



## The Times, They are Changing: Pro Bono on the Go

by Laurie Heer Dale, Volunteer Lawyers Project



The practice of law has been heavily impacted by advances in technology. From the dictaphone and standard typewriter to the computer and mobile phone, online legal research, fillable forms, and e-filing, to the more advanced online dispute resolution and artificial intelligence, this evolution in technology is changing the way law firms and courts do business. It's also changing the way we do pro bono.

If one of your resolutions for 2019 was to do more volunteer work, thanks to emerging technology, you are in luck! Through the American Bar Association's Free Legal Answers, also known as Nebraska Free Legal Answers (NFLA), attorneys can answer questions submitted online, anytime.

### Nebraska Free Legal Answers

Nebraska Free Legal Answers is a virtual limited advice clinic that allows volunteers to do pro bono online—anytime and anywhere there is Internet access. Attorneys select the questions to answer. Qualified Nebraska residents can post up to three different civil legal questions each year.

This program provides a convenient and rewarding way to do pro bono and greatly benefits all users, especially victims of the recent flooding. Visit [www.NE.freelegalanswers.org](http://www.NE.freelegalanswers.org) to register and start doing online pro bono now.

### NFLA Award Presented to Nebraska Attorneys and Organizations

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service recognizes, annually, individual attorneys, law firms and law departments that have provided extraordinary pro bono services through ABA Free Legal Answers with their Pro Bono Leader award. Attorneys who answer 50 or more questions per year and firms/organizations that answer, collectively, 75 or more questions per year, receive the award. For 2018, this award was presented to four recipients in Nebraska:

#### Answering more than 50 questions

**RACHAEL SMITH**, Smith Law, PC, LLO

**RYAN SULLIVAN**, University of Nebraska College of Law

#### Answering more than 75 questions

**HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF LAW**

Congratulations on your extraordinary efforts! We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to pro bono work for persons of limited means!

Consider joining your colleagues in a healthy NFLA contest and be the next to receive the Pro Bono Leader award!





# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

## Pro Bono Current Events

March, April and May were very busy months for pro bono events and awards, including the following:

### Law Student Graduates Honored for Pro Bono Service

During May graduation ceremonies, Creighton University School of Law and the University of Nebraska Law College recognized the following students who provided free legal work for low income individuals. Students received certificates of appreciation from the Nebraska Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and Nebraska State Bar Association. Students were applauded for their commitment to improving access to justice through contributions to law-related pro bono services.

#### University of Nebraska College of Law

Kelsey Arends  
Dylan Bakken  
Shannon Bond  
Andrew Broadfoot  
Angela Choe  
Christopher Giitter  
Megan Heinzinger  
Damon Hudson  
Beth Levine  
Tyler McKeone  
Adam Onken  
Shannon Seim  
Rachel Snyder  
Amanda Wall  
Adam Werner

#### Creighton University School of Law

Edward Diaz  
John Farrell  
Christopher Felts  
Alexandra Fleming  
Kenneth Glodo III  
Francisco Gomez-Mancillas  
Nathan Kinport  
Nicholas Le  
Savannah Robertson  
Kali Roundy  
Patrick Wier  
Nicole Wilson



*Creighton Will Clinic*

## Legal Clinics

### Creighton Will Clinic, Friday, March 29, 2019

Creighton University School of Law Civil Law Clinic and pro bono students assisted 9 senior citizens to execute simple wills and power of attorney and healthcare power of attorney documents at Nemaha County Hospital in Auburn, Nebraska. This event was conducted in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.



*Creighton Will Clinic*

### Legal Aid of Nebraska Set-Aside and Record Sealing Clinics, Saturday, April 6, 2019 and Saturday, April 13, 2019

The Set-Aside and Record Sealing Clinic is an event where volunteers meet with visitors from the community to provide limited legal representation in setting aside and sealing criminal records. This was a collaborative event with Legal Aid of Nebraska, Creighton University School of Law, University of Nebraska College of Law, Husch Blackwell LLP and Family First Call to Action.



*Set-Aside and Record Sealing Clinic, Omaha*



# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT



*Set-Aside and Record Sealing Clinic, Lincoln*

The events were held in Omaha and Lincoln. During the events, more than 30 visitors were provided quality legal representation by volunteer attorneys, law students and paralegals. Since then, more than 80 set aside pleadings have been filed. Attorneys from the Omaha and Lincoln City Prosecutors' Offices were on site to review requests for set-asides and record sealings.

The event will occur again in 2019. For more information, contact Muirne Heaney at [mheaney@legalaidofnebraska.org](mailto:mheaney@legalaidofnebraska.org) or (402) 348-1069. To learn more about pro bono opportunities with Legal Aid of Nebraska, contact Christine Stolarskyj at [cstolarskyj@legalaidofnebraska.org](mailto:cstolarskyj@legalaidofnebraska.org).

