



COLLEGE OF LAW

STRATEGIC PLAN FINAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025

law.unl.edu/strategic-plan

It has been six years since the College of Law developed a strategic plan that created a new mission, articulated our values, and set the direction for our community. At the time we published our plan, we were certain we had crafted a statement about our mission and values that was both true and aspirational. We knew the commitments we made would resonate with our alumni and prospective students. Our commitments would guide plans to modernize our law school while also staying true to our foundation and traditions.

This report outlines the collective efforts that have turned our plans into reality. As we reflect on the past six years, though not everything included in the original plan has been adopted, there is much to celebrate because the College of Law has changed in meaningful and measurable ways.

In 2019 several challenges were clear. We faced a generational change in our faculty as many neared retirement, taking with them hundreds of years of experience and expertise. We had a student body, staff, and faculty whose demographics did not reflect the population of Nebraska or the country. Our curriculum did not encompass the range of professional and practical skills we believed lawyers would need to be successful. The College had a strong foundation based on decades of great work from a generation of professors and staff, but we needed to build on that foundation to remain strong and grow stronger. These challenges loomed in our discussions strategizing our future.

We also confronted several challenges that we did not anticipate. Most dramatically, of course, a global pandemic required significant changes to our operations for two years. Artificial intelligence and social media now test our pedagogical assumptions and our students' learning. The University repeatedly cut the College of Law's budget as it grappled with decreased State appropriations and stagnant tuition. The political environment in which we operate has become increasingly fraught, demanding, and polarized.

Yet, as you will read, we have been successful in many ways in building the law school we imagined six years ago and in confronting and adapting to the challenges, both foreseen and not. This success can be attributed to the hard work of our faculty and staff, the good faith and determination of our students, and the overwhelming support of our numerous stakeholders, including generous alumni, thoughtful foundations and donors, and dedicated university administrators.

You can see this success in the data. The College of Law has attracted prospective students in record numbers. Our application numbers have steadily increased, and last year, we received more applications than ever before. That class arrived in 2025 as the most academically qualified in our history. Our graduates are passing the bar and getting jobs at extremely high rates. Over the last six years, our student body, staff, and faculty have become more diverse, and we've focused on building a more welcoming community. Our enrollment is the largest in a generation. Our scholarly impact and community engagement are significant, and as impressive as they have ever been. We doubled the number of clinics we offer and

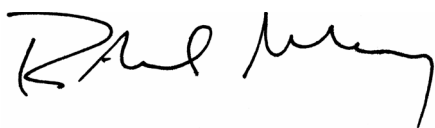
substantially professionalized our externship program to increase the exposure students have to experiential learning. We raised more in donations and grants during the last six years than in any other similar period in our history: well over \$75 million to support our work and our students.

You can also witness the difference in the stories that we now tell about our community, as you will see in the following pages. You will read about the College of Law's impact in rural Nebraska as well as our emphasis on creating respectful and professional dialogue on the most important issues of the day. You will learn about the dynamic intellectual environment that our faculty have built to support robust scholarship and engaged teaching. We've shared a story about our award-winning Women Lead conference – an initiative that was created as part of our emphasis on inclusive leadership. You will also read about the ways our students are building a community in which they support each other and encourage collaboration. Finally, we've shared how our curriculum has evolved to provide courses and insights on important issues, and how our extracurricular programming has increasingly emphasized pro bono service and student wellness.

The mission, values, and commitments we articulated in 2019 have guided this work. We added classes and programs aimed at developing inclusive leaders and advancing justice. We created and celebrate a community in which people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, identities, and perspectives can listen graciously and speak thoughtfully to each other, even as they may disagree. We built a curriculum that provides a foundational legal education and also prepares students with the professional and practical skills they will need as attorneys. In a world that can encourage shortcuts and superficial thinking, we continue to demand the excellence that can only be achieved by working hard.

We are not done. This may be the final report from the 2019 strategic plan, but we are already working on ideas for what comes next. This year the faculty will engage in a year-long self-study to identify our strengths and pinpoint areas for improvement. Then we expect to bring our community together again to develop a new strategic plan for the next five years. I invite you to be a part of that journey as we continue building a tremendous law school.

I hope that as you read this report, you are proud of what has been accomplished at the University of Nebraska College of Law and excited about what the future may hold. We are grateful for your support and your confidence in this important institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Moberly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Moberly

Dean

Richard C. & Catherine S. Schmoker Professor of Law
University of Nebraska College of Law

MISSION

We develop inclusive leaders who advance justice, solve problems, and serve with integrity.

VALUES

At Nebraska Law, we

- Think Creatively
- Listen Graciously
- Speak Thoughtfully
- Value Diversity
- Build Community
- Serve Humbly
- Act Courageously
- Work Hard
- Demand Excellence

COMMITMENTS

To achieve our mission, live our values, and build upon our strengths, the Nebraska Law community is focused on three shared commitments:

1. Building an inclusive and connected community;
2. Preparing our students for a lifetime of learning, service, and ethical leadership; and,
3. Solving vital societal problems.

