Board of Directors

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Legal Aid of Nebraska gratefully acknowledges the following major sources of operating funds:

Legal Services Corporation
Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy
Nebraska Lawyers’ Trust Account Foundation
Nebraska Law Firms & Attorneys

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Vice-President, Michael Schleich, J.D., Fraser Stryker, Omaha
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Judge Michael McGill, General Counsel Emeritus, Boys Town
Courtney Klein-Faust, J.D., Norfolk

Members of the Legal Aid of Nebraska Board of Directors. Seated, from left: Matthew G. Dunning, Board President; Janice Brown; Katherine Voorhees; Judge Michael McGill; Grace Pantoja. Standing, from left: Michael Schleich; Kathryn Olson; Larry Baumann; Susie Chief Bear; Ron Oleson; Mike Willet; Mike Burns. Not Shown: Courtney Klein-Faust; William Foley; LaShawn Young; Kile Johnson; Julianna Jenkins; William Tringe.
What happens when one of the most essential pillars of community responses to poverty fails during a major economic downturn? In the case of civil legal aid for the poor in Nebraska, we did not have to answer that question.

While legal aid programs across the country downsized because of crippling cuts to their revenues, Legal Aid of Nebraska kept its staff and ended 2009 without being forced to tap into our cash reserves.

Instead, Legal Aid actually expanded its services to the poor:

- We secured new funding to enhance and promote our statewide ElderAccessLine®.
- We began a program offering legal representation and training for domestic violence victims and advocates in the Winnebago, Omaha, and Santee Sioux tribes.
- We began a new medical-legal partnership serving cancer patients at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

All told, we provided legal representation, advice, and information to nearly 10 percent more people in 2009 than 2008.

It’s all about surviving the storm so that others who count on you stay dry.

But we did not end the year without challenges. National studies show that for every person who accesses legal aid, one gets turned away. That is certainly the case in Nebraska. With more than one out of six Nebraskans eligible for our services, the need is great and grows every day.

As always, fundraising for our mission is an ongoing challenge. We lost a federal grant for domestic violence work due to flat-lined funding, and the state Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program has been decimated by reduced economic activity and low interest rates.

Legal Aid survived a major threat in the Nebraska State Legislature in the fall. In addressing the budget deficit, the Unicameral considered a bill that would have, among other things, redirected dollars from the Legal Aid and Services Fund filing fee to the General Fund. Fortunately our friends in and out of the legislature rallied and the filing fee was preserved. And, federal legal services funding substantially increased for the second year in a row.

Notwithstanding the vagaries of fiscal fortunes we are doing well for our clients, as evidenced by a recent assessment by the US Government. During a week-long visit in November, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) – a federally financed, nonprofit corporation charged by Congress to regulate and fund civil legal services for the poor – assessed the performance of Legal Aid of Nebraska’s legal representation, financial management and general operations.

Their report found that “Legal Aid of Nebraska’s delivery structure is marked by a commitment to high quality work and a holistic approach. LAN regards itself as a law firm, a culture that is evidenced among staff, management and the board.

The work that the program does is strategically tied to the needs in the community. Overall, the program is highly effective in engaging with the low-income population. Its high quality legal work is conducted in a way so as to achieve the best outcomes for its clients.”

LSC also found that Legal Aid of Nebraska outperforms its peer organizations in other states: “The firm’s case closings are well above national medians. In 2008, LAN closed 527 cases per 10,000 low-income persons in its service area. This compares to the national median of cases closed per 10,000 poor of 254. In 2008, LAN closed 1,331 extended service cases (15.9 percent of the total cases) and 7,056 limited service cases (84.1 percent of the total cases). This amounts to 80 extended service cases per 10,000 poor and is [51 percent] higher than the national median of 53.”

Legal Aid’s financial management was also praised: “[The] financial administration staff has established systems and procedures which could well benefit the national legal aid community.”

And, despite our loss of federal domestic violence funding, LAN was able to garner significant private financial support along with other leveraged dollars to maintain our current services for victims of DV, including our instant access hotline for victims.

So now we look forward. In late 2010, Legal Aid will embark on a new legal needs assessment of the client population. A lot has changed since our landmark 2007 Client Needs Assessment report. In reviewing that report, I was pleased to see how many of the findings, later incorporated in our 2008 strategic planning document, have been fully implemented as part of our practice.

I am looking forward to working with our staff, Board and stakeholders in engaging the civil legal services constituency to shore up what works and see where we go next as a firm. Also in 2010 Legal Aid will initiate a new three-year Bar Campaign to enhance and expand attorney support of Legal Aid’s services.

I am sure that all of our current supporters will be as generous as they have been (if not more so) and I eagerly anticipate partnering with our campaign committees to attract new donors to our mission.

That mission – “To promote Justice, Dignity, Hope and Self-sufficiency through quality civil legal aid for those who have no where else to turn” – is what a strong and vital civil legal services provider for the poor is all about. It’s the income maintained. It’s the shelter preserved. It’s the safety ensured. It is the shelter from the storm.
Joining with Other Organizations Extends Our Reach

A unique medical-legal partnership begun in 2009 by Legal Aid of Nebraska and The Nebraska Medical Center is helping cancer patients deal with legal problems.

