annual Seminar on Ethics & Professionalism and the "Law Day Luncheon" in April, and "Field Day" in June.

Consider this President's message as your half time motivation speech! Even better! To get your mind set right to seize the opportunity that is presented for you, go watch "The Best Halftime Speech" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKZSQDHLtrY> and extend/pretend that inspiration applies to your participation in these OBA events. We know that there is no limit to your excellence. We want you to be an MVP for the OBA! But ... we need you

to participate in our events, to participate in on our Committees, to invest in the OBA in order to continue seizing momentum and to enjoy the fruits of success!

While you are fired up and seizing on your share of OBA momentum, don't just stop with signing up for the Omaha Bar Association events listed above. Please review the OBA's Mentoring Program. Also check out one of our newer OBA programs entitled "The Healthy Lawyer."

To find The Healthy Lawyer you will need to take the following actions:

- (1) Login to OBA "Members Only" portion of www.omahabarassociation.com,**
- (2) Click on the "Groups" on the right hand side of the screen, and**
- (3) Click on "The Healthy Lawyer" link.**

My experience in leadership roles with other organizations taught me that it takes a long time to establish really good organization programs. Great programs like the ones listed in this message – along with several others that are not listed – were not only good ideas in their beginning, but have continued to be well managed and useful for our members over several years.

The OBA's Mentoring Program and Healthy Lawyer programs are still in development. Honestly, it may

Continued on next page

President's Message

take a few years to realize the full potential of those programs. Accordingly, that is where you can make them successful. For example, if you have achieved success in an area of healthy living, please share your success with other members. We would like our members to post their own personal success stories, or articles on healthy living that other members can review and apply if that guidance is appropriate for them. Obviously, we advise every OBA member to consult their personal physician to determine if any activity posted or article provided on our Healthy Lawyer group area is approved for the member. However, to the extent that it works for you, it could mean that it will work for others too.

The OBA's Mentoring program is worthy of your review too. Dave Sommers has devoted a considerable amount of his valuable time in structuring a Mentoring Program that will pay dividends in a deeper bench of Omaha lawyers. Omaha is blessed with so many

qualified lawyers. We need several more of you to invest your time in the OBA's Mentoring Program to make sure the foundation of that program is solid. We need several young lawyers to invest time in seeking help from experienced lawyers in our local bar.

In closing, I ask each of you to continue supporting the Omaha Bar Association. Join, participate, serve, learn, and have fun in the momentum of our Omaha Bar Association. We will all be better lawyers with you than without you! I look forward to seeing you at our events and posting online in the future. Let's go get another Win for the home team!!!



Douglas J. Law
President

OBA MEMBER BENEFIT



Membership to the Omaha Press Club
Discounted Rate of \$10/Month (\$120/Year)
With a \$30 Food/Beverage Quarterly Minimum

The Omaha Press Club isn't just for the press. Our membership includes Omaha-area professionals from all walks of life. And they all enjoy...

The most affordable private club in Omaha
Perfect for Business Meetings and Entertaining Clients

Invitations to Exclusive Events
*Including the popular "Face on the Barroom Floor,"
Noon Forums and Holiday Brunches*

Reciprocity With Clubs Around the World
*Including the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and the
Downtown Athletic Club in New York City*

Join Today!
Omaha Press Club
1620 Dodge St.
22nd Floor
402-345-8008
omahapressclub.com

The Omaha Press Club... Exclusively Yours!

WWW.OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

Business Mediator

I have enjoyed counseling clients on their rights and strategic options for more than 20 years. I welcome the opportunity to help smart lawyers find their client's best alternative to litigation.

Aaron D. Weiner
aweiner@akclaw.com
402.392.1250

**AK
&C** ABRAHAMS
KASLOW &
CASSMAN LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Executive Director's Column

The OBA and our events are supported by a number of sponsors, and we are very thankful for their financial backing. From First National Bank and Wealth Management for the Fall Kickoff, to *The Daily Record* for the Wine Tasting, to Thomas & Thomas Court Reporters for the YLD Hockey Game, to Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman for the Medical Legal Dinner, to Creighton University School of Law for the April Ethics Seminar, and D4 for the YLD Pub Quizzes, we boast a wide support base for many of our events. Thank you all!

A new edition in this and the December issues of the OBA Newsletter is the "LegalScopes." As always, the Newsletter looks to inject a little lighthearted humor into the conversation with features like this. If you're interested in contributing to the cause of lawyer humor, we'd love to get your submissions. Keep in mind, of course, that all aggressively-mean lawyer-specific humor in Omaha is the purview of the Omaha Barristers, as they seem to be immune from any legal action brought against them.

In addition to a number of great events coming up, the OBA is also looking for nominations for those who are interested in joining the Executive Council in the upcoming year. If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, just shoot me an email with the details. Nominations close May 5th.

The OBA Lawyer Referral Service continues to keep itself as relevant and effective as possible to its panel members, and recently made a few changes to its protocols.

First, OBA membership is no longer necessary for admission to the LRS.

Second, we've added collaborative divorce to our panel areas.

Third, when we receive a call requesting a limited scope representation (we do get these calls), we can now refer them to LRS attorneys who include that type of practice.