Page 5 | ***BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY***



Page 7 |
**Law and Democracy
Speaker Series**



Page 8 |
**Women Lead
Conference**

Page 9 | ***PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING, SERVICE, AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP***



Page 11 |
**Inclusive Leadership
Fellows Program**



Page 12 |
**Experiential
Learning**

Page 13 | ***SOLVING VITAL SOCIETAL PROBLEMS***



Page 15 |
**Rural Reconciliation
Project**



Page 16 |
**Faculty
Research**

Building an Inclusive and Connected Community

“Our excellence is our people.” This theme rose to the top during the strategic planning process in 2019 and might be even more true today. We’ve strengthened the College’s community and enhanced our connections within the broader University and beyond, all of which have elevated the impact of Nebraska Law.

How we supported our community’s **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**:

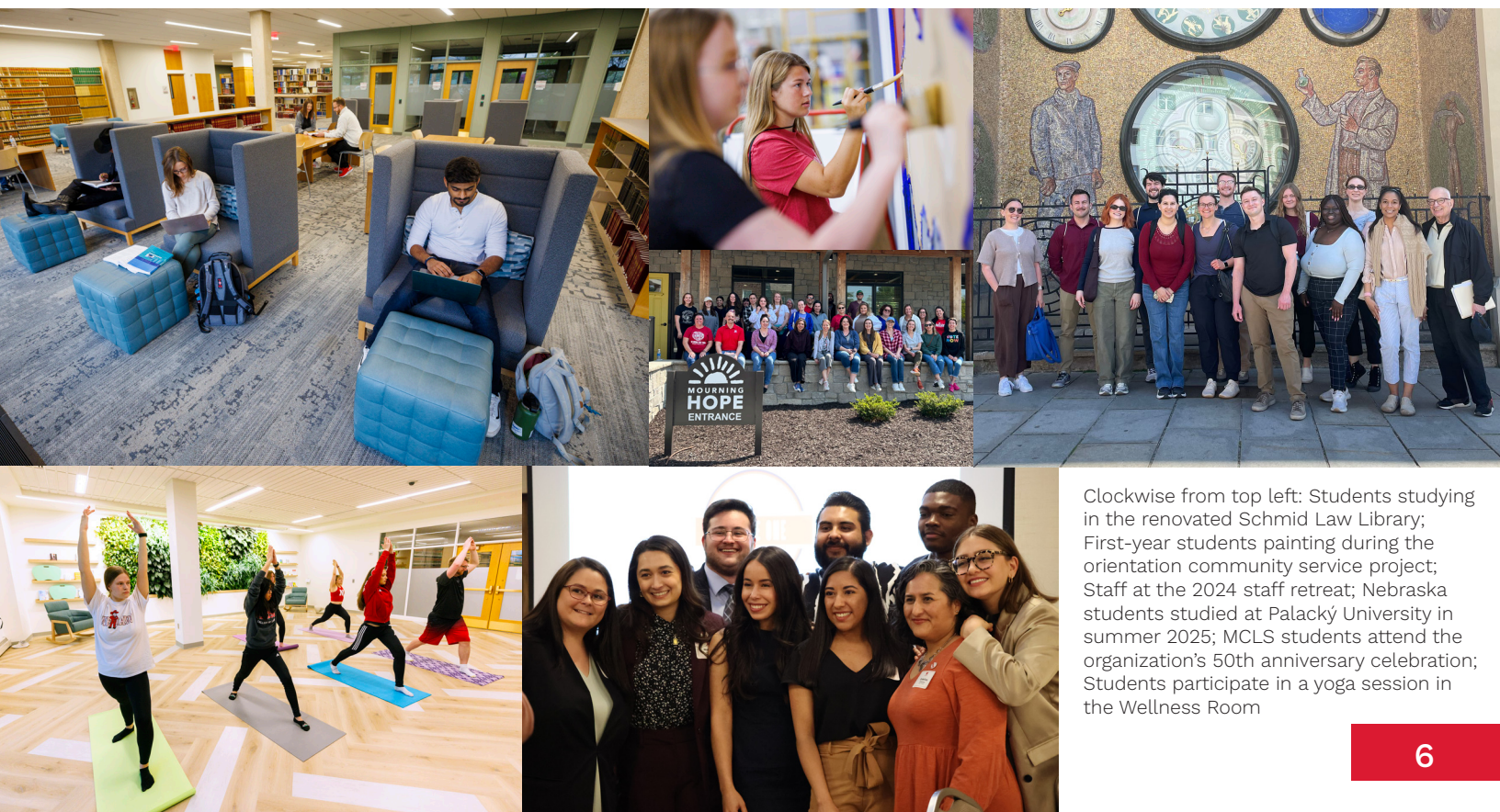
- » Hired an expert Strengths consultant to provide manager, team and individual CliftonStrengths coaching.
- » Developed a Strengths Advocate Course and trained over 35 members of the staff, faculty, and administration in a deeper understanding of CliftonStrengths and how to contribute to a Strengths-based organization.
- » Expanded opportunities for students to explore CliftonStrengths including one-on-one meetings with a Strengths Advocate for all first-year students.
- » Provided intentional wellness programming for students, including regular meditation and yoga sessions, weekly wellness newsletters, office hours with Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program representatives, and opportunities for religious and spiritual reflection.
- » Led the creation of the Nebraska Legal Diversity Council and hired an executive director in partnership with another law school, law firms, corporations and the state bar association.
- » Established a staff development committee with monthly programming and annual staff and faculty retreats.