The partnership began when Executive Director David Pantos met with Dr. Kerry Rodabaugh, M.D., associate professor in obstetrics-gynecology and a gynecological oncologist at The NU Nebraska Medical Center who had moved to Omaha from Buffalo, N.Y.

“I found myself taking care of women with recurrent cervical cancer, and when it’s recurrent, it’s usually terminal,” Dr. Rodabaugh said. “Many of these women were single parents with young children and had no legal arrangements in place for the children.”

So Dr. Rodabaugh pioneered a medical-legal partnership in Buffalo to handle the problems cancer patients would encounter, such as custody issues, powers of attorney, foreclosures and benefit advocacy. Convinced of the program’s effectiveness, Dr. Rodabaugh brought the idea with her to Omaha, eventually meeting up with Pantos.

“Dr. Rodabaugh told me about her experience with a successful medical-legal partnership for cancer patients and it made perfect sense that a similar program could work well in Omaha,” Pantos said.

“Legal Aid drafted an agreement, which received input from attorney Howard Hahn, working on behalf of The Nebraska Medical Center. Luckily, Hahn is a former president of the Legal Aid board of directors.”

“I think this shows that we’re paying attention to the entire patient,” Rodabaugh said. “We’re not just taking care of cancer with chemotherapy, radiation and surgery; we’re addressing everything else that goes into the treatment of the individual.”
As part of the Legal Aid – NU Medical Center agreement, a Legal Aid attorney is always available to consult on issues over the phone and visits the hospital and its clinics once a week. There, attorney Ann Mangiameli meets right at the bedside with cancer patients, working them through their legal issues. So far, both partners consider the process a great success.

“The Nebraska Medical Center is heavily involved and supportive of this program,” Pantos said. “Their social work staff, oncology-hematology department and many other groups are totally invested, and their cancer patients are the ultimate winners.”

Legal Aid Deputy Director Annette Farnan said the partnership has also been positive for Nebraska Medical Center patients from outside of Nebraska, particularly Iowa. “Many cancer patients come to the medical center from western Iowa, so we brought in Iowa Legal Aid as an unfunded partner,” Farnan said. “I would not be surprised if the idea catches on so well there that they develop their own medical – legal partnership at Iowa’s top hospitals.”

**Legal Aid and Creighton University Provide Migrant Outreach**

Legal Aid of Nebraska and Creighton University in 2009 partnered together to assist migrant workers and families throughout the state.

The initiative, dubbed the Nebraska Migrant Action Coalition, brought together migrant workers and their families at churches, community halls and other public places to learn more about their rights. Legal Aid’s Kay Strong coordinated the outreach in conjunction with Creighton’s Director of Multicultural Affairs, Ricardo Ariza.

Ariza recruited Creighton students to assist the effort. Some met with migrant families in July to perform glaucoma screenings in Scottsbluff and Imperial. Others helped Legal Aid representatives explain the finer points of their rights on issues such as landlord tenant conflicts, family law, health care, abuse, banking and housing. Creighton’s students represented a variety of disciplines, including pre-law and social sciences.

Strong and Legal Aid’s Valentina Saavedra also produced a handbook explaining many of these legal issues in both English and Spanish. “It was very user friendly,” said Annette Farnan, deputy director.

Strong said she expects the initiative to continue in 2010, with Ariza recruiting students and Legal Aid staffers to assist the effort. The Coalition’s focus will be primarily on central and north central Nebraska migrant communities.

**Client: Legal Aid Changed My Life**

Assisting with domestic violence cases continued unabated in 2009 after Legal Aid of Nebraska lost its funding under the Justice Department’s VAWA program.

Private donors provided the necessary funds for Legal Aid attorneys to assist families in crisis, including a case handled by Kelly Boswell.

A Legal Aid client who faced a much-needed divorce and child custody situation came to Boswell for help. The woman’s husband was physically abusive, hitting and kicking her at every opportunity.

Boswell said that getting the woman her own safe place to live was a “combination effort” and that “everybody but the husband was helping out.” The husband was not working and threatened to never pay child support. The wife believed he was selling drugs to avoid paying child support and he told her he planned to never work again.

The victim’s in-laws and a friend offered her places to stay – rent free – and saved her money so she could get a place of her own. She also needed transportation and used her tax refund to buy a new car.

Once the woman’s basic necessities were met, she found a job working as a prison guard. Her newfound salary helped her pay for an apartment of her own, and, with state help, she found daycare for her children. Once the wife was no longer economically dependent on the abusive husband, she was able to fully assert herself.

Legal Aid’s Boswell got the woman a divorce along with full custody of her children in a default proceeding, due to the husband’s uncooperative behavior.

At the conclusion of the representation, the grateful client returned a satisfaction survey in which she noted: “Mr. Boswell helped me tremendously. Now I have a great job and a new life and I’m very happy.”