Finally, for those who have renewed their OBA membership for 2015, thank you for your continued membership in the OBA. We look forward to seeing you at events this year. For those who haven't renewed, please consider signing back up. If you have any questions or concerns about the benefits of membership, don't hesitate to contact me to discuss. I'm happy to make my case!

Best,



Dave Sommers

Dave Sommers

KIRCHNER & ASSOCIATES_{PC}

Solutions For Complex Financial Cases

Robert L. Kirchner, CFE
1625 Farnam Street Suite 840
Omaha, NE 68102

402-422-0820 • Fax 402-422-0819

Thorough financial investigative services for attorneys and financial institutions.

- Certified fraud examination
- Forensic & reconstructive accounting
- Damage & loss calculations
- Tracing complex money & paper trails
- Banking practices & procedures
- Expert witness testimony



ON THE MOVE

Carlson Burnett welcomes **Rich Hitz** as a partner, Fraser Stryker announces the addition of **Katie Welch** to the firm; Legal Aid of Nebraska welcomes **Mick Wagoner** as Executive Director; Douglas County Public Defender's Office welcomes **Doug Amen** to its ranks; McGill Gotsdiner welcomes **Nicholas Buda** as a new associate; Kutak Rock announces the addition of **Scott Goin, Emily Anderson, Caitlin Cedfeldt, Elizabeth Henthorn, Oliver Hopkins, Dain Johnson, Bradley Jones, Dan Leddy, Jeffrey McGuire, Emily Tomek-McCarthy** and **Bruce Wray** to the firm; Lamson Dugan welcomes **Nathan Tenney** and **Maxwell Crawford** as associates; Hush Blackwell welcomes **Daan Erikson** as associate; Cordell & Cordell welcomes Brad Marsicek to its Omaha office; **Jarrod Reece** joins Like Meyerson Hatch; **Brian Blackford** opens Blackford Law LLC; Adams and Sullivan welcomes Molly Miller to the firm; Affirmative Dispute Resolution added **Kirk Blecha** to its neutral roster to assist with arbitration; Houghton Whitted Weaver merged with Parsonage Vandennack Williams to create Houghton Vandennack Williams; Pansing Hogan added **Edward Hotz, Patrick Flood, Emily Langdon Jung** and **Michael Peterson** to the firm; Woods& Aitken welcomes **Nancy Wood** to the firm; Koley Jessen welcomes **James Tews, David Goeschel, Kristin Krueger, Josh Norton, and Anshu Pasricha** to the firm as shareholders.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Michael Mooney** for his induction into Trial Masters as a charter member; **Matthew Watson** for being made shareholder at McGill Gotsdiner; **Angela Lennon** for being named to the Women's Fund of Omaha's 2014 Circles Group; Koenig Dunne congratulates **Angela Dunne** on being named to SuperLawyers 2014 and for her achievement of an AV Preeminent Rating on Martindale-Hubbell; Rembolt Ludke congratulates **Benjamin E. Moore** on becoming partner; Kutak Rock congratulates its new partners **Victoria Buter, Jason Caskey, B. Hans Ipson, William McCartney, Neal McMahon & Courtney Pinaire**; Fitzgerald Schorr congratulates **Bruce Vosburg, Bob Cannella, Jerry Friedrichsen, Nick Taylor, Thomas McKeon, Andrew Schlosser, and Dustin Kessler** for being selected for *Best Lawyers in America* for 2015; Fraser Stryker congratulates **John Walker** on making partner; the OBA congratulates President-Elect **John Menicucci** on being honored as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans; Lamson Dugan congratulates **Jason Grams** on becoming partner; congratulations to **Rick Putnam** on his election as fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation; Woods & Aitken congratulates **Jill Fiddler** as partner.

Your Safety.



Our Priority.

Nebraska

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS:

Be proactive - get your clients help before they see the judge!

National Safety Council, Nebraska programs are used by the Douglas County Court and approved by the state of Nebraska Probation Department for diversion and probation.

PROBATION OPPORTUNITIES

DUI First Offender Program (English & Spanish)

10 hours, two 3 1/2 hour sessions 6pm-9:30pm
and one 3 hour session 6pm-9pm.....Tuition: \$169
Includes Victim Impact Panel.

DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES

Alcohol Education/Minor in Possession (English & Spanish)

8 hours, one session, 8am-5pmTuition: \$79

Adult Anger Management

9 hours, three sessions, 6pm-9pm.....Tuition: \$119
Spanish Adult Anger Management (call for details)

Juvenile/Teen Anger Management

9 hours, three sessions, 6pm-9pmTuition: \$79

Appropriate Decision Making for Adults

8 hours, one session, 8am-5pmTuition: \$99
Spanish Decision Making for Adults (call for details)

Appropriate Decision Making for Teens

8 hours, one session 8am-4pm
or two sessions 6pm-10pmTuition: \$79

TRAFFIC TICKET DISMISSAL PROGRAMS

4-Hour Defensive Driving (STOP)

8-Hour Defensive Driving (STAR/ADD)

11620 M Circle, Omaha, NE 68137
402-898-7361 • Fax 402-896-6331
www.SafeNebraska.org

**RENEW YOUR OBA MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**

The OBA Board's Annual Holiday Celebration

The annual holiday celebration of the OBA's current board, past-presidents and their guests was held December 10th at Bricks and Mortar Bar & Bistro in the Old Market. LRS Executive Director Donna Birkby was congratulated on 25 years of service with a book of letters from many of the past OBA presidents during her time at the OBA. Former Executive Director Mardee Korinek Johnston was also in attendance, and enjoyed exchanging stories with many of the former presidents.