How we encouraged community **BELONGING**:

- » Ensured every student has individual meetings with administrators throughout their time at Nebraska Law, including meetings with the assistant dean for student development in their first year, with an academic advisor in their second year, and with a career development professional in their third year.
- » Increased outreach to recruit students from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- » Hired an associate dean to focus on building community with and among people with varied backgrounds and diverse perspectives.
- » Conducted annual Supreme Court roundup discussions with professors of diverse perspectives summarizing the past Supreme Court term.
- » Implemented hiring processes and plans to obtain a highly diverse applicant pool for positions at Nebraska Law, using rubrics that focus on talent and the College’s values, as well as experience and skills.
- » Celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Nebraska Law Review and 50th anniversary of the Multicultural Legal Society.

How we built our community through increased **CONNECTION.**

- » Renovated the Marvin and Virginia Schmid Law Library to include more community spaces, individual and group study rooms, classrooms, a lactation room, and a Wellness Room.
- » Added a community service project as part of the first-year orientation programming. In 2024, the entire 1L class helped paint the Habitat for Humanity Restore. In 2025, incoming students served at the Center for People.
- » Established an exchange program with Palacký University in the Czech Republic with reciprocal teaching arrangements. Palacký Professor Michael Kohajda taught Cryptocurrencies in the EU in Nebraska in spring 2025 and Nebraska Professor Danielle Jefferis taught at Palacký in summer 2025 with Nebraska Law students participating in the program. Eric Berger taught at Palacký in fall of 2024 and Paul Weitzel will teach in fall of 2025.
- » Managed significant faculty transitions, including celebrating the retirement of six faculty members, mourning the passing of two faculty members, and hiring 18 new faculty members.
- » Initiated a summer book club for first-year students with the dean featuring “Deep Work” by Cal Newport.
- » Instituted weekly Coffee & Questions sessions for students to support community and provide easy access to administrators.
- » Launched a speaker series on Law and Democracy (see more on the following page).
- » Organized the Women Lead conference in 2020, 2022, and 2024 in partnership with the College of Business (see more on page 8).



Clockwise from top left: Students studying in the renovated Schmid Law Library; First-year students painting during the orientation community service project; Staff at the 2024 staff retreat; Nebraska students studied at Palacký University in summer 2025; MCLS students attend the organization's 50th anniversary celebration; Students participate in a yoga session in the Wellness Room

COMMITMENT 1



Clockwise from top left: Professor Keith Whittington presents “Diversity Statements and the First Amendment”; Professor Atiba Ellis presents “How Colorblindness Distorts American Democracy”; Preeta Bansal presents “The Inner and Outer Work of Democracy”; Senator Russ Feingold presents “A Constitution In Jeopardy: An Unprecedented Effort to Rewrite Our Fundamental Law and What We Can Do About It.”

Building an Inclusive Community Through Critical Dialogue

The College’s Law and Democracy Series, now in its third year, exemplifies how Nebraska Law is fulfilling our mission by creating spaces for thoughtful discourse on some of the most pressing challenges facing democratic institutions.

Established through generous support from Ron and the late Barb Schaefer and in partnership with the Nebraska Law chapters of the American Constitution Society and Federalist Society, the series directly addresses the strategic commitment to “build an inclusive and connected community.”

The series intentionally brings together diverse perspectives, creating a model for how polarized viewpoints can engage in productive dialogue. Speakers from across the ideological spectrum come together to address complex constitutional and election law issues. Since its inception, the series has featured over twenty events covering crucial topics including election integrity, constitutional interpretation, the separation of powers, and the role of courts in democratic governance, while also tackling challenging issues like the constitutionality of diversity statements, book bans and the First Amendment, and the concept of corruption in electoral systems.

The series has created meaningful interactions among current students, faculty, alumni, and distinguished legal practitioners from across the country. The list of speakers includes Jessica Ring Amunson from Jenner & Block LLP discussing Supreme Court election law jurisprudence, Hans von Spakovsky from the Heritage Foundation addressing election integrity, former Solicitor General of New York Preeta Bansal exploring the “inner work” of democracy, and Nebraska Law alumnus Greg Stejskal, ’74, sharing insights on FBI procedures and domestic terrorism threats.

The series directly supports our mission and commitment to inclusion by examining how legal frameworks impact democratic participation. As a forum where differing viewpoints are exchanged, the series also allows individuals to practice the skills of disagreeing constructively and respectfully.

Creating Communities Where Female Leaders Thrive

The Women Lead conference, a biennial event co-hosted by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln College of Business and College of Law, stands as a powerful example of community building through intentional inclusion. Since its inception in 2020, this collaborative initiative has consistently sold out and draws hundreds of participants, bringing together leaders from law, business, government, and philanthropy to network, share experiences, and inspire one another in an environment designed for authentic connection.