Kelly Boswell

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA 5
Publicity Delivers Legal Aid Message

Publicity is essential in getting Legal Aid’s messages delivered to our many publics, including donors, potential donors, elected officials, lawmakers and others.

In 2009, the Legal Aid story appeared in newspapers and magazines, on statewide NET television, local television and on radio.

For instance, an article that appeared in the Norfolk, Neb., Daily News, told of the key role being played by the Rural Response Hotline: “The hotline is one of the primary services provided by the Farm Crisis Response Council through Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska. Housed in the farm law office of Lincoln-based Legal Aid in Bancroft, it’s the longest-running farm and ranch hotline in the country as well. The hotline fielded 3,888 calls in 2009, said Soll, who has been involved with the hotline for over 10 years. No community is exempt — a ‘chemistry student’ could be a new town to me,’ she said.

The hotline is filled with tips and tricks by such figures as weather, livestock, minimized stress. Other helplines include government services, land grants, utilities, and more. Visitors to the site can enter a legal services complaint or a legal issue and contact a staff member.

Soll and Marcy Beetsdorff, representatives of a ministry called “Farm Legal Aid” at the 20th annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Kearney, which was co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture.

Rural Response Hotline

By Mary Pat Wad

Farm Crisis Response Council

RURAL – The year was 1998. Times were “bru-tal,” said Soll, legal director for Rural Legal Aid of Nebraska. “It’s been a rough ride on the farm, and Melissa Soll, an attorney with Legal Aid, was one of the people who came to the aid of those in need.

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Soll pointed out that the hotline fielded 3,888 calls in 2009, said Soll, who has been involved with the hotline for over 10 years. No community is exempt — a ‘chemistry student’ could be a new town to me,’ she said.

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Quoting Michelle Soll of Legal Aid’s Bancroft office, the story also pointed out that the hotline fielded 3,888 calls the previous year, and those calls come literally from everywhere in Nebraska. “There’s not one town that would be a new town to me,” Soll told the newspaper.

Legal Aid Web Site is Updated

Low-income clients will have an easier path in helping themselves via Legal Aid’s revamped Web Site at http://www.legalaidofnebraska.com.

All changes are aimed at increasing ease of use and functionality. Clients now see a cleaner, easier-to-navigate home page, easy access to staff directories, cleaner paths to important documents and phone numbers.

The search engine has been redesigned to assist users with legal issues. Visitors to the site can enter a brief description of their legal issues or questions and are then redirected to an accurate list of search results.

The Web Site also is used for communications and includes Legal Aid’s Annual Reports and Briefly newsletters. Legal Aid also has joined Facebook, a social networking site that allows people to interact online.

Homeless Projects Needed More than Ever

Legal Aid’s Homeless projects proved to be lifesavers in Lincoln and Omaha during the rough economic times of 2009.

Attorneys Lori Wilson and Pat Ford saw to it that small and large legal problems did not become “rock bottom” for hundreds of Nebraskans seriously down on their luck.

Wilson, who recently moved to the Grand Island office, encountered a man at the Peoples’ City Mission, Lincoln’s only homeless shelter. He qualified for Social Security Disability but those cases often take up to two years, Wilson noted. "In the meantime, these people"
are unable to work, have no income, and they sleep on the streets or at the mission.”

After applying for help from Lancaster County’s General Assistance program, the man was denied. That’s when Wilson stepped in to handle an appeal and was able to provide proper documentation, including information about his prior employment. The client had left the job as he was no longer able to perform his duties because of his disability.

In November, Wilson’s client was approved for General Assistance. He now receives a stipend from that program, plus food stamps, and his approval qualified him for low-income housing.

Representing Nebraskans Sometimes Involves the World

Providing legal representation for low-income Nebraskans sometimes involves issues with roots far outside of the state’s borders.

The Grand Island office discovered that in a 2009 matter involving Sudanese refugees who fled to central Nebraska to escape war and poverty in their North African native land.

Grand Island’s strong agricultural community and meatpacking industry offered the refugees a chance at jobs, growth and family livelihood. While most Grand Islanders accepted their new neighbors, the refugees – some from opposite sides among warring tribes in the homeland – soon recognized they needed some sort of “organization” to assist them in their dealings with government and business.

Legal Aid of Nebraska stepped in and assisted the new Nebraskans in forming a non-profit corporation and we are currently helping them obtain their federal 501(c)(3) status.

The new legal status facilitated the settlement of old tribal differences and helped them receive financial aid and social coaching to assist in the transition to their new home. The newly organized approach became a key to legitimizing the population’s status in Grand Island, showing a desire to participate in American social structures.

Legal Aid Staffers Provide Education

Education is a big part of the work of Legal Aid attorneys and staff members – besides their daily work of assisting people deal with legal issues.

Attorney Pat Ford of the Omaha office (photo at right) recently spoke to a group of young people at Goodwill Industries about job skills. His presentation was funded by the Department of Labor.

Throughout Nebraska, Legal Aid staff members frequently speak at seminars, meetings and focus groups on topics ranging from Farm-Ranch law to Elder law to Immigration issues and many other topics.