LRS Executive Director Donna Birkby is toasted by President Doug Law...



... followed by a well-deserved hug!



Omaha Bar Association & Creighton University School of Law **9th Annual Seminar on Ethics & Professionalism**

Friday, April 10
2:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Creighton University Harper Center
Lied Auditorium

Special Guest Speakers:
Doug Richmond
Stephen Siebersen

2 hrs of CLE applied for in NE and IA
Seminar is FREE to OBA members,
\$75 for non-members



Doug Richmond
Aon Risk Solutions



Stephen Siebersen
Creighton School of Law

Register online by Friday, April 3, at
www.omahabarassociation.com,
or call Dave at
402-280-3607.

OBA's Leadership and their guests



Mardee Korinek and her husband George (center) caught up with Doug Law (left) and Donna Birkby.

To the left, across the fold, Santa Lyle Strom cracks up his fellow party goers Dave Houghton, Jerry Friedrichsen and Woody Bradford.



The Old Market venue was a comfortable place to ring in the holiday season with old friends.

Applications for Leadership Positions

Applications for nomination to the Omaha Bar Association Leadership positions are now being accepted! Official nomination forms can be found on the OBA website and will be sent in the mail to the membership.

The deadline for nominations is April 18, 2015. The following positions are available for nomination:

- President-Elect (3-year commitment)
- Secretary (1-year commitment)
- Treasurer-Elect (3-year commitment)
- Executive Council Member (3 year term)

OBA Field Day 2015

Champions Run
 Monday, June 1
 Golf/Tennis/Trap Shooting/Bridge
 AM and PM Golf Flights
 Golf space limited, RSVP your foursome ASAP
 Reception and Dinner following the day's activities



2014 Membership Benefits Expire February 28, 2015 – Renew Today!

OMAHA BAR ASSOCIATION

2015 CALENDAR YEAR - DUES STATEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____



Make all remittances to:
Omaha Bar Association
2133 California Plaza, Suite 150
Omaha, Nebraska 68178

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

Student Associate Memberships

Gratis. 2L & 3Ls only.

Newly Admitted Attorneys – Gratis.

Will not be charged dues until after December 31 of the year in which they are FIRST admitted to law practice (need not be Nebraska).

Judges – Gratis.

Inactive/Retired Attorneys – \$82.50.

Must have inactive status with the NSBA.

ATTORNEYS ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:

Fewer than 5 years

\$80. Includes 2009 admittees.

5 years or more

\$165. Includes 2008 admittees

50-year member – \$80.

Graduated from (or currently attending) _____ Law School.

First admitted to practice in (state) _____ (year) _____. All Bar Numbers _____.

Year of Birth, if 35 or under: _____ (*Needed to Determine Membership in Young Lawyers Division*)

Current category listing: _____

- (a) Corporate Counsel Attorney
- (b) Government Attorney
- (c) Large Firm Attorney (10 Attorneys and over)
- (d) Small Firm Attorney (9 Attorneys and under) or Sole Practitioner
- (e) Estate and Trust Department
- (f) Other/Explain _____

OBA Newsletter Delivery Preference:

- Digital Copy (Via Email) Paper Copy (Via US Mail) Both Digital and Paper



Law Day 2015



Magna Carta:

Symbol of Freedom Under Law



Law Day 2015 Luncheon April 30, 2015

Omaha Marriott (Regency)

11:45am - 1:00pm

\$25 per person

Guests welcome

The Alfred G. Ellick Lawyer Referral Service Award Recipients to be Honored

The Omaha Bar Association is proud to announce the creation of the Alfred G. Ellick Lawyer Referral Service Award. The award will be given to those attorneys who have been a part of the OBA Lawyer Referral Service for 10 or more years. Currently, the program boasts a strong majority of its attorneys as having been a member for longer than 10 years, a testament to the quality of the program, and its director, Donna Birkby.

The award is named after the founder of the OBA Lawyer Referral Service, Alfred G. Ellick. The award recipients will be recognized at the 2015 Law Day Luncheon, on April 30, 2015, at the Omaha Marriott (Regency).

Pay Event Fees Online

Forensic Accounting Investigations

Cody F. Carse, CPA

Certified Fraud Examiner
Certified in Financial Forensics

37 Years of Public & Private Accounting Experience

www.CodyFCarseCPA.com

1304 N 56th STREET

402-201-6427

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68132 ccarse@CodyFCarseCPA.com

- Asset discovery / recovery
- Contract disputes
- Criminal defense
- Professional malpractice and negligence
- Purchase or sale of a business
- Suspected theft by employees or others
- Expert witness and consultant

There is never a charge for initial consultations.



Acclaro Puts Your Client's Business In Focus

Acclaro Valuation Advisors has over 20 years of experience providing valuations for the following purposes:
exit and succession planning, shareholder disputes, buy-sell agreements, and estate and gift tax planning.