Each iteration of Women Lead has built upon a powerful theme. The 2020 conference encouraged attendees to “Claim Your Power,” featuring speakers like Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, who delivered inspiring messages that resonated deeply with participants. The 2022 event focused on “Leading Through Change,” with keynote Connie Collingsworth, ’82, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation urging attendees to lead with intentionality and embrace uncertainty. Most recently, “Women Lead 2024: Shattering Glass Ceilings” celebrated trailblazers who broke barriers and overcame career advancement challenges.

The conference structure thoughtfully balances formal learning with community building. Hour-long breakout sessions and panel discussions cover a wide range of topics and are complemented by 15-minute “Leadership Moments” where local women leaders share personal stories of achievement. Beyond formal presentations, Women Lead creates meaningful connection through structured networking opportunities.

The impact of this community-building approach is evident in participant feedback, with 98.6% of attendees indicating they would recommend the event to colleagues. The conference consistently achieves high satisfaction ratings. More importantly, attendees report profound personal impacts, describing the event as “reinvigorating” and a powerful reminder of their identity as leaders.

Through this collaborative initiative, the Colleges of Business and Law demonstrate their commitment to building an inclusive community that empowers leaders and creates spaces for authentic connection. With significant sponsorships supporting each event, the conference also shows the broader community’s investment in advancing women’s leadership. As Women Lead continues to evolve and tickets sell out with each iteration, it stands as a powerful testament to how intentional inclusion can strengthen the professional landscape for all.



From top: Breakfast Networking Roundtables; Connie Collingsworth, ’82; 2022 Fireside Chat; Jennifer Bear Eagle, ’08; Hon. Stephanie Stacy, ’91

Preparing Our Students for a Lifetime of Learning, Service, and Ethical Leadership

Nebraska Law is student-focused. Our decisions are driven by a desire to equip students with the knowledge, skills and relationships that will enable them to think critically and creatively. We've updated our curriculum and created numerous opportunities for students to grow professionally outside of the classroom.

How we prepared students through the **CURRICULUM**:

- » Updated the curriculum by reducing first-year credits to 30, moving Constitutional Law to the first year, adding Administrative Law as a second-year requirement, and requiring students to take a course or programming exploring racism and bias.
- » Approved new courses including Equality Before the Law; Role of the State Attorney General; Agriculture, Race and Connections to Place; Prisoners' Rights; Poverty Law; Lawyers as Inclusive Leaders; and AI & the Law Seminar.
- » Added Housing Justice Clinic, First Amendment Clinic, and Innocence Clinic and divided the Civil Clinic into the Estate Planning Clinic and Debtors Defense Clinic (see more on page 12).
- » Hired a director of externships to supervise student externships and teach a coinciding seminar (see more on page 12).
- » Began a self-study and identified measurement metrics for learning outcomes.

How we prepared students through **SERVICE** opportunities:

- » Emphasized participation in the ABA Free Legal Answers Program, including receiving recognition as a Pro Bono Leader and revitalization of the Pizza and Pro Bono sessions, and winning multiple ABA awards for the pro bono work.
- » Expanded the Nebraska Public Interest Law Fund (NPILF) to include unpaid externships and awarded students more than \$180,000 in 2024 and 2025.
- » Co-founded the Tenant Assistance Project (TAP) which subsequently dispersed over \$20 million in federal rental assistance to over 2,000 Nebraska families.
- » Placed increased emphasis on public service through the Public Interest Scholars Program, intentional programming, a new Public Interest Law concentration and new curricular offerings, resulting in a #27 ranking from U.S. News and World Report for "Law Schools with the Most Grads in Public Interest Law."
- » Expanded the Schmid Research Fellows program during the pandemic to support pro bono legal research for nonprofit organizations.

How we prepared students for **ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**:

- » Developed the Inclusive Leaders Fellowship and Practice Group program (see more on the following page).
- » Engaged in numerous surveys on climate and culture, including participating twice in the national Law School Survey for Student Engagement and once in the Survey on the Engagement of Law Faculty and Staff, in addition to conducting annual surveys of students.
- » Implemented a character and fitness standard that highlights expectations for students when asking the College to certify their character and fitness to practice law.
- » Completed a two-year study of the Honor Code.
- » Joined the ABA Police Practices Consortium, which aims to contribute to the national effort examining and addressing legal issues in policing and public safety.
- » Began aiding residents in the town of Schuyler as they navigate the U.S. Immigration System through the newly launched Schuyler Project.



Clockwise from top left: Estate Planning Clinic students meet with a client; Resource Navigator Kaitlyn Evans, Professor Rachel Tomlinson Dick and a Housing Justice Clinic student; Professor Kyle Langvardt teaches Constitutional Law for first-year students; Professor Liz Cole and students from the Innocence Clinic; Audrey Svane, '15, assists students during a Pizza and Pro Bono session; Professor Brandon Johnson teaches Administrative Law; TAP founder Professor Ryan Sullivan and clinic student volunteers



Inaugural Inclusive Leadership Fellows (2023-2024)

Inclusive Leadership Fellows guide 1L class

Introduced in fall 2023, Nebraska Law's Inclusive Leadership Fellows Program is a mentorship initiative which pairs upper-level students with incoming first-year law students, creating a supportive framework that enhances both personal and professional development from day one.

