

Rachelle K. Keck, PhD, JD
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Education, 4.0 GPA, Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Dissertation – “Sensemaking & Rainmaking: A Phenomenology Examining the Fundraising Experiences of Presidents at Private, Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education”

Juris Doctor, *with distinction*, University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, IA

Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, Wartburg College, Waverly, IA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President, *Grand View University, Des Moines, IA, 2022-Present*

President & CEO, *Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA, 2018-2022*

Executive Vice President, *Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA, 2017-2018*

Chief of Staff & University Counsel, *Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA, 2017*

Acting Vice President, Enrollment Management, *Briar Cliff University, 2017*

Executive Director, Philanthropy & Alumni Relations, *Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, IA, 2015-2017*

Director of Planned Giving, *University of Iowa Foundation, Iowa City, IA, 2014-2015*

President & Attorney, *Johnson Law Firm, PC, Montezuma, IA, 1998-2014*

President & General Counsel, *Security Title & Escrow Services, Inc., Montezuma, IA, 1998-2014*

General Counsel, *Johnson & Johnson Enterprises, LLC, Montezuma, IA, 2000-2014*

Adjunct Instructor: Real Estate Law for Paralegals, *Iowa Valley Community College District, Grinnell, IA, 2011*

Assistant Prosecutor, *Poweshiek County Attorney’s Office, Montezuma, IA, 1995-1999*

Associate Attorney, *Mahaffey Law Office, Montezuma, IA, 1995-1998*

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Karstens, R.L. (2020). *Sensemaking & Rainmaking: A Phenomenology Examining the Fundraising Experiences of Presidents at Private, Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education*. ProQuest.
- Cranston, J., Karstens, R., Lange, P., & Schott, K. (Eds.) (2017). *Learning to Lead: A doctoral cohort’s journey*. CreateSpace.

- Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA) Real Estate & Title Law Section (co-author) (2010). *Iowa Land Title Standards: Eighth Edition*.
- Johnson, R.L.K. (2009). Anywhere the Wind Blows, There's Bound to Be Dust. *ISBA General Practice Newsletter*.
- Johnson, R.L.K. (2008). The Art of the Title Opinion. *ISBA General Practice Newsletter*.
- Johnson, R.L.K. (2008). Closing Forms. *ISBA General Practice Newsletter*.
- Johnson, R.L.K. (2006). Did You Miss the Solo & Small Firm Conference? *ISBA Iowa Lawyer Magazine*.
- Gorsline, M.C. & Johnson, R.L.K. (Fall 2004) "The United States system of organ donation, the international solution, & the Cadaveric Organ Donor Act: And the winner is...", *Journal of Corporation Law*, 20(1).

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Upcoming

- *American Keynote Speaker, Rebildfesten, Denmark's 4th of July Celebration* – Rebild National Park Society (2024)
- *Keynote Speaker* – Leadership Siouxland Graduation (2025)

Past

- *CEO Mindset* – RISE Breakfast Club: Unapologetically Bold, A Leadership Workshop for Women (2024)
- *Education to Workforce Program*, Panelist – Space Foundation Space Symposium (2024)
- *Future U: Designing the Future You Want* – Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Annual Convention (2024)
- Keynote – Nexus Club (2024)
- *The Future of Higher Education*, Panelist – Future World of Work Summit, Greater Des Moines Partnership (2023)
- Keynote – MoveHER (2023)
- Panel Speaker – EmpowHER Signature Event, Banker's Trust (2023)
- *Future U: Navigating the Unpredictable to Lead Tomorrow* – Legacy NOW Leadership Conference (2023)
- *Mentoring for Women*, Mentor – West Des Moines & Clive Chambers of Commerce (2023)
- *90 Ideas in 90 Minutes*, Speaker – Des Moines Business Record (2023)
- *Self Fluency: Unleash Your Unstoppable Amidst the Unpredictable*, Keynote – Women of Vision, Altoona Chamber of Commerce (2023)
- *Higher Education Presidents Panel*, Panelist – Way Up Conference (2022)
- *Reimagining Relationships: Leading Boards, Businesses, & Benefactors Through Transformation* – President's Institute, Credo Women in Leadership Initiative (2022)
- *Futurists Panel*, Panelist – Governor's Future Ready Iowa Summit (2022)
- *Bold Conversations: Adapting & Thriving in Tomorrow's Work & Learning Ecosystem*, Panelist – Future World of Work Summit, Greater Des Moines Partnership (2022)
- *The Change Age: Agony or Adventure?*, Keynote – NWIA AEA Superintendent's Meeting (2022) *Imposter Syndrome: Leading When You Feel Like a Fake*, Keynote – EmpowHER Luncheon (2022)
- *Higher Education Leadership Mastery (HELM)* – President's Leadership Academy, Briar Cliff University (2021-2022)

- *Increasing Donor Engagement & Giving with Alumni* – Council for Independent Colleges (CIC) Annual President's Institute (2022)
- *Mission Driven Organizations & Board Governance* – Leadership Siouland (2022)
- Keynote – Leadership Siouland Graduation (2020)
- *Innovative Curriculum & Pro Bono Clinic Fosters Student Success* – Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference (2019)
- *The 30%: New CEOs at Higher Education Institutions*, Panelist– The Way Up Annual Conference (2018)
- *The Road Less Traveled: Paths to Higher Education Administration*, Panelist – The Way Up Annual Conference (2018)
- *How to Strategically Engage Your President, Cabinet & Deans to Advance Institutional Fundraising Goals* – Council for Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) National Conference for Community College Advancement (2017)*
(*selected as presenter, but unable to attend)
- *Females, Philanthropy, & Fundraising: The Power of the Purse* – American Association of Community Colleges National Convention (2017)
- *College + Foundation Strategic Planning: 2 Plans, 1 Path* – American Association of Community Colleges National Convention (2017)
- *Farm Philanthropy: Harvesting Gifts of Farmland, Livestock & Crops* – National Rural Community College Alliance Conference (2016)*
(*selected as presenter, but unable to attend)
- *Community College Foundations: IRS Requirements & Tax Information* – Iowa Foundation Directors Conference (2016)
- *Planned Giving 101* – Iowa Lion's Annual Convention (2015)
- *Utilizing Trusts in Farm Succession Planning* – Iowa Women's Landowner Conf. (2014)
- *Farm Business Law: Buying & Selling Farmland & Businesses* – NBI, Inc. (2014)
- *Farm Lease Lingo* – Tama County Women, Land, & Legacy Conference (2014)
- Keynote – Iowa Women's Landowner Conference (2013)
- *Iowa Land Boundaries & Access Rights: Understanding Adverse Possession* – Half Moon Seminars (2012)
- *Update on Iowa Land Title Standards* – Iowa Valley Community College (2011)
- *Mandatory Mediation in Family Law* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2010)
- *How to Bill (Contingency Fee Agreements)* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2010)
- *Wind Energy Project Easements & Leases* – Drake University Law School (2010)
- *Wind Energy: Dust in the Wind – Landowner Issues to Watch for in Wind Farm Leases* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2009)
- *Ethics in the Title Industry* – Iowa Land Title Assoc. NE Region (2008)
- *Title Guaranty* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2006)
- *Wrap-Up Experts Pane*, Panelist – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2006)
- *Closing Experts Panel*, Panelist – Iowa Title Guaranty Conference (2006)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT - PRESENT

- Banker's Trust Community Board
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa, Board of Directors
- Des Moines Embassy Club, Board of Directors
Nominating Committee
- Downtown DSM, Board of Directors

- EAB National Presidents Advisory Council
- Greater Des Moines Committee
- Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity 2024 Women Build Co-Chair
- Heart of America Athletic Conference, Council of Presidents, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Strategic Plan Committee
- Iowa College Foundation, Vice Chair Executive Committee
- SEED Coalition (fka Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact), Board of Directors Vice Chair Membership Committee, Chair
- Iowa Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, Chair-Elect
- Iowa Valley Community College, Paralegal Program Academic Advisory Board
- National Association for ELCA Colleges & Universities (NECU), Board of Directors Executive Committee
- National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, Board of Directors Student Affairs Committee Tax Policy Committee
- Rotary International, Des Moines AM Club, Member
- Victory Kid Sports, Iowa Board of Directors
- West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Visionary Leaders Forum

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT – PAST

- Above & Beyond Cancer, Celebrity Skydiver (2023)
- American Land Title Association (ALTA) Closing Committee
- Council for Resource Development (CRD), National Conference Awards Committee
- D.A.R.E. Montezuma, Co-Founder & President
- Girls, Inc. of Sioux City, Board of Directors
- Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC), Council of Presidents, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC), Board of Directors Secretary Trustee Organization & Education Committee
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC) Clinical Integration Network Board of Directors Governance Committee
- Heart of America Athletic Conference, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT), Vice Chair-Work Alike Groups
- Iowa County Attorney’s Association (ICAA), Associate Director
- Iowa Land Title Association (ILTA) County Land Record Information System (CLRIS) Task Force
- Iowa Sister States, Board of Directors Governance Committee Chair
- Iowa State Bar Association Ad Hoc Committee Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council Family & Juvenile Law Section Council, ADR Committee General Practice Section Council, Chair Vice Chair

- Judicial Administration Committee
- Law Practice Management Committee
- Real Estate & Title Law Section Council, Chair
- Real Property Committee Chair
- Title Standards Committee
- Iowa Supreme County Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission
- Leadership Siouland Board of Directors, President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
- Monte 2020, Member
- Montezuma Community Foundation Co-Founder
 - Vice President
- Montezuma Community Schools Facility Planning Committee, Co-Chair
- Montezuma Music Boosters, President
- Poweshiek County Bar Association, President
- Poweshiek County Compensation Board, Treasurer Representative
- Poweshiek County Inheritance Tax Appraiser
- Poweshiek County Judicial Nominating Commission
- Poweshiek County Mental Health Hospitalization Referee
- Poweshiek Leadership Program Advisory Council, Member
 - Graduate
- State of Iowa Governor’s Drug Abuse & Education Advisory Council
- Wartburg College Alumni Association Board, President
 - Vice President
- Wartburg College Board of Regents
 - Institutional Advancement Committee
 - Enrollment Management Committee
 - Presidential Search Committee
- Wartburg College Planned Giving Advisory Council
- Way Up Conference, Planning Board
 - Keynote Speaker Committee Chair
 - Program Committee Member

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Woman on Fire*, 2024; FuseDSM Breaking Barriers
- *ASU + GSV Summit Scholarship Recipient*, 2024
- *Pioneering Presidents & Board Chairs, Selected President*, 2024; Council for Independent Colleges (CIC)
- *Best Workplace/Company Culture*, 2023; FuseDSM
- *Excellence in Education Award*, 2023; Delta Kappa Gamma, Tau Chapter
- *Inspiring Women of Iowa - Inspiring Advocate for Women*, 2020; Girl Scouts of Greater Des Moines

LICENSES & CREDENTIALS

- *Licensed Attorney*, State of Iowa
- *Vocation Credential*, Grand View University (2024)
- *DEI Credential – Level 1*, Grand View University (2023)
- *DEI Credential – Level 2*, Grand View University (2024 – pending)
- *Thinking Into Results Credential*, Proctor Gallagher (2021)