Our valuation reports have an excellent track record with the IRS and the courts. Please call us if we can be of assistance.



your business, in focus

> (402) 895-6222
> AcclaroValuation.com

'Lunch with Fenner' Celebrates Its 20th Year

The 20th Annual "Lunch with Fenner" didn't disappoint. With over 150 attorneys in attendance, many former law students of the speaker, Creighton University School of Law Professor G. Michael Fenner gave an impassioned speech on the attempted expansion of presidential powers by President Obama in the area of immigration reform by use of Presidential Directive. Thank you, Professor Fenner, for another great lunch!



For 20 years Professor Fenner has delivered his take on current matters of Constitutional law in his always animated style. We stopped him long enough to pose for a photo with OBA President-elect John Menicucci (left). Here's to 20 more years!



SUBSCRIBE



THE DAILY RECORD

Nebraska's Legal and Business News Since 1886

password-protected, online access available
exclusively to print subscribers

call (402) 345-1303 or go to www.omahadailyrecord.com to download a subscription form
legals@omahadailyrecord.com

Nebraska Paralegal Association News

By Kim Brown, ACP

The Nebraska Paralegal Association ("NePA") will host its Spring Seminar and Mid-Year meeting on **April 24, 2015** at Mahoney State Park. NePA encourages all members of the legal community to attend the seminar for a full day of continuing legal education, comradery, and networking. NePA provides CLEs at each of its seminars and at least one hour of ethics at the Spring Seminar. NePA offers this seminar free of charge to NePA members and charges a nominal fee for non-members and non-member students. Please visit our website at <http://nebraskaparalegal.org> for more details – coming soon.

NePA offers a \$500.00 scholarship to any student who is a Nebraska resident or NePA member admitted and accepted in a paralegal program at an accredited university,

college, community college or business college located in Nebraska. March 1, 2015, was the application deadline. Please direct questions to nepastudentscholarship@yahoo.com (to see if an extension is possible). If you know a paralegal student interested in applying, please relay this information to him or her.



Please visit <http://nebraskaparalegal.org/paralegal-students/> for more information. NePA's Public Relations Committee is in search of paralegal authors for *The Daily Record's* **Paralegal Perspective** column. This is a wonderful opportunity for any paralegal to author an article on many topics, including but not limited to the profession's history, paralegal training and education, UPL definition and best practices, and paralegal ethics. Please contact Tom Tilden, ACP at ttilden@west.com

if you are interested in writing for *The Daily Record*.

NePA's Relay for Life team, the Legal Beagles, will participate in the Papillion Relay for Life event on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Please join us for a great fundraising opportunity and a fun night at the Corky Canvas on May 4, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm where NePA paralegals will come together to celebrate the lives of those touched by cancer. If you have questions or would like to attend either event, please contact Teri Gibbons at teri.gibbons@koleyjessen.com.

At our monthly District I luncheon at the Omaha Marriott Hotel on Wednesday, February 25, we heard Richard Vroman of Koley Jessen, P.C., L.L.O., present "Representing Physicians – Keeping the Practice Healthy."

For updated information on NePA, visit our website, read our e-zine the *In Brief* on our website at www.nebraskaparalegal.org, and check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Nebraska-Paralegal-Association-NePA/101739993223184>.



It's Monday, the First Day of the Rest of Your Life.



Too bad last Friday was the last day to file the Bergstrom motion.

Did you know that missing deadlines continues to be one of the most common mistakes leading to malpractice claims? The failure to file a document is the second most common alleged error and the failure to calendar properly was the fifth most common mistake leading to a malpractice claim*. A dual calendaring system which includes a firm or team networked calendar should be used by every member of your firm.

At Minnesota Lawyers Mutual we don't just sell you a policy. We work hard to give you the tools and knowledge necessary to reduce your risk of a malpractice claim. We invite you to give us a call at 800-422-1370 or go online at www.mlmins.com and find out for yourself what we mean when we say, "Protecting your practice is our policy."

* American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability. (2008). *Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims, 2004-2007*. Chicago, IL: Haskins, Paul and Ewins, Kathleen Marie.

800.422.1370



MINNESOTA LAWYERS MUTUAL

INSURANCE COMPANY

PROTECTING YOUR PRACTICE IS OUR POLICY.™

www.mlmins.com

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Meet a Young Lawyer Division Member: Patrick McNamara

By Dave Sommers

If you've been to an OBA event in the past two years, there's a good chance that you've heard a voice in the crowd that's different from the rest; its speed, cadence and pronunciation giving away its northern East Coast origin. Full of energy, ideas, and always willing to talk about the finer points of New York Mets baseball, Patrick McNamara makes quite an impression on those he meets. "That's the idea," Patrick says with a smile, "it's good to be known."

Since arriving in Omaha in 2012 with his wife, Katie (an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Council Bluffs) McNamara has done a lot to be known in the local legal community. Patrick joined the Omaha Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division immediately, and quickly began attending events. "Those first few OBA functions were great for getting integrated into the local legal community, and especially among the young attorneys," McNamara noted. Patrick worked at Anderson Bressman & Hoffman for a year before going out on his own as a solo practitioner. His experience gleaned from his 3 years of practice in New York, combined with the year working with Charlie Bressman and Ryan Hoffman, gave McNamara the practice experience and confidence to build a successful practice.