The program operates through Practice Groups, with two Fellows guiding approximately fifteen 1L students throughout their critical first year. These Fellows serve as frontline mentors, meeting regularly with their groups to discuss the realities of law school life, lead workshops, and create meaningful connections across the law school community. The small-group environment fosters open dialogue about everything from academic preparation to work-life balance, while simultaneously building a foundation for cross-cultural competency and intentional professional development.

For the Fellows themselves, the program offers a valuable opportunity to develop their own leadership skills while giving back to the law school community. Students selected for this role receive specialized training and work directly with the assistant dean for student development and faculty advisors to design and implement programming that addresses the evolving needs of first-year students. This collaborative approach empowers Fellows to support the educational experience of their peers while strengthening their own abilities to lead.

A notable achievement of the 2024-25 Inclusive Leadership Fellows is the revival and facilitation of Community Conversations, structured discussions designed to develop crucial skills for future attorneys. These conversations intentionally address challenging topics, ranging this year from electoral systems and constitutional questions to criminal justice policy and international relations. By creating a safe space where students can practice listening graciously and speaking thoughtfully on complex issues, the program helps participants build the capacity to engage respectfully with differing viewpoints. The Fellows guided these discussions with an emphasis on curiosity and compassion, encouraging students to develop the ability to respectfully navigate difficult conversations.

The Inclusive Leadership Fellows Program and the guided Practice Groups allow students to develop relationships with fellow students as they learn skills that complement their classroom learning.

Building Leaders Through Real-World Experience

One of the highlights of a student's law school experience is making the transition from classroom learning to supervised legal work, whether it is through clinical experiences or externships.

Clinical law programs exemplify the College's commitment to learning, service and ethical leadership. By placing students directly into real-world legal settings where they serve actual clients under faculty supervision, they begin to understand crucial aspects of client counseling and advocacy. Nine clinical programs allow students to engage with diverse areas of law while developing the competencies essential for effective practice. Students learn that legal practice is fundamentally about service to others.

The College expanded clinical offerings as part of our strategic plan to meet societal and student demands. The Housing Justice Clinic, established in fall 2022, addresses the critical need for tenant advocacy in an increasingly complex housing market. The First Amendment Clinic, established in 2024, emerged to tackle contemporary free speech challenges, while the Innocence Clinic, established early in 2025, confronts one of the legal system's most profound challenges by investigating potential wrongful convictions.

Field Placement programs have undergone significant transformation in recent years, evolving to include essential classroom components that complement fieldwork. This enhanced approach ensures students not only gain practical experience in government agencies, nonprofit organizations, law firms, and corporate settings, but also engage in thoughtful reflection about their experiences through structured coursework. The Semester in D.C. program and Board Service Externship opportunities exposed students to different perspectives on legal practice and public service.

These experiential programs create a feedback loop between learning and service that defines ethical leadership. Students discover that mastering legal skills is not an end in itself but a means to serve clients, communities, and the broader cause of justice. They learn to view challenges as opportunities for growth and to approach legal problems with both analytical rigor and genuine concern for human impact.



From top: Students and Professor Daniel Gutman interview a potential client; Professor Ryan Sullivan meets with clinic students; Professor Jessica Murphy with a student in court; Entrepreneurship Clinic students meet with Professor Brett Stohs; students interview a client

Solving Vital Societal Problems

Our research has impact. We are committed to relevant, creative and diverse scholarship that addresses challenges for society, advances justice and contributes to a brighter future.

How we contributed to problem-solving research through our **PROGRAMS**:

- » Began the Children's Justice Attorney Education program and further expanded it to the Nebraska Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center.
- » Changed the name and emphasis of the Space Law program to Space, Cyber, and National Security Law.
- » Secured a \$600,000 federal grant to create an Innocence Clinic focused on identifying and remedying wrongful convictions.
- » Started the Rural Reconciliation Project (see more on page 15).
- » Launched the Schuyler Project through the Immigration Clinic to help the community understand immigration processes.
- » Partnered with the College of Business to develop Business and Law minor and major programs for undergraduates.
- » Received endowed funding for the Children's Justice Clinic and clinical law programs generally.
- » Celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Law and Psychology program with renewed involvement from the College of Law, including teaching and research by faculty members.

How we contributed to problem-solving research by supporting faculty **SCHOLARSHIP**:

- » Held regular faculty workshops on a variety of scholarly topics presented by Nebraska Law professors as well as professors from across the University of Nebraska and the country.
- » Launched a new scholarly, peer-reviewed journal – *Nebraska Journal on Advancing Justice*.
- » Explored connections between history and civil rights through a \$1 million Mellon grant awarded to a team of law and history professors.
- » Published the *Woomera Manual in the International Law of Military Space Activities and Operations*, an international research manual that analyzes all three phases of military space interactions (during times of peace, tension or crisis, and armed conflict).
- » Began a three-year initiative focused on governance and technology.