“Information is so important for everyone, particularly to low-income Nebraskans,” said Executive Director Dave Pantos. “By helping people learn, we help ourselves become more effective in delivering our services.”
Under the 501(c)(3) umbrella, the refugees worked with local authorities including police to improve understanding of cultural differences.

In creating the non-profit organization, Legal Aid helped the Sudanese Refugee community take a giant step in the direction of self-sufficiency.

Awards Recognize
Legal Aid’s 2009 Performance

A pair of recent awards given by significant public service organizations have recognized Legal Aid of Nebraska’s special efforts during 2009.

More than 350 people gathered at the Scott Conference Center for United Way of the Midlands’ annual meeting and awards function. Among them were businesses and other supporters who helped generate $21.1 million for the United Way.

Omaha Philanthropist Dick Holland was honored along with Legal Aid’s Executive Director Dave Pantos. Holland received United Way’s Citizen of the Year Award while Pantos accepted the Chair’s Partnership Award for its work on behalf of refugees, asylees and immigrants on a path to citizenship.

“Thank you very much for this honor,” said Pantos. “I must speak on behalf of Legal Aid – its board and staff – by appreciating how much United Way brings people together and organizations together in the community to find real solutions for those who need it the most.”

“Legal Aid is to bring justice, hope and dignity through free, civil legal services for those who have no where else to turn, and certainly to these new Americans who are joining us every day from war-torn nations as refugees or as asylees,” Pantos added.

“They are certainly the ones who have nowhere else to turn and the fact that the United Way supports Legal Aid, as well as our other partners, at the International Center who are providing these essential services, is just remarkable and I really must personally praise their commitment to these new Americans.”

In a second ceremony, The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) presented Legal Aid with its “Non-profit of the Year” Award.

The DVCC noted how Legal Aid continued to provide legal help to domestic violence victims in 2009 – despite losing a substantial portion of its government funding.

Pantos praised private donors who “came through” for Legal Aid so that all domestic violence programs could continue.

89 Percent of Revenue Spent on Services

Donors and other supporters of the mission of Legal Aid of Nebraska can rest assured their dollars and efforts are well placed.

According to the 2009 Operating Statement (page 15), 89 cents out of every dollar that Legal Aid received went for program services – directly helping low-income Nebraskans deal with their legal issues.

“In 2009 we spent just over $600,000 for administration and fundraising,” said Executive Director Dave Pantos. “That means more than $4.86 million went for program services.”

“‘There are very few service organizations anywhere with that high of a service to cost ratio,’ Pantos added.
Special Client Services

Because of an ever-growing population of Nebraskans who qualify for our services, Legal Aid makes continuous efforts to stretch our effectiveness. The following initiatives and special services ensured that in 2009 we served more deserving people.

- Legal Aid’s **Farm/Ranch and Rural Response Hotline** helps rural residents to get accurate information on financial matters, law, risk management and counseling or referrals to other community groups. This is managed by the Bancroft office in partnership with Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

- Information on tax rights and responsibilities is delivered throughout the state to English as a Second Language and low-income populations via our **Low-Income Tax Clinics**. Participants also get advice and representation in controversies involving the IRS.

- Most of our legal services begin with the statewide toll-free **AccessLine®** where attorneys and paralegals offer advice, brief service, referrals and extended representation.

- As part of our **Elder Law Program®** attorneys travel throughout northeast Nebraska to provide legal education, advice, brief services and direct representation and help with wills, durable powers of attorney and health care directives.

- For those age 60 and over, the **ElderAccessLine®** is staffed by an experienced paralegal who confers with an attorney. There is no income eligibility restriction.

- Civil legal services are available to Migrant Workers via the **Migrant Worker Program**.

- Our **Bilingual Program** helps Nebraskans who are not proficient in English by providing educational materials in their native languages, plus translation and interpretation services.

- Legal help is delivered to the homeless and their families by attorneys who regularly visit shelters under the **Homeless Assistance Project**.

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**Firm Members**

**NATIVE AMERICAN PROJECT**
EMANUEL-MOORE, Elise – Native American Project Coordinator
D’SOUZA, Mike – Law Clerk
SEAGRASS, Jonathan – Attorney
THIN ELK, Theresa – DV Attorney

**BANCROFT (Farm Ranch Project)**
SOLL, Michelle – Project Manager
MARR, Lori – Administrative Assistant

**GRAND ISLAND**
STRONG, Kay – Managing Attorney
GAMBOA, Rodrigo – Coordinator of Minority Programs
SCHOTT, Crystal – Paralegal
SUKRAW-LUTZ, Ann – Paralegal

**LINCOLN**
CARRAHER, Patrick – Managing Attorney
BERNT, Heather – Paralegal
BESTUL, Mark – Attorney
BORGERDING-KULWICKI, Jennifer – Attorney
CEBALLOS, Kristin – Paralegal
IMMENSCHUH, Lakeshia – Receptionist
LEWIT, Brittani – Attorney
MILLIGAN, John – Attorney
PENG, Shirley – Attorney
RODRIGUEZ, Hazell – Attorney
STICE, Cheryl – Administrative Assistant
WILSON, Lori – Attorney
WROBLEWSKI, Lea – Attorney
YOUNG, Adam – Law Clerk