So what brought Patrick from Long Island, NY to Omaha? "My wife (Katie) is from Omaha, and when we got married in May 2012 we decided to move to Nebraska because we knew that it would be a great place to raise our family and grow our legal careers," he said. It quickly became clear to McNamara that law practice in Nebraska varied in significant ways to that found in New York. "The difference is drastic. Practicing in Nebraska is 100%



Patrick McNamara has been a big supporter of the Young Lawyers group since its beginning.

better than practicing in New York. The courts run much more efficiently. The overhead is much lower. The office space is much nicer and referrals come more easily. Clients seem to be more reasonable in putting together a plan of action. The lower cost of living also allows clients to have the cash on hand to afford legal services." Patrick added, with a shudder, "It's also nice not having to spend multiple mornings a week sitting through a 200-case cattle call as I would have in Brooklyn or Nassau County."

The attorneys are also much better to deal with, McNamara says. "I find that many of the attorneys here are willing to work towards a compromise in order to resolve a matter." In addition, "the Midwest work ethic rings true, in that there is a much quicker turnaround on discovery and document production."

McNamara's engagement in the local community has also helped his practice. He's a part of the OBA Lawyer Referral Service, from which he's received numerous cases, some of which have been

lucrative. "No doubt, it's worth the cost to join LRS," Patrick says. "I can't thank the OBA enough for helping to ease my transition. The OBA also set me up to share office space with Hightower Reff Law Firm, which has been a blessing as well." Outside of the OBA, McNamara has also been active in the NSBA, writing and editing for the Nebraska Lawyer magazine, and active in a local BNI group, which assists in generating client leads.

In addition to growing his practice, McNamara has been volunteering his time with the Innocence Project, and getting to know most of the local golf courses. "I've played just about all the courses in the Omaha area," he says, his stare distant as he recalls some of his better rounds. "I'm always down for playing a round at a course I haven't played yet."

What advice does McNamara have for new lawyers, just starting practice? "It may be cliché but it's so true: Don't be afraid to ask questions and admit when you don't know something." When asked where he sees himself in five years, Patrick foresees a growing family with his wife, and a growing law practice, employing 2 or 3 paralegals. "Oh," he says with a mischievous grin, "and I see myself reading about the Mets preparing for their third championship season in four years. I say three in four years because I'm a realist: I know they can't win it four years in a row."



It's about Trust

and Probate
and Family Law
and Intellectual Property
and Immigration Law
and Personal Injury
and Business Law
and Real Property
and Bankruptcy
and Tax Law
and Employment Law
and Criminal Defense
and Landlord/Tenant
and Workers' Compensation
and the list goes on...

When current clients or new callers to your office have legal needs outside of your practice area, remember that your colleagues in the Omaha Bar Association are here to help.

With over 150 participating attorneys—representing nearly every practice area—the OBA Lawyer Referral Service is the best place to direct those you can't assist. The excellent work provided by our experienced panel attorneys strengthens the reputation of all OBA lawyers.

Make referrals to someone you trust—
The Omaha Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service.

Client Line: 402-280-3603 **Attorney Line:** 402-280-3606
www.omahalawyerreferral.com

NOW ACCEPTING ATTORNEY APPLICATIONS FOR 2015-2016

RATES:

OBA Members:

\$50 for first-time applicants; \$125 for returning LRS attorneys

Non-Members:

\$195

Civil Jury Verdicts

DOUGLAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
Jury Verdicts

Looking for Past Civil Jury Verdicts?

OBA Members have access to the complete history of Douglas County Civil Jury Verdicts in Excel form via the OBA website. (Login Required)

The list is easily searchable for those looking for old cases!

www.omahabarassociation.com

14th Annual Wine Tasting

The annual Wine and Beer Tasting went off without a hitch on Friday, January 30th at Brix at Village Pointe. Over 250 OBA members and guests enjoyed a flight of 6 different wines, along with food provided by event's generous

sponsor, The Daily Record. The event continues to be a favorite event of many OBA members, and one that is included in the price of membership in the Omaha Bar Association. We lift our glasses to you, OBA members! To 2015!



President Doug Law toasts the sponsors.



Legalscopes



By Woody C. Harrward

Pisces: February 19 – March 20

You are known as a dreamer and creative mind, showing great compassion towards others, many times neglecting your own needs for those of others. You are loved by others, although Taurus and Cancer doesn't understand circuitous route you take to the finish line on projects. Your imagination leads to escapist tendencies, which clashes with a realistic outlook on life.

Make the Best: Law Professors and Legislators

Karma-scope: It's wonderful to dream, but don't let your imagination lead you into trouble. Remember, everyone has a camera these days, and social media is not your friend.

Aries: March 21 – April 20

As a natural born "line leader," you are always the first to volunteer to take charge of the new project at work, organize a new interest group, enthuse others, and give your two-cents. While your personal magnetism is stronger than your follow through, you still know how to put your nose to the grindstone to finish that deliciously poignant closing argument that you have been stewing over... so you can dictate it.... just in time for your savior of an assistant to submit it with seconds to spare.

Make the Best: Personal Injury Attorneys

Karma-scope: As a true pioneer, be "that car" and make someone's day by purchasing the drive-thru order of the person behind you in line. Don't wait around for the glory. (We all know you are already #winning).

Taurus: April 21 – May 20

You aim to please. Your dogged determination and loyalty to management and clients alike will keep you focused and on task until you accomplish every item on your list...and then one more.... just to say you did. You find billing minimums to be for chumps; you're the one who asks for billing maximums (cue eye roll from all other signs). Others value your endurance and persistence, praising how you keep your word and do not leave people guessing. Your Taurus/Bull-headed stubbornness works for you because you thrive in a routine. Don't feel too glum about the time dedicated to items work-related; you always find time to reward yourself with tropical travel and retail therapy.

Make the Best: Litigators.

Karma-scope: Go out of your way (and billable hour) to lend your ear in exchange for free conversation. You may actually enjoy yourself.

Gemini: May 21 – June 21

You are always on the go: quick and lively, and known for spreading intellect and intriguing gossip everywhere you go. You are an ingenious, quick-witted communicator, although you are often restless, easily bored, and can become frustrated by things moving too slowly. You are the life of the hearing, the phone conference, the deposition, not to mention, the OBA Wine Tasting and Fall Kickoff BBQ. You multiply other people's energy, but can become deflated if you are out of the limelight for any length of time. Your sharp wit and excellent powers of observation make you an excellent storyteller who other find contagious in social settings.

Make the Best: Public Defenders.

Karma-scope: Help those lost and wandering the rotunda at the DCDC find their way to Courtroom 21.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Your "time is of the essence" attitude seems to always achieve more results than the occupier of the office next door. Legal professionals of other signs are envious of your tireless productivity. Working smarter not harder is paying off, as you're bringing home the bacon, and having time to cook it, too. You are learning the elation that comes along with parting with difficult clients to ensure your quality of life is in tune with your best interests. Your

"can't take it with you attitude" has others lining up to march to your beat.

Make the Best: Managing Partners.

Karma-scope: Spend the extra time on your hands organizing the office. Recycle all those extra blue pens lying around in the copy room grave yard.

Leo: July 23 – August 22

Your steadfast ambition gives competitors and opposing counsel a run for their money. You are outgoing, self-assured, and have a tremendous zest for life. Forward-thinking and ever confident, you propose the most creative solutions to daily mundane tasks and problems. Settlement proposal—you betcha! Your charm seduces others to find your borderline fanciful proposals practical in the most endearing of ways.

Make the Best: Mediators.

Karma-scope: Go easy on the newcomer.

Virgo: August 23 – September 22

Smarty pants; it's time to stop being so critical! You aren't the easiest to read, but your excellent memory and highly analytical mind makes you a great problem solver and rational thinker. You don't hesitate to step up and confront the situation head on—you keep the world in order. You get right down to the heart of the balancing others' lives and finances. Others admire your ability to stay calm and positive. You adjust well and stay organized in the face of chaos.

Make the Best: Tax Attorney.

Karma-scope: Stroke someone else's ego, regardless of the messiness of their life.

Libra: September 23 – October 22

You are on your A-game when you're balancing on the tight rope. You are hopelessly obsessed with getting it right. And, once you get it right, you don't backpedal, waver, or apologize. You stand firm and believe in your genius. Sure, you might have a few loose ends to tie up at the end of the day (making sure those retirement accounts are up to date); but, nothing that will take away from your victory of completion. You have it all figured out. You pay meticulous attention to the details so your clients don't have to. You're a listener.

Make the Best: Divorce Attorney.

Karma-scope: Colleagues are forever.

Scorpio: October 23 – November 21

Fiercely independent, you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. You are possessive and you never make false promises (just puffery). You are versatile and well-liked. When a new client walks into your office, you don't judge them based on appearances (like whether or not they'll be able to pay their bill), rather you appreciate the person for who they are as a whole. You gain trust quickly and you know that honesty is the best policy. That makes you quite the confidant.

Make the Best: Sole Practitioner.

Karma-scope: Don't be moody, forgive and forget. Join a sand volleyball league. Teams are fun sometimes.

Sagittarius: November 22 – December 21

You crave adventure and excitement. You base your decisions on the meaning of freedom, and you don't expect favors in return. You are encouraging, positive, selfless, and have an excellent sense of humor based on the raw truth. You never hide anything—but also know how to make

Continued on next page 16

Legalscopes

Continued from page 15

the facts work in your favor. Others might fault you for your untimeliness, but once they are in your company all worries will be dismissed: you are universally loved.

Make the Best: Criminal Defense Attorney.

Karma-scope: Go crazy and read cover-to-cover that book you bought 5 years ago. The *New York Times* gave it a rave review after all.

Capricorn: December 22 – January 19

You are powerful and determined to push ahead until you reach the top of whatever the pinnacle you've identified, whether it's to be referenced in a Omaha Barristers' Christmas Party skit, or the corner office. No obstacle will get in the way of your success, but this drive can also sometimes alienate family and friends.

Make the Best: Prosecutors.

Karma-scope: Ban reference to work for a full Saturday or Sunday and enjoy time with your friends and family at the local bowling alley. When you get a strike, throw them bones to show how cool you are.

Aquarius: January 20 – February 18

You are the most eccentric zodiac sign—there's never a dull moment with you around. You make fast friends for life. Intellectual, friendly and future-minded, you are more concerned with the good of all than the good of one. Sometimes seen as aloof, your eternal quest for knowledge can create ideas and plans that range from brilliant to over-the-top insane.

Make the Best: Rainmakers and Bar Association Executive Directors.