Our scholarly programs and scholarship were the foundation for building **REPUTATION.**

- » Expanded professorships and chairs to include recognition of the senior library teaching faculty (Marvin and Virginia Schmid Foundation Professors of Law and Law Library), the junior faculty (Marvin and Virginia Schmid Foundation Professors for Excellence in Research, in Teaching, and in Service), and Colleen Medill (Barbara Wittmann Schaefer Endowed Chair in Law), Matthew Schaefer (Clayton Yeutter Chair in Law), and Anthony Schutz (Marvin and Virginia Schmid Foundation Professor of Agricultural Law).
- » Led Big Ten law school discussions on the Rule of Law in 2025.
- » Organized annual Nebraska Law Review Symposia that explored topical issues in the legal community, including federal incarceration and democracy without trust.
- » Began wide-spread communications efforts highlighting the work of individual faculty members, including a website: law.unl.edu/researchimpact.
- » Committed to nominating College faculty, administrators and programs for awards to recognize their success (see list on the back cover).



Clockwise from top left: Professor Catherine Wilson teaches at the College of Business; scholars from around the world visit Lincoln to discuss the Woomera Manual; An Immigration Clinic student helps a client as part of the Schuyler Project; Professor Matt Schaefer (center right) was named the Yeutter Chair in Law; Law and History professors that are working on the project awarded a Mellon grant; NCJC Director Michelle Paxton and a student in a courtroom simulation; Inaugural editorial board for the *Nebraska Journal on Advancing Justice*

COMMITMENT 3



From left: Professor Dana Fritz presents “Field Guide to a Hybrid Landscape”; Land & Water Research Workshop and Roundtable; Lucas Bessire presents “Running Out: In search of Water on the High Plains”

New Perspectives on Rural Challenges

Since its launch in 2021, the Rural Reconciliation Project aimed to address the critical and complex challenges facing rural America.

Professors Jessica Shoemaker and Anthony Schutz created this research and engagement initiative to pursue an honest accounting of rural past and present while working toward a more vibrant rural future.

Supported in part by an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship awarded to Professor Shoemaker, the initiative has become a catalyst for crucial conversations in rural and legal spheres, bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines to address rural America’s most pressing challenges.

The Rural Reconciliation Project positions Nebraska Law as a thought leader through its comprehensive programming, which began with a virtual seminar series examining rural access to justice and policy considerations. It continued with the Rural Infrastructure Series investigating the structure and purpose of infrastructure investments across themes of jobs, power, transportation, broadband, and water.

The Project’s most recent focus on “Land and Water: Rural Resources, Rural Livelihoods” examines who really owns rural America while addressing the pattern of essential rural resources being separated from rural livelihoods. This programming has included prominent discussions with anthropologist Lucas Bessire about aquifer depletion and panels with Neil Hamilton, emeritus professor from Drake University, exploring how law shapes land and water use for agriculture on the Great Plains.

The Rural Review, the Project’s online journal, serves as a hub for rural research across academic disciplines, publishing short summaries of scholarly work and original commentary on issues from rural political alienation to water security. By making complex legal and policy issues accessible to stakeholders, policymakers, and the public, the Project fulfills a key strategic objective.

Their workshops have developed broad connections with scholars from different disciplines, institutions, and countries, creating rich conversations about rural challenges. Now in its third consecutive year, the Law and Rurality Workshop explores topics ranging from rural education to access to counsel in legal deserts. This collaborative effort, co-led by Professors Shoemaker, Schutz, and Hannah Haksgaard from the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law, is one example of Nebraska Law’s commitment to meaningful and impactful research.

Through their varied work, the Rural Reconciliation Project has had meaningful impact in addressing complex issues at the intersection of law, policy, and social change.

Fostering Scholarly Research and Faculty Development

In recent years, Nebraska Law has been intentional about developing a vibrant scholarly community and working together to solve problems. Donor support has allowed the College of Law to recognize junior faculty for excellence in teaching, research and service, and provided additional professorships for library faculty and other distinguished faculty members. New programs have included weekly faculty workshops, summer writing circles, and beginning in 2024, an annual colloquium. These initiatives have created a dynamic intellectual environment where research meets collaborative critique, fostering the rigorous scholarship necessary to address today's most pressing legal and social challenges.

The workshop series is an important component of our community, hosting weekly discussion opportunities, carefully balanced between Nebraska faculty presentations, visiting scholar workshops, and teaching conversations. Recent workshops have addressed immigration law, constitutional interpretation, artificial intelligence regulation, and criminal justice reform.

What sets these programs apart is their inclusive approach to scholarship at various stages. The workshops welcome published pieces, works in progress, or amorphous ideas, recognizing that meaningful contribution often begins with preliminary concepts that benefit from collaborative refinement. The visiting scholar component brings external perspectives from institutions nationwide, while summer writing circles provide dedicated time for reflection and analysis supported by collegial accountability.

These local scholarly activities form the foundation for Nebraska Law faculty's broader contributions to national academic discourse. Faculty present their research at national conferences including those held by the American Agricultural Law Association, the Association for Law, Property, and Society, the Association of American Law Schools, the Clinical Legal Education Association, and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. These presentations ensure that scholarship developed at Nebraska Law reaches national audiences and contributes to ongoing academic conversations about vital societal problems.

