

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is startling to realize that out of approximately 2000 lawyers in the Omaha area, over 400 are not members of the Omaha Bar Association.

If you're reading this and are not an OBA member - particularly if you're a young lawyer - I urge you to join. If you're reading this and are an OBA member, and you know a non-member, please urge them to join.

When I was a young lawyer, my mentor **Marvin G. Schmid**, urged me to join and go the meetings. You'll want to meet and get to know your fellow lawyers, he said. You'll be dealing with them regularly. It was good advice then. It's good advice now.

One of the OBA's goals this year is to get non-members to join. OBA offers a lot. Not only do you have an opportunity to socialize and network, you can also take advantage of the activities and resources OBA offers. For example, Lawyer Referral; Mediation Referral; the Juvenile Court Diversion Program; the Committee on Domestic Violence; and mock trials in High Schools. You can come to lively events like the Fall Kick Off, and Field Day. You can serve on a Committee relating to your interests or expertise. You can receive the Newsletter to keep you abreast of what's happening in our legal community.

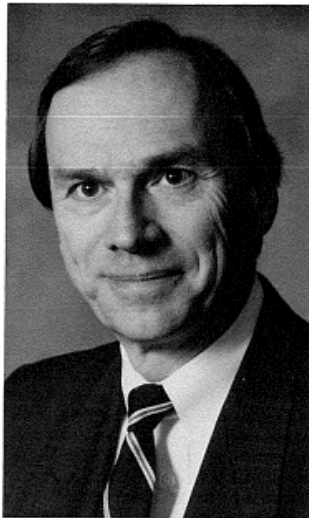
The above is just a sampling of what OBA offers.

You can be involved as you like. But the bottom line is that the OBA is a worthwhile organization and worthy of your time and interest.

If you wish to join, call **Mardee Korinek**, the OBA Executive Director, at **342-3786** and sign up. You won't regret it.

If you are reading this and are an OBA member, but haven't been much involved of late, please get more involved. Come to the monthly meetings. Join a Committee. Take advantage of all that OBA offers. You won't regret it, either.

The new officers and Executive Council are presently pondering goals for the next 12-month period. If you have thoughts or suggestions about what our goals should be, just call or write me or Mardee - or any officer or Executive



Council member you know. We would like your input.

There is one issue I would like you to consider as we move into election season. That is, the independence of our judiciary. Hopefully, we will not witness unfair or ill-informed attacks on our judges. Speak up for an independent judiciary whenever you can. Judges, unfortunately, cannot always speak openly or effectively for themselves. Recently, **Washington Post** columnist David Broder wrote a piece for the July 4th Holiday. He said in part:

"Independence Day produces lots of good oratory about the blessings of freedom, but rarely are we asked to consider how much the black-robed men and women who form the third branch of government contribute to the liberty we enjoy. We tend to take them for granted. But when the apostles of democracy visit China or the nations of the former Soviet Union, they teach that an unimpaired court system is every bit as important as a popularly elected legislature in guaranteeing the rule of law."

While you're at it, speak up for lawyers, too - if you're sufficiently courageous. I realize many laypeople consider lawyers at the bottom of the food chain. I doubt if that will ever

change. But remind people that **lawyers help people in trouble - in pain - in jail - and in dire distress**. Let's not discount that, or apologize for it. In James Michener's novel **Hawaii**, no more chilling episode could be imagined than the isolated island leper colony where the greeting to visitors was, "Here there is no law." We - lawyers and judges - uphold and give life to the law. Let's not forget that.

On a different note, I would commend to each of you the works of **Professor Joe Allegritti** of Creighton Law School. Professor Allegritti teaches ethics. He also conducts retreats for lawyers. His book, **The Lawyer's Calling**, should be read by all. He talks about the lawyer not just as a warrior, but as a healer, conciliator. One particularly fascinating aspect of his analysis is how lawyers compartmentalize their lives - how they're one thing at the office during the week, and quite another on weekends with their families. And what inner tension and dissatisfaction that can produce.