Karma-scope: Read the comments section of the YouTube videos before completing the cinnamon challenge, balcony snow dives, Harlem Shake dances, or any other fantastical physical feats...it may not be as easy or safe as it appears...or as cool.



If you are aware of anyone within the Nebraska legal community (lawyers, law office personnel, judges, courthouse employees or law students) who suffers a sudden, catastrophic loss due to an unexpected event, illness or injury, the NS-BA's SOLACE Program can likely assist that person in some meaningful way.

Contact Mike Kinney at mkinney@ctagd.com and/or Liz Neeley at lneeley@nebar.com.

We appreciate your Membership!

MEDIATIONS



2012 Best Lawyers ©
Mediator of the Year



Historic Inns of Court

David M. Woodke
Woodke & Gibbons, PC, LLO
619 N. 90th St. Omaha, NE 68114
402-391-6000
dwoodke@woglaw.com

- Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys
- Nebraska Mediation Association
- Nebraska Bar Association
- Iowa Bar Association
- Omaha Bar Association
- Pottawattamie (Iowa) Bar Association
- Fellow, International Society of Barristers 2000-2012
- Nebraska Association of Defense Attorneys
- AV Rating by Martindale Hubbel

Visit WoodkeGibbons.com and click on mediation services.

OMAHA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSN.

By: Valentina Saavedra, President

OLPA is moving into a busy time of the year where we seek nominations for our Boss of the Year and Legal Professional of the Year awards. These awards will be presented at our Annual Awards & Installation Banquet on April 15, 2015. We are excited to have 2013 Boss of the Year Tim Kielty emcee the event this year.

The banquet also showcases our local scholarship award winners. OLPA members work hard throughout the year to raise funds to support a local scholarship contest for students pursuing a degree in the legal field. Due to the generosity of Dennis Thomte of Thomte Patent Law Office, we have been able to offer two local scholarship awards. Our state association Nebraska Legal Professionals Association (NLPA) also conducts a scholarship contest. Visit our website at olpa.wildapricot.org for details about the local scholarship contest as well as the state-level contest.

OLPA members Carol Sperry and Jean Roeder continue to work on the Law Day Essay Contest in collaboration with the OBA. Local 8th grade students are encouraged to submit an essay on this year's theme, Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law. Entries for the Law Day Essay Contest are due by March 21, 2015. More information regarding this contest is also available on our website.

In February guests and members enjoyed a presentation on Ethics by Nebraska Counsel for Discipline Mark Weber. This

is our membership drive meeting and the event was free for guests. Now is a great time to join OLPA as our fiscal year begins April 1, 2015. We will be holding elections for the upcoming year at our March 18, 2015 meeting.

OLPA provides many opportunities to showcase your leadership skills on both the state and local levels. If you are looking for more networking opportunities or would like to take on a leadership role, consider becoming an OLPA member. Nominating your boss or receiving recognition for your accomplishments as a legal professional are just two more great reasons to consider becoming an OLPA member.

Visit our website at olpa.wildapricot.org for more information about these prestigious awards as well as information on upcoming meetings. For more information about OLPA, please contact me at valentina@huskerlaw.com or 402-415-2525.



OLPA is a professional organization open to all persons employed in, and/or interested in, work of a legal nature. Numerous opportunities are available in the areas of networking, professional development, education and leadership. Professional development is always a wise investment of your time.

More information about OLPA membership, meetings, activities, etc. is available at www.omahalegalprofessionals.com and on OLPA's Facebook page, Omaha Legal Professionals. Come join us!

NATIONAL EXPERIENCE – HOMETOWN TOUCH

Mock Trials and Focus Groups
Witness Preparation
Jury Selection
Settlement Strategy
Visual Presentation

Contact Omaha trial consultant **Karen Lisko, Ph.D.**,
at 402.933.6298 or klisko@persuasionstrategies.com
to learn more about how we can support your next case.



April 15
OLPA's Boss Appreciation
Night Dinner

Save the Date!

45th Annual Fall Kickoff BBQ

Thursday,

September 10, 2015

First National Wealth

Management

Hockey Hangout

115 OBA members and invited guests attended the 2nd Annual Young Lawyers Division "Hockey Hangout" event at the CenturyLink Arena on Friday, January 9th. Attendees mingled in the reception area (the Bud Light Zone), and watched the game from their lower bowl seats. The game turned to be an offensive thriller, with the UNO Mavs prevailing over the Denver Pioneers 5-4. Thank you to Thomas & Thomas Court Reporting for sponsoring the reception!