Nebraska Law faculty present on a wide range of topics, reflecting the breadth of their scholarly interests and expertise. From agricultural law challenges affecting rural communities to clinical education innovations improving access to justice, faculty research addresses complex issues that span traditional legal boundaries and require interdisciplinary approaches.

The teaching conversation component demonstrates how the scholarly community extends beyond research to pedagogy, addressing topics like learning objectives, assessment methods, and artificial intelligence integration in legal education. This dual focus ensures that Nebraska's commitment to solving vital problems extends to ensuring future leaders are equipped to continue this essential work.



From top: Professor Anthony Schutz; Professor Colleen Medill; Professor Eric Berger; Professor Richard Leiter

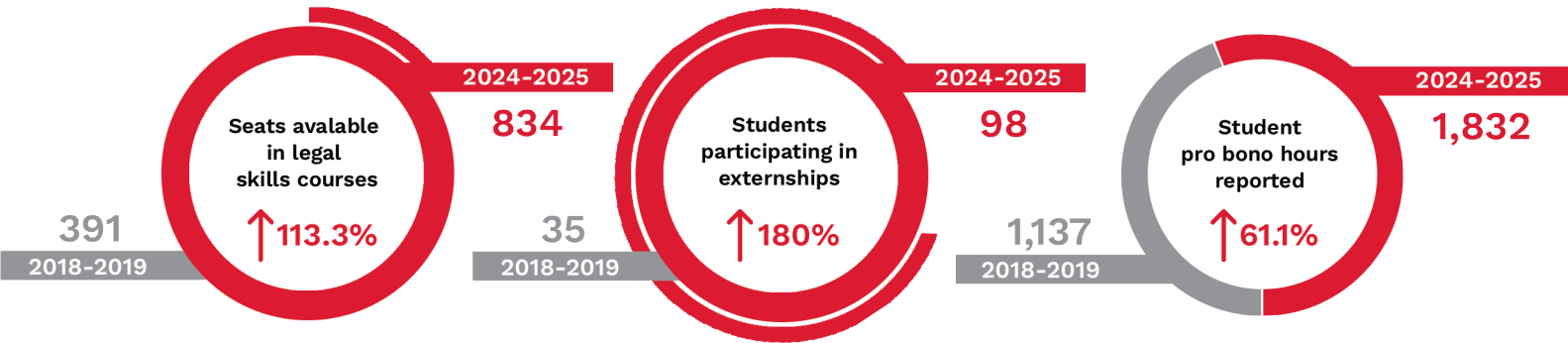
Fulfilling Our Commitments

Operational efficiency and effectiveness have also been a priority over the last five years. We made great strides, which included:

- » Hiring a dedicated academic advisor and implementing processes to better partner with the UNL Registrar’s Office, including student access and use of the Degree Audit and academic planning tools.
- » Implementing a cloud-based client management system for use in the clinical law programs, so that all in-house clinics operate with the same technology. This creates significant efficiencies in clinic operations and introduces students to how such systems impact the practice of law.
- » Investing \$500,000 in upgrades to our classroom technology, most of which had not been updated in over 15 years.
- » Creating a College-wide communication system through Microsoft SharePoint, which provides cloud-based document storage for administrative offices and student organizations, as well as individually-tailored communications so that each student, faculty, and staff member receive information specifically targeting their interests and needs.
- » Creating administrative efficiencies within the College and through work with University partners, including streamlining our interactions with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships by having law students work with a financial aid specialist housed at the law school, and fully utilizing the University’s IT and Registration infrastructure to relieve burdensome and outdated procedures at the College level.
- » Implementing a shared communication tool among all student advisors to centralize record keeping and notes on student counseling.

Reporting on Key Indicators of Success

CURRICULUM

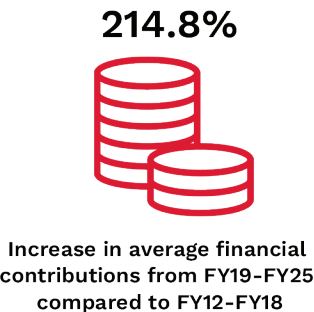
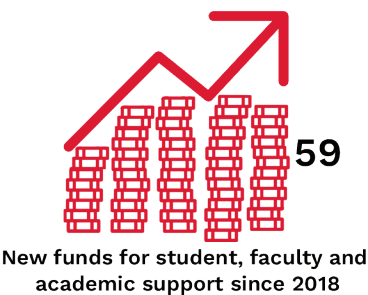