## **Lawyers on the Prairie, Saturday, April 27, 2019**

The 1st Annual Lawyers on the Prairie event, co-hosted by Legal Aid of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 in Grand Island. This event is a one-day legal clinic where volunteers meet with walk-in visitors to provide brief advice; referrals to a legal aid service provider; and give self-help forms, brochures and other helpful resources. Volunteer



*Lawyers on the Prairie, morning session volunteers*

attorneys and law students saw visitors from 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 2:30 pm.

During this event, a free one-hour ethics CLE was offered to volunteers. Volunteers included 9 attorneys, 3 law students from Creighton University School of Law, 1 law student from University of Nebraska College of Law, 1 Department of Justice Accredited Representative and 2 paralegals.

Twenty-two area residents from 7 rural Nebraska counties attended the event and received legal assistance. Sixty-three persons were directly impacted by the pro bono services received. Visitors appreciated the generosity of lawyers and were very satisfied with the help they received. One visitor commented, "Never have I felt so understood and heard. The attorney was very informative and helpful."

Another event is being planned in 2019. Contact Laurie Heer Dale at [volunteerlawyersproject@nevlp.org](mailto:volunteerlawyersproject@nevlp.org) or (402) 742-8133 for more information.



*Lawyers on the Prairie, afternoon session volunteers*

## **Heart Ministry Center Expands Its Services to Offer a Free Legal Clinic**

Heart Ministry Center, located at 2222 Binney Street, Omaha, provides food, clothing and health care to persons severely affected by poverty in the Omaha area. Through the efforts of volunteer attorneys and law students at Creighton University School of Law, they also offer free legal advice, limited scope legal services and referrals on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. Legal services provided are intended to be brief and generally include family, landlord-tenant and consumer law matters.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Heart Ministry Center's legal clinic, contact David Ernst, partner at Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman LLP, for more information about the clinic and how to register. You may reach him at [dernst@phe-blaw.com](mailto:dernst@phe-blaw.com) or (402) 397-5500.



## NEW!

### VLP Offers “Low Bono” Opportunity to Nebraska Lawyers Through Program Aimed at Assisting Victims of Crime

In May, the Nebraska State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) was awarded federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to implement the EVOLVES (Essential Volunteers Offering Legal Services to Victims Ensuring Safety) project. Through this project, VLP aims to increase legal services to Nebraska rural, minority and elder victims of abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking by referring cases to volunteer attorneys to represent victims in family law, consumer and immigration matters on a reduced fee basis (\$60 per hour). This project is similar to VLP’s former LAPTOP program and begins July 1, 2019.

For more information, or if you are interested in providing legal assistance to victims on a reduced fee basis, contact Laurie Heer Dale at (402) 742-8133 or [lheerdale@nevlp.org](mailto:lheerdale@nevlp.org).

## NEW!

### University of Nebraska College of Law Pro Bono Research Fellow Program

The University of Nebraska College of Law’s Pro Bono Research Fellows Program is a free service to private attorneys in need of research assistance on pro bono legal matters. The program matches interested law students with pro bono attorneys on research projects that range from small assignments taking only a few hours, to larger projects that may last an entire semester. Research fellows will work directly with the pro bono attorney and may assist beyond research in some circumstances. For new assignments, a member of the College of Law Library Faculty will provide one-on-one research guidance at the beginning of the assignment, as well as on-going support, as needed. Attorneys may apply for research assistance by completing an online application located at: <https://law.unl.edu/ProBonoResearch/>

For questions about the program, contact Kala Mueller, Director of Public Interest Programs, [kalamueller@unl.edu](mailto:kalamueller@unl.edu).



## Nebraska Free Legal Answers

[www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org)

Convenient, rewarding, and impactful pro bono  
All lawyers—All practices\*  
Answer questions posted by low-income residents

- No travel or training to do pro bono
- Pick questions you want to answer
- Volunteer names are not disclosed
- Malpractice insurance coverage
- Make justice happen—*today*

Register today at  
[www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org)

\*Active members of the Nebraska Bar; civil law questions only



**NEBRASKA**  
State Bar Association

[www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org)

NE Free Legal Answers is a website operated by the ABA and the NSBA Volunteer Lawyers Project  
635 South 14th St. #200  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 475-7091





# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

## Pro Bono Partners

Volunteers make access to justice a reality for those of limited means. VLP extends its gratitude to the following pro bono partners who have provided pro bono services in 2019.