**NORFOLK**
LEE, Lori – Managing Attorney
McMAHON, Amanda – Attorney
WESCHE, Kathy – Paralegal

**NORTH PLATTE**
EASTMAN, Jeffrey – Managing Attorney
CARPENTER, Victoria – Paralegal
FARRITOR, Shawn – Attorney
Firm Members

OMAHA
HEANEY, Muire - Managing Attorney
BOSWELL, Kelly - Attorney
D’AMATO, Elaine - Attorney
FORD, Pat - Attorney
HENDERSON, Jennifer - Paralegal
LESLIE, Megan - Paralegal
MANGIAMELI, Ann - Attorney
McSHANE, Anne - Attorney
MERTZ, Scott - Attorney
MU, Xiao - Law Clerk
NADING, Laurie - Paralegal
REED, KaliSha - Paralegal
RIVERIA, Tim - Attorney
SCHAEFER, Margaret - Elder AL Attorney
MARCOTTE, Anne - Paralegal
DUNOVAN, Kimberly - AL Attorney
BRADLEY, Christina - Paralegal
DUNOVAN, Kimberly - AL Attorney
MATHESON, Jessica - Intake Paralegal
GOLD, Kelly - Paralegal
SCHAFER, Josh - Intern
SHANNON, Leliana - Attorney
OMAHA (AccessLine®/ElderAccessLine®)
HEER-DALE, Laurel - AL Managing Attorney
BEZRUTCYK, Anna - Intake Paralegal
BRADLEY, Christina - Intake Paralegal
DUNOVAN, Kimberly - AL Attorney
MARKCROTE, Anne - Intake Attorney
MATHESON, Jessica - Intake Paralegal
McGILL, Jennifer - Paralegal
McGILL, Jennifer - Paralegal
SCHAEFER, Margaret - Elder AL Attorney
STOLARSKYJ, Kathleen - Intake Paralegal
STOLARSKYJ, Kathleen - Intake Paralegal
OMAHA (Administration)
PANTOS, Dave - Executive Director
BROOKS, Ed - Accounting Manager
FARNAN, Annette - Deputy Director
FEELHAVER, Rod - CFO
GAUGHAN, Jennifer - Dir. of Litigation & Adv.
KAMMERER, Mike - Tech. Coordinator
MASON, Venita - Receptionist
PERRY, Selina - HUD Coordinator/Grants Mgr.
STOLARSKYJ, Christine - PAI Coordinator
WILLIAMS, Emma - Administrative Assistant
SCOTTSBLUFF
SKELECHER, Shelldon - Managing Attorney
MILLER, Casey - Attorney
PALOMO, Amanda - Paralegal
PETTIS, Alena - Paralegal

2008-2010
Bar Campaign Committees

OMAHA COMMITTEE
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Tom Daulk, Co-Chair, Blockwell Sanders
Steve Achelopohl
Woody Bradford, Bradford Caenen
John Brownrigg, Erickson Sederstrom
Dan Cheshire, Lamson Dugan
Bruce Clawson, Kiewit
Bill Dittrick, Baird Holm
Matthew Dunning, J.D.
David Ernst, Pasang Hogan
William T. Foley, Erickson Sederstrom
Gerald Friedhnsen, Fitzgerald Scharr
Tom Grennan, Gross Welch
David Houghton, Lieben Whitted
The late Gordon Hauptman, Hauptman O'Brien
Muire Heaney, Legal Aid of Nebraska
John Herdzina, Abrahams Kaslow
Tom Jenkins, Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Paul Jessen, Koley Jessen
Mike Kinney, Cassem Tierney
Mike Leahy, Medicare Insurance
Amy Longo, Ellick Jones
Judge Michael McGill, Boys Town
Mike Nelsen, Hillman Forman
Karla Rupiper, Koley Jessen
Michael Schleich, Fraser Stryker
Paul Shatcoski, Fraser Stryker
Ed Warin, McGrath North
John Wilke
Patty Zieg, Stinson Morrison

LINCOLN COMMITTEE
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Steve Nelsen, Co-Chair, Cline Williams
Hal Anderson, ACW Law
Joe Badami, Woods Atken
Con Keating, Keating O’Gara
Christie Schroff, Schwartzkopf / Schroff & Holmquist
Herb Friedman, Friedman Law
Jen Gaughan, Legal Aid of Nebraska
Jim Gordon, DeMars Gordon
John Guthery, Perry Guthery Hoase & Gessford
Bill Harding, Harding Schultz
Mark Hassebrook, Wolfe Snowden

OMAHA COMMITTEE
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Bob Lange, Amentas
Steve Mooman, Mattson Ricketts
Bob Neftsky, Rembolt Ludtke
Kathy Olson, J.D.
Dick Peterson, Crete Carrier
Rick Reier, Knudson Berkheimer
Steve Seglin, Crosby Guenzel
Teresa Skretta, ACW Law
Don Witt, Baylor Evans
Jack Wolfe, Wolfe Snowden