ENTERING CREDENTIALS

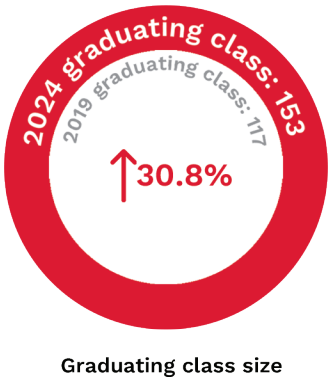
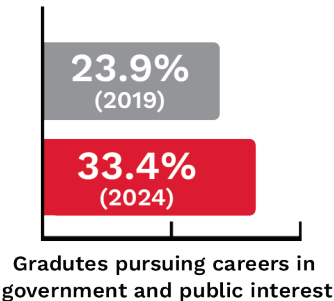
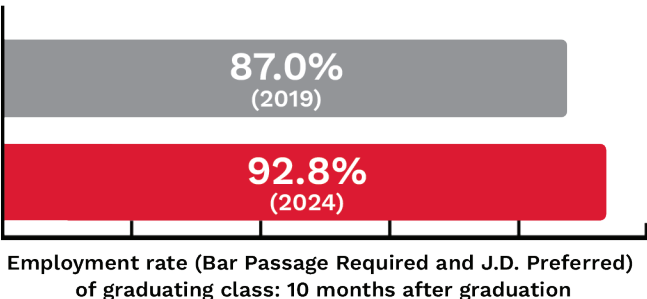
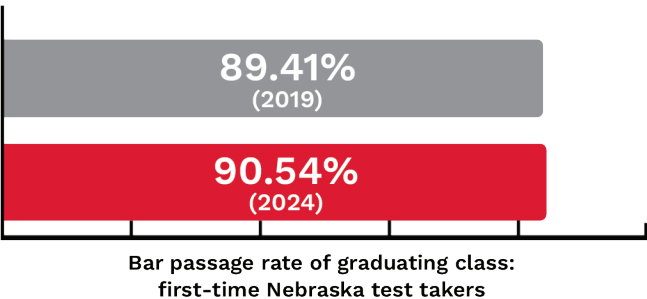


Reporting on Key Indicators of Success

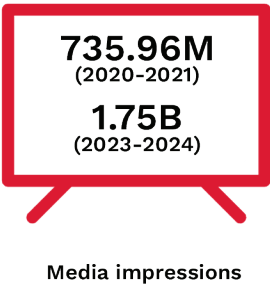
FUNDRAISING



OUTCOMES



FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP



Faculty and Staff Awards: 2019-2025

Professor Kristen Blankley

- » AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll

Assistant Dean Molly Brummond

- » Limitless Leadership Award, Ms. JD
- » Visionary Award, Nebraska State Bar Association

Professor Jamie Cooper

- » AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll

Professor Rich Leiter

- » Fredrick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship, Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section

Professor Elsbeth Magilton

- » Emerging Leader Award, AALS Section on Externships

Professor Colleen Medill

- » Outstanding Legal Educator Award, Nebraska State Bar Foundation

Dean Richard Moberly

- » Warren K. Urbom Mentor Award, Robert Van Pelt Inns of Court

Kala Mueller

- » Visionary Award, Nebraska State Bar Association
- » AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll

Professor Michelle Paxton

- » Community of Hope Award, Casey Family Programs
- » Advocacy in Education Award, Education Rights Counsel

Associate Dean Stefanie Pearlman

- » Dr. Joel Fishman Professional Publication Award, GLL-SIS, American Association of Law Libraries
- » Connie E. Bolden Publication Award, GLL-SIS, American Association of Law Libraries
- » Paul Gatz RIPS-SIS Publication Award, American Association of Law Libraries

Professor Steve Schmidt

- » Nebraska Prosecutor of the Year Award

Professor Anna Shavers

- » Diversity Award, Nebraska State Bar Association
- » Outstanding Contributor to Women in the Law Award, Nebraska State Bar Association (posthumously)

Professor Jessica Shoemaker

- » Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Foundation of New York
- » Professional Scholarship Award, American Agricultural Law Association
- » Fulbright Canada U.S. Scholar Award

Professor Brett Stohs

- » Gregg Christensen Nebraska Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award, NETForce and Nebraska Enterprise Fund

Professor Ryan Sullivan

- » Access to Justice Award, Association of American Law Schools
- » Robert M. Spire Award, Nebraska State Bar Association
- » Seeds of Justice Award, Nebraska Appleseed
- » AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll

Professor Korey Taylor

- » Diversity Award, Nebraska State Bar Association

Civil Clinic

- » Outstanding Pandemic Response Award, Lincoln Homeless Coalition
- » Seeds of Justice Award, Nebraska Appleseed

College of Law

- » Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award, *Insight into Academia*

College of Law, Rural Law Opportunities Program and Underserved Law Opportunities Program

- » NU President's Inclusive Excellence Collaboration Award

Manoah B. Reese Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta

- » Outstanding Community Service Program Award, Phi Alpha Delta

Muslim Law Student Association

- » Roger Baldwin Civil Libertarian of the Year Award, ACLU of Nebraska

Schuyler Project

- » University of Nebraska-Lincoln Community Engagement Seed Funding Grant

Tenant Assistance Project

- » Attorney Partner Equal Justice Award, Legal Aid of Nebraska
- » Good Apple Award, Nebraska Appleseed

Women Lead Conference

- » Council for Advancement and Support of Education Silver Circle of Excellence Award
- » Best-in-show honor for nonprofits, American Marketing Association Lincoln Chapter