



## **Robert M. Spire Award**

The **Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award** is presented annually to a Nebraska lawyer who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to pro bono service for the poor. The recipient is a lawyer who has achieved the highest standards of competence, ethics, and professionalism, and who protects and promotes the administration of and access to justice, as was the hallmark of Robert Spire's career.

Robert Spire is among the original founders of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, created by Nebraska lawyers with a common passion—an unwavering commitment to pursue equal justice under law for Nebraskans who, because of social and economic barriers, cannot access the courts and our system of justice. The nominee should be a lawyer who has demonstrated a commitment to the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

### **Mission**

To improve access to justice through the delivery of quality pro bono legal services to low-income Nebraskans. VLP fulfills this mission by developing and managing pro bono programs that are convenient, rewarding, and impactful for Nebraska lawyers.

### **Vision**

Equal access to justice for all low-income Nebraskans.

### **Core Values**

Justice for some, is not justice for all. All Nebraskans, regardless of ability to pay, should have access to the courts and our system of justice.

Understanding the lawyer's relationship to the legal system is critical to a constitutional democracy. Lawyers must be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance.

Self-representation for persons of limited means should be by choice, not by default.

Treat all persons served through VLP programs with the same dignity and respect afforded fee generating clients.

Involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer.

Collaboration among legal services providers, law firms, and law schools to explore ways to develop and strengthen pro bono collaboration is a priority for VLP.

Every lawyer should aspire to provide 50 hours of pro bono legal services each year, and law firms should encourage lawyers to act reasonably to enable and encourage all lawyers in the firm to provide pro bono legal services.

NOMINATION FORM  
Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award

Nominee's Full Name:

Nominee's Business Address:

Nominee's Telephone:

Nominee's Email Address:

Share how this individual (firm, organization) meets the criteria for this award (maximum 500 character spaces):

\*Attach any letters of support from individuals supporting this nomination.

Nominator Name:

Nominator Email:

Nominator Telephone:

Date: