



LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA

RETURNING NEBRASKANS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

NEWS AND UPDATES - AUGUST '06

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TOP LEVEL PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED . . .

Legal Aid of Nebraska has announced promotions of two attorneys to newly created positions at the top level of the state-wide organization.

Annette W. Farnan, a Legal Aid staff attorney since 1994 and who was serving as Director of the AccessLine, has been named Director of Access and Support. David M. Pantos, who comes to Nebraska from Legal Services of New Jersey, is the new Director of Litigation and Advocacy. Both will be headquartered in Omaha. While with Legal Services of New Jersey, Pantos was manager of a program, with 25 attorneys and a \$2.5 million budget, involved in litigation and appellate work.

In announcing the key appointments, Executive Director Doug German said: "These two positions will be supervising the work we do here at Legal Aid. I'll be calling on David and Annette for significant leadership. They will be responsible for expanding our advocacy work based on the results of a new study of the legal needs of our low-income communities and our new strategic plan, both of which will be completed by early 2007."

Legal Aid of Nebraska is a non-profit, private law firm providing free, civil legal aid to low income residents of the state. Legal Aid is the law firm for one-seventh of Nebraska's population of 1.74 million. Its staff of 58 attorneys, paralegals and other professionals operates from seven offices throughout Nebraska. Each year it receives 50,000 calls for assistance.

Pantos is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Law where he also received a masters degree in Environmental Science. He holds a bachelors degree from Rutgers University. He is licensed to practice in Colorado, New Jersey and New York, as well as Nebraska.

He will be responsible for Legal Aid's strategic litigation and advocacy work, and all new projects. The managers of Legal Aid's offices in Scottsbluff, North



Annette Farnan, Director of Access and Support

Platte, Lincoln, Grand Island, Norfolk, Omaha and Bancroft will report to him.

Farnan, a Creighton University law graduate, has been in charge of Legal Aid's Access Line telephone system – the 'front door' through which thousands of clients get access to legal help, and Acting Director of Litigation.

In her new role, Farnan will continue to direct Legal Aid's Access Line but also will have oversight of operational support for litigation and advocacy.

"With these positions and these two experienced attorneys we intend to seek out positive new directions in Nebraska for the service we provide to low income residents," German said.

"Rather than us sitting around deciding what they need," Pantos said. "We've decided to go out and ask them." Pantos plans to do more research in the Panhandle, making sure that the Scottsbluff community and surrounding counties receive the same kind of legal services that are offered in eastern Nebraska.

The next project for Pantos and Legal Aid of Nebraska is to finish a migrant worker calendar that aids the workers in organizing wages, understanding laws and regulations and overall staying within the law. The calendar should be ready some time in August.



David Pantos, Director of Litigation and Advocacy

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA

Doug German, Executive Director Jim Gordon, Board Chair & President

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