OBA Young Lawyers Division Baseball Game Watch

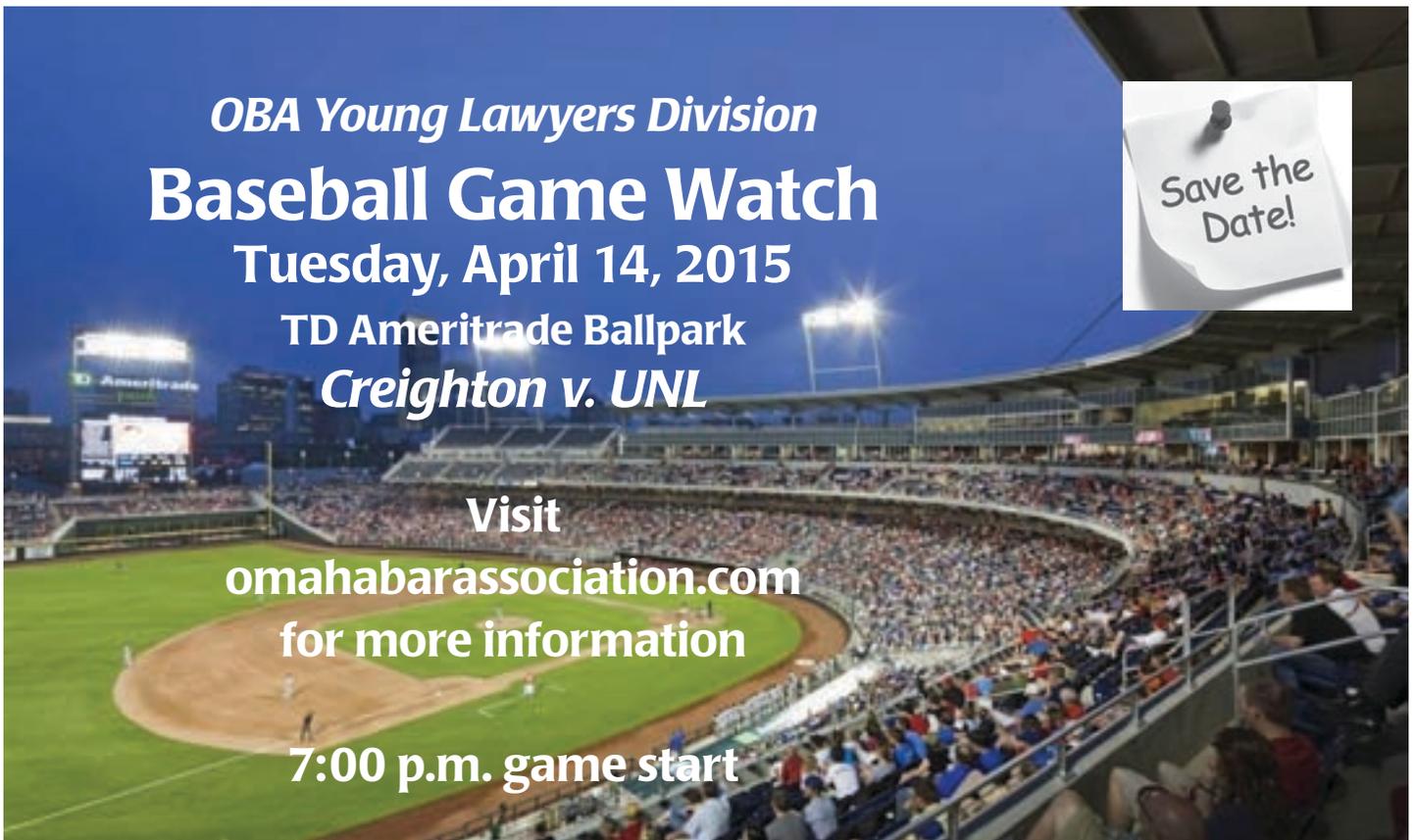
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

TD Ameritrade Ballpark
Creighton v. UNL

Visit

omahabarassociation.com
for more information

7:00 p.m. game start



OBA Lawyer Referral Service's CLE MashUp



On Friday, December 5, 2014, the OBA Lawyer Referral Service held its 2nd Annual December CLE at the Marriott Regency. The CLE was offered to members (and non-members) as a way to get 2 hours of continuing education credit before the end of the year deadline. Included in the CLE were remarks by **OBA Immediate Past President Stu Dornan, Matt Lathrop, Susan Foster, Sam DelSenno, Tracy Hightower Henne, Jodie McGill, and Susan Ann Koenig**. Topics discussed were criminal litigation tips, discovery strategies in the face of electronic documents, collaborative divorce, limited scope representation, and letting help into one's practice. The CLE was geared to solo and small firm practitioners, and the discussion on the subjects was lively.

Thank you for all those who attended. Save the date for the 2015 edition...Friday, December 11th!

Omaha Bar Association
NEWSLETTER

Omaha Bar Association
2133 California Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68178

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO. 1025

Omaha Bar Association
Newsletter

Managing Editors:

Stephen M. Bruckner
David Riley
Dave Sommers

Contributing Reporters:

Kim Brown (NePA)
Woody C. Harrwood
Douglas Law
Valentina Saavedra (OLPA)
Dave Sommers

Photographers:

Donna Birkby, Lorraine Boyd,
and Dave Sommers
Some photos courtesy of
The Daily Record

Design by:

Lorraine Boyd,
Avant Garde Publications

Printed by:

Elman & Co.

CALENDAR

April 2015

10 Friday

OBA/Creighton University
School of Law
9th Annual Seminar on
Ethics & Professionalism
Harper Center @ Creighton University

14 Tuesday

YLD Baseball Game Watch
TD Ameritrade Ballpark

30 Thursday

Law Day Luncheon
Marriott Regency

May 2015

22 Friday

Memorial Service
Douglas County Civic Building
Legislative Chambers

June 2015

1 Monday

Field Day
Champions Run

Please check the calendar on the OBA's Website for more details.
omahabarassociation.com