### Nebraska Free Legal Answers

Sydney C. Aase, *Lincoln*  
Eric J. Adams, *Omaha*  
Erin M. Aitcheson,  
*Champaign, Illinois*  
Audrey A. Bellew, *Omaha*  
Lindsay R. Belmont, *Omaha*  
Larry W. Beucke, *Kearney*  
Timothy P. Brouillette,  
*North Platte*  
Angela Burmeister, *Omaha*  
Katherine R. Chadek,  
*Lincoln*  
Katelyn Cherney, *Omaha*  
Joshua L. Christolear,  
*Syracuse*  
Jaclyn N. Daake, *Alma*  
Kelly R. Davis, *Omaha*  
Carla J. DeVelder, *LaVista*  
Sallie V. Dietrich, *Lincoln*  
Quinn R. Eaton, *Omaha*  
Whitney A. Estwick, *Omaha*  
Ashley L. Faier, *Omaha*  
Adam R. Feeney, *Omaha*  
Thomas J. Freeman, *Lincoln*  
Maureen E. Fulton, *Omaha*  
Tana M. Fye, *Holdrege*  
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Catrina K. Harris, *Ashland*  
Kelsey L. Helget, *Hastings*  
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Crystal D. Hunt, *Kearney*  
Christa B. Israel, *Lincoln*  
Jack W. Lafleur, *Madison*  
Peng Li, *Omaha*  
Christin P. Lovegrove,  
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Catherine M. Mahern,  
*Omaha*  
Hollie M. Mason,  
*Washington D.C.*  
Jessica D. Meyer, *Tecumseh*  
Ashley A. Moore,  
*Manning, Iowa*  
Jerad A. Murphy, *Kearney*  
Julia K. Palzer, *Omaha*  
Zachary D. Petersen, *Omaha*  
Sarah E. Preisinger, *Papillion*  
Thomas D. Prickett,  
*Plattsmouth*  
Michael A. Ramirez, *Omaha*  
Jamie L. Reyes, *Lincoln*  
Nathaniel V. Romano,  
*University Heights, Ohio*  
Danielle L. Rowley, *Lincoln*  
Kevin L. Ruser, *Lincoln*  
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Blake K. Simpson, *Lincoln*  
Peter J. Sitzmann, *Lincoln*  
Kenneth M. Smith, *Lincoln*  
Rachael A. Smith, *Omaha*  
Meagan K. Spomer, *Omaha*  
Ryan P. Sullivan, *Lincoln*  
Rick W. Tast, *Lincoln*  
Anthony D. Todero,  
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*  
James H. Truell,  
*Grand Island*  
Christina L. Usher, *Lincoln*  
Kathryn E. Welsh, *Omaha*  
Erin E. Wetzal, *Omaha*  
Matthew J. Wurstner, *Omaha*

### Self-Help Centers

**Buffalo**  
Melodie T. Bellamy,  
*Coordinator*  
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Larry W. Beucke  
Elizabeth J. Chrisp  
Brandon J. Dugan  
Marsha E. Fangmeyer  
John D. Icenogle  
Michael J. Synek  
Thomas W. Tye II  
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*Coordinator*  
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Molly M. Blazek  
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Kendall K. Krajicek  
Stephen J. Lefler  
Craig F. Martin  
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Ralph E. Peppard  
Arturo Perez  
Kathryn D. Putnam  
Justin A. Quinn  
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Michael F. Scahill  
Alan C. Schroeder  
Judith A. Schweikart  
Dave Sommers  
J.G. "Gerry" Sullivan  
Kenneth M. Wentz III

**Douglas/Creighton**  
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Katelyn Cherney  
Karen Hicks  
Martha J. Lemar  
Catherine "Kate" Mahern  
Christopher A. Mihalo  
Jennifer N. Rowling

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*Coordinator*  
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Grady C. Erickson  
Stacie A. Goding  
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Jennifer Kearney  
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Kane M. Ramsey  
Audrey A. Rowley  
Keith Smith  
Mitchell C. Stehlik  
James H. Truell  
Erin M. Urbom  
Kevin P. Walsh

### Kimball

Stacy C. Bach, *Coordinator*

### Madison

Ryan J. Stover, *Coordinator*  
Joel E. Carlson  
Jason S. Doele  
Jack W. LaFleur

### Scotts Bluff

Stacy C. Bach, *Coordinator*  
Adam A. Hoelsing  
Maren L. Chaloupka  
Astrid G. Munn



# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

## Pro Bono Partners

### Pro Bono Cases

Rebecca S. Abell-Brown, *Fremont*  
 Jill M. Abrahamson, *Omaha*  
 Christina L. Ball, *Lincoln*  
 Frederick T. Bartell, *Norfolk*  
 Christopher F. Blomenberg, *Lincoln*  
 Sara J. Bockstadter, *Hastings*  
 Nichole S. Bogen, *Lincoln*  
 D.C. "Woody" Bradford III, *Omaha\**  
 Lucrece H. Bundy, *Omaha*  
 Angela J. Burmeister, *Omaha*  
 Mona "Molly" L. Burton, *Lincoln*  
 James A. Cada, *Lincoln\**  
 Brian J. Davis, *Cozad*  
 Jeffery W. Davis, *Beatrice*  
 Jason S. Doebe, *Norfolk*  
 Charles E. Dorwart, *Omaha*  
 Michael R. Dunn, *Falls City*  
 Audrey M. Elliott, *Gering*  
 Timothy R. Engler, *Lincoln*  
 David H. Fisher, *Hastings*  
 Kyle J. Flentje, *Bellevue*  
 Ronald E. Frank, *Omaha*  
 Tana M. Fye, *Holdredge*  
 William D. Gilner, *Omaha*  
 Charles L. Grimes, *Omaha*  
 Mary Kay Hansen, *Lincoln*  
 Jodie Haferbier McGill, *Omaha*  
 Emilee Higgins, *Columbus*  
 Adam A. Hoising, *Scottsbluff*  
 Kenneth F. Jacobs, *Omaha*  
 Mark F. Jacobs, *Omaha*  
 Dean J. Jungers, *Bellevue\**

### Heart Ministry Center

David D. Ernst, *Coordinator*  
 Andrew M. Collins  
 William P. Crawford  
 Richard A. Drews  
 Andrew D. Sibbersen

Jessica Kallstrom-Schreckengost, *Omaha*  
 Jennifer D. Kearney, *Grand Island*  
 Jane F. Langan Mach, *Lincoln*  
 Dayna L. Langdon, *Lincoln*  
 Peng Li, *Omaha*  
 Joseph Lopez-Wilson, *Omaha*  
 Katy M. Manuel, *Lincoln*  
 Amie C. Martinez, *Lincoln*  
 Gretchen L. McGill, *Omaha*  
 Deziree N. Medina, *Lincoln*  
 Jerad A. Murphy, *Kearney*  
 Melissa M. Oestmann, *Omaha*  
 Daniel C. Pape, *Omaha*  
 Jeffrey T. Palzer, *Omaha*  
 Ellen P. Prochaska, *Omaha*,  
 Law Student  
 James E. Reisinger, *Omaha*  
 Sean P. Rensch, *Omaha\**  
 Katherine E. Sharp, *Columbus*  
 Meagan K. Spomer, *Omaha*  
 Catherine N. Swiniarski, *Omaha*  
 Jason R. Thomas, *Omaha\**  
 Nicolas C. Viavant, *Omaha\**  
 David R. Webb, *Lincoln*  
 Elise M. White, *Lincoln*  
 Abbie J. Widger, *Lincoln*  
 Megan M. Zobel, *Lincoln*  
 \*assisting disaster victims

### Creighton Will Clinic

Katelyn Cherney  
 Lexie Fleming, Law Student  
 Nathan Kinport, Law Student  
 Nicholas Le, Law Student  
 Christopher A. Mihalo  
 Kali Roundy, Law Student  
 Nicole Wilson, Law Student

### Set-Aside and Record Sealing Clinics

Mae Adkins, *Omaha*,  
 Paralegal Student  
 Sapphire Andersen, *Omaha*,  
 Law Student  
 John Bergstresser, *Omaha*,  
 Law Student  
 Heather Bernt, *Lincoln*,  
 Paralegal  
 Mark T. Bestul, *Lincoln*  
 Brigitta Bogue, *Lincoln*,  
 Law Student  
 Katelyn Cherney, *Omaha*  
 Annie Christenson, *Lincoln*,  
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 Montana Crow, *Omaha*,  
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 Tannaz Kouhpainezhad, *Omaha*  
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 Law Student  
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 Sami Schmit, *Lincoln*,  
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 Ryan P. Sullivan, *Lincoln*  
 Amy E. Swoboda, *Lincoln*  
 Kaitlin Logan Wimmer, *Omaha*,  
 Law Student  
 Lea Wroblewski, *Lincoln*

### Lawyers on the Prairie

Vincent L. Dowding  
 Laurie Heer Dale  
 Nathan Kinport,  
 Law Student  
 Susan M. Koenig  
 Daniel McDowell,  
 Law Student  
 Michelle M. Mitchell  
 Jazmin Ross, Paralegal  
 Melissa Robinson, Paralegal  
 Audrey A. Rowley  
 Emily Santa-Rodriguez  
 Keith Smith  
 Nichole Sklare, Law Student  
 Charity Thomas,  
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 Accredited Representative  
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 Nicole Wilson, Law Student