GREATER NEBRASKA EAST COMMITTEE
Mark Fitzgerald, Co-Chair, Fitzgerald Vetter, Norfolk
Mike Flood, Co-Chair, Jewell Collins Delay & Flood, Norfolk
Mike Burns, Shoemaker Witt & Burns, Hastings
Charlie Campbell, Angel Murphy Valention & Campbell, York
Michael Dunn, Halbert Dunn & Halbert, Falls City
Richard Halbert, Halbert Dunn & Halbert, Falls City
Geoffrey Hall, Blair
Dennis Hurley, Hurley Law, South Sioux City
Mark Sipple, Sipple Hansen Emerson & Schumacher, Columbus
Jeffrey Wagner, Schirber & Wagner, Papillion

GREATER NEBRASKA WEST COMMITTEE
Marty Connealy, Co-Chair, Crites Shaffer Connealy
Watson & Harford, Chadron
Royce Norman, Co-Chair, Norman Paloucek & Herman, North Platte

PAST CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS
John Brownrigg, Erickson & Sederstrom, Omaha
The late Robert Chaloupka, Chaloupka, Holyoke, Hofmeister & Snyder, Scottsbluff
Linda Crump J.D., Asst. to the Chancellor for Equity, Access & Diversity, UNL
Bob Freeman, Fraser Stryker, Omaha
Jim Hewitt, NEBCO, Lincoln
David Jacobson, Kutak Rock, Omaha
Hon. Norman Krivosha, (ret.), Kutak Rock
Anne Wimmer, Keating O’Gara, Lincoln
Patty Zieg, Stinson Morrison Hecker, Omaha
2009 Bar Campaign Donors

$20,000 +
Kutak Rock

$15,000-$19,999
Husch Blackwell Sanders
Baird Holm Law Firm
McGrath North

$10,000-$14,999
Lamson Dugan & Murray
Simmons Olsen Law Firm
Fraser Stryker
Koley Jessen PC

$5,000-$9,999
Gross Welch
Baylor Evnen
Erickson and Sederstrom
Cline Williams

$2,000-$4,999
Suiter Swantz, PC, LLO
Abrahams Kaslow
Stinson Morrison Hecker
Brasher LLP
Chaloupka, Holyoke, Hofmeister, & Snyder
Cassim Tierney Adams Gotch & Douglas
Harding & Shultz, PC, LLO
Knudsen Berkheimer

$1,000-$1999
Mattson Ricketts
Ruth Mueller Robak LLC
Valentine, O’Tool, McQuillan, Gordon
Johnson Podman Guenzel & Widger
Royce E. Norman
Bradford & Coenen
Croker Huck Kasher DeWitt
Anderson & Gonderinger
DeMars Gordon
Perry Guthery Haase
Woods & Atken
Hauptman O’Brien Wolfe & Lathrop
Hotz Weaver
Gary Gotsdiner

$500-$999
Kristine Brennies
Hoppe, Harner, Vogt, & Barrows, LLP
Kinsey Rowe Becker & Kistler LLP
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Raymond Atwood, Jr.
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Mark Fitzgerald
Wolfe Snowden
Timothy Cuddigan
Byram & Hoarty
Kelly Thomas
Crites Shaffer Connealy & Watson

$200-$499
Bruce Clawson
Charles W. Campbell
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James S. Hempel, Jr;
Jennifer Gaughan
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Mark Sipple
Melanie Knoepfle
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$100-$199
Anne Winner
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Timothy D. Louden
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June Edwards
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Michael J. Matukewicz
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Shon T. Liske
Stan Emerson
Thomas G. Liske
Timothy D. Louden
William Tringe
June Edwards
Mark R. McKeone
Michael J. Matukewicz
Valentina Saavedra

2009 Federal, State and County Grants

Legal Services Corp..............................................$1,623,974
Commission on Public Advocacy
Legal Aid & Services Fund.........................$1,427,235
Civil Legal Aid & Service Fund......................$150,000

Department of Justice
Violence Against Women Grant...............$300,000
Violence Against Women
Native American Grant.......................$45,232

Lancaster County
Juvenile Contracts..................................$282,147
Joint Budget Commission......................$30,000

Interest on Lawyers
Trust Accounts (IOLTA).......................$225,000

Nebraska Department of Agriculture..................$143,068

West Tennessee Legal Services..................$60,162

Nebraska Health & Human Services.........$56,308

Northeast Nebraska
Area Agency on Aging..............................$30,128

Administrations on Aging –
Model Approaches.........................$28,748

IRS - Low Income Tax Center...............$22,605

NE Association
Area Agencies on Aging..................$21,800

US Department of Agriculture
Risk Management Education............$21,464

2009 United Way

United Way Lancaster County..................$31,749
United Way Midlands.........................$40,200
We greatly appreciate our donors who make sure that we live up to our mission of “promoting justice, hope, dignity and self-sufficiency through quality civil legal aid for those who have nowhere else to turn.”