Professor Allegritti is provocative in his views as to what a lawyer should be and do. For example:

"My task as a lawyer is not only to give competent legal advice, although that is always required, but to serve as the moral companion of my client, encouraging my client to be the kind of person she can be at her best rather than helping her do what she can get away with at her worst."

"[A]ttorneys [must] break free of the hired gun model, which seduces them into bracketing moral concerns and concentrating solely on achieving the ends of their clients by all legally available means. Instead, they must come to see themselves as moral agents involved in a relationship with clients in which morals matter, both the morals of the client and the morals of the lawyer."

If you want food for thought, read Allegritti.

Finally, I look forward to the coming year. We have challenges and opportunities, as always. The new team is in place. Hopefully, we will have a satisfying, and gratifying, year ahead.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

It is amazing how time marches on - things change - life changes and we all find ourselves in different "arenas" of life.

I feel like my "soul has been restored" after spending seven days at the Lake of the Ozarks. That is the "arena" where I could spend the rest of my life. To me, it is the most calming and beautiful place I could find on earth. To have coffee while looking out on miles and miles of the lake, hearing the waves splash against the shore, watching all of nature's other activities and realizing that I am so lucky to be able to enjoy all this - even if only for seven days right now - gives me a reason to keep on "truckin'". Thanks to **Donna** for managing the office in my absence. She is so dependable. I knew you all were in "good hands!"

Life at OBA has changed as another year has gone by. **Sandy Dougherty** is now "past president" and **Mike Nelsen** is now president. Sandy has been active with the OBA since right after her graduation and it has been great to have her as the first woman president. She has been so well organized, intelligent, and fun...it is hard to say goodbye.

On the other hand, **Mike Nelsen** has stepped right up with new innovative ideas and much enthusiasm. He also has been active with the Bar for many years. He is an active president that will keep the organization right on track. He, too, is great to work with which is true of all the presidents. They have been an outstanding group. (See cover.)

Leaving the Executive Council are past-secretary, **Denise Hill**; past treasurer **Chuck Addy**; Executive Council members **Nancy Svoboda** and **Mark Laughlin**. I am sure though, with their conscientious and active interest in the bar, we have not seen the end of their involvement.

Donna and I have e-mail addresses. They are:
Mardee: mardee@worldnet.att.net
Donna: lawyerreferral.donna@worldnet.att.net

Let us hear from you! Please also note that the OBA phone number is wrong in the NSBA Directory. The correct number

is **342-3786**. Also, Donna's name is listed as "Donnal."

Shawn Ilg, Robert Laughlin and **Craig Borlin** were OBA's three speakers for the summer. Thanks to them.

The **Fall Kickoff** is scheduled for **September 3rd**. It is at the **First National Bank** new west location which will be even better (if possible) than the "old" location. Please support it and bring another attorney to join us. One goal this year is to build up membership and attendance and only with your help can we do it! Once again thanks to **Tom Gaughen** and all his "helpers," especially **Dixie Mather** of **First National Bank** for hosting this great event.

Let's make this a year to remember because the OBA is "Worth its Weight in Gold!"...**Mardee**

OMAHA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

By: **Jean Roeder**

As summer draws to a close, we are gearing up for another exciting and successful year. We hope to increase our local membership and offer more educational programs for our members. We plan to update the Legal Secretary's handbook. No law office will want to be without one.

In addition to regular monthly speakers, we will be having a **fall seminar at Creighton University on October 17**. A legal research segment will be offered in conjunction with a tour of Creighton's new law library. Watch the **Daily Record** for more details.

Our monthly meetings over the past year included segments on employment law, gangs and violence, road rage, women's history, confessions and the insanity defense. This year will offer more topics of interest to the legal professional.

Encourage your **legal professionals** to join us. Our informative programs are second to none. The cost is moderate; the information is priceless. You will be glad you did!