The Sherwood Foundation......$75,000
Interchurch Ministries            of Nebraska.................$62,220
Woods Charitable Foundation........$25,000
William & Ruth Scott Foundation......$25,000
University of Nebraska Medical Center........$16,643
Lozier Foundation..................$15,000
Perkins Foundation.................$10,000

Rupert Dunklau
Foundation, Inc...................$10,000
Omaha Community Foundation........$7,500
Wells Fargo Foundation.............$3,000
First National Bank................$2,500
Charles Schwab Foundation...........$2,500
US Bank................................$1,500
John and Diane Scott...............$1,000
American National Bank.............$1,000
Wilcox Foundation................$500

2009 Cases Closed

$250 – $999
Christopher D. Phillips
Joan Kramer
Garner Girthhoffer
Andrew Robert Knudsen
David P and Lea A Bailis
Eric Seacrest
Louise Rinn
Timothy Cuddigan

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Wayne and Sarita Penka
Helen Wengert

2009 Revenue

Federal (43%)
State (37%)
County (6%)
Foundations & Private Donors (5%)
Bar Campaign/Attorneys & Law Firms (3%)
United Way (1%)
Miscellaneous (5%)

2009 Cases Closed

Family (49%)
Consumer/Finance (19%)
Housing (10%)
Miscellaneous (6%)
Income Maintenance (5%)
Juvenile (5%)
Individual Rights (2%)
Employment (2%)
Health (1%)
Education (1%)

2009 Foundation Donors

$100 – $249
David Pantos
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Helen Wengert
PAI Attorneys Work Hard to Help Legal Aid

Steven Twohig of Fremont is one of many private attorneys who devote part of their practice to assisting Nebraska’s low-income population at reduced rates through Legal Aid of Nebraska’s Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) program.

Since 2003, Twohig—a 2001 graduate of the University of Nebraska’s College of Law—has taken on PAI work in addition to his usual caseload at Twohig Law Office. Since then, he’s handled more than 70 cases for Legal Aid. Twohig’s first PAI cases came at a critical time in his career, too, as he formed his own practice that same year after working for one-and-a-half years at another firm.

Twohig’s PAI caseload differs little from his day-to-day work. “Basically, I handle all kinds of cases,” Twohig says. “But I don’t represent rapists, pedophiles or domestic abusers.”

Of all his cases during his seven-year tenure as a PAI attorney, Twohig’s first case sticks out the most. It was then that he learned of Legal Aid’s commitment to those most vulnerable…and of the firm’s commitment to providing thorough preparatory work in pre-screening cases. This process allows the PAI attorney to have as much information as necessary to move forward with each case, making the outcomes much more predictable.

“These people who come to Legal Aid have taken the first step in reversing their cycle of abuse. And in the case of abuse, it’s a double winner for me because I’m able to help someone move away from an abusive person in their life and, at the same time, have a good chance of winning the case.

“Legal Aid is helpful because they prepare each case but don’t micro-manage you as you go along.”

Ultimately, Twohig says, the most rewarding gratification comes from not just winning cases, but in having a positive, direct impact on the lives of grateful people.

2009 PAI Attorneys

Hugh Abrahamson, Omaha
Mark Albin, Norfolk
Sophia Alvarez, Kearney
Avis Andrews, Fremont
Susan Beel, Valentine
John Begley, Omaha
Travis Bennington, Fremont
Richard Birch, North Platte
Jennifer Birmingham, Bloomfield
Michael Borders, Broken Bow
Christine Boydston, Fremont
Al Corey, Grand Island
Kelly Coughlin, Omaha
Robert Coupland, Valentine
Bruce Dalluge, Tecumseh
Rachel Daughtery, Grand Island
Candace Dick, Sutton
Michael Dunn, Falls City
Steve Elmshaeuser, Sidney
Jeffrey Ensz, Minden
Marsha Fangmeyer, Kearney
Keith Filewicz, Omaha
Steve Fillman, York
Todd Flynn, Ainsworth
Leta Fornoff, Fremont
Maurice Green, McCook
Scott Gropp, Wilber
Cheryl Guggenmos, Broken Bow
Scott Hahn, Omaha
Christopher Halbert, Falls City
Geoffrey Hall, Blair
Robert Harvey, Ogallala
Angela Heimes, Omaha
Randy Hisey, Sioux City IA
Jeff Hubka, Beatrice
Greg Jensen, Ord
Chris Johnson, Hastings
Gerald Johnson, Plattsmouth
Kathleen Koenig Rockey, Norfolk
Barbara Kueny, Omaha
Jaquelin “[J]” Leef, Sidney
Lucy Lewno, Yankton SD
Shon Lieske, Minden
Thomas Lieske, Minden
Tina Marroquin, Lincoln
Bryan McQuay, Alma
Michael Mead, Hastings
Angela Slattery Minahan, Plattsmouth
John Moeller, Sioux City IA
James Moravek, Alliance
Matthew Munderloh, Oakland
Timothy Noerrlinger, Nebraska City
Mike Nozicka, North Platte
Michelle Oldham, Hastings
Rodney Palmer, Ainsworth
Robert Parker, Hastings
Gary Peterson, Broken Bow
Shane Placek, Fremont
Jerry Pollard, Yankton SD
Jan Reeves, Grand Island
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Stephen Scherr, Hastings
Nathan Schneider, McCook
Melissa Schutt, Fremont
Curtis Skyltå, Ord
Julie Hogancamp Smith, Tecumseh
Richard Smith, Tecumseh
Gail Steen, Lincoln
Robert Sullivan, Hastings
Anne Swanda, Broken Bow
Adam Tripp, Fremont
Steven Twohig, Fremont
Nicholas Valle, Hastings
Rhonda Vetovský, McCook
Lori Zeilinger, Grant
Michael Ziskey, Nebraska City
### Nebraska IOLTA Participating Financial Institutions

The Nebraska Lawyers Trust Account Foundation thanks the following financial institutions for participating in the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. Over 260 financial institutions and over 2,800 lawyers join together in this worthwhile cause. Financial institutions waiving service charges are designated with an asterisk (*).

#### Nebraska IOLTA Participating Financial Institutions

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<td>Heritage Bank</td>
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<td>Wymore</td>
<td>*Pinnacle Bank</td>
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<td>York</td>
<td>Cornerstone Bank, *Midwest Bank, *Union Bank &amp; Trust, York State Bank &amp; Trust Co</td>
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14 ANNUAL REPORT 2009
2009 Audited
Operating Statement

REVENUE
Legal Services Corporation
   Basic Field..........................$1,543,681
   Native American.................. 35,322
   Migrant Worker..................... 44,971
   Technology Grant.................. 0
Lancaster County Juvenile
   Court & JBC..........................312,147
Northeast Nebraska Area
   Agency on Aging.................... 30,128
Nebraska Commission on
   Public Advocacy....................1,427,235
Department of Housing &
   Urban Development.............. 60,162
Violence Against Women Act....... 445,232
U.S. Department of Agriculture.... 164,532
Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska 62,220
Interest on Lawyers Trust Fund.... 225,000
United Way of the Midlands....... 40,200
United Way Lancaster County....... 31,749
ElderAccessLine® Grant............ 50,548
HUD Homeless Grants.............. 56,308
Civil Legal Serv. Fund............. 150,000
University of NE Med Center....... 16,643
Internal Revenue Service/LITC..... 22,605
Investment Income.................. 270,246
Other Income........................ 15,130
Contributions....................... 379,131
Contributed Services.............. 137,765

Total Revenue.................. 5,520,955

Net Assets at 12-31-09............ 2,502,511

NOTE: Best practices for non-profit organizations indicate that the organization should have operating reserves equal to between 3 and 6 months operating expenses. At 12-31-09, Legal Aid of Nebraska had operating reserves of approximately 4.1 months, based on the 2010 budget.

EXPENDITURES
Salaries..............................$2,991,196
Employee Benefits.................. 824,059
Payroll Taxes....................... 213,924
Contracted Services............... 196,407
Private Atty Contracts............ 137,765
Discounted or Donated Private
   Attorney Involvement............ 137,765
Supplies............................ 49,799
Telephone.......................... 105,452
Postage and Shipping............. 29,160
Occupancy.......................... 225,893
Printing............................ 2,743
Recruiting......................... 3,843
Transportation..................... 120,691
Training............................ 58,343
Maintenance and Repairs......... 16,712
Equipment Rental.................. 27,467
Litigation Costs................... 31,167
Insurance.......................... 55,689
Dues................................. 27,241
Technical Support.................. 35,942
Miscellaneous...................... 13,837
Library.............................. 25,901
Development....................... 91,452
Depreciation....................... 47,247

Total Expenditures............... $5,469,695

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE BREAKDOWN
Program Services – 89%.............$4,868,029
Admin. & Fundraising – 11%......... 601,666

Total Expenditures............... $5,469,695

Our Mission
To promote justice, dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency through quality civil legal aid for those who have nowhere else to turn.

Our Vision
To provide quality legal aid and access to the justice system for all persons living in Nebraska who have limited resources.

Our Values
- Equal Access to Justice
- Client Empowerment
- High Standard of Professionalism
- Efficient Use of Resources
- Collaboration
- Diversity
LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA does not discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, citizen or authorized alien status, veteran status or disability in the administration of any of its programs.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA OFFICE LOCATIONS
Omaha – 1904 Farnam St., Suite 500, Omaha, NE 68102
402-348-1069, 402-348-1068 fax
Lincoln – 941 “O” St., Suite 825, Lincoln, NE 68508
North Platte – 102 E. 3rd St., Suite 102, North Platte, NE 69103
Scottsbluff – 1423 1st Ave., Scottsbluff, NE 69363
Norfolk – 214 N. 7th St., Suite 10, Norfolk, NE 68701
Bancroft – 415 Main St., Bancroft, NE 68004
Grand Island – 207 W. 3rd St., Grand Island, NE 68802

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ELDERACCESSLINE® (AGE 60 AND OVER)
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