

**Rachelle K. Keck, PhD, JD**  
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## **EDUCATION**

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**Doctor of Philosophy in 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

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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

**President**, 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

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## **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

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- 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).

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## PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- *Reimagining Relationships: Leading Boards, Businesses, & Benefactors Through Transformation* – Credo Women in Leadership Initiative, 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CWLI Presidents Institute (2022)
- *The Role of a College President in Today's Climate* – The Way Up Annual Conference (2022)
- *Armchair Interview with Leading Iowa Futurists* – Governor's Future Ready Iowa Summit (2022)
- *Keynote Speaker* – NW AEA Superintendents' Meeting (2022)
- *Keynote Speaker* – PowHER Luncheon (2022)
- *Increasing Donor Engagement & Giving with Alumni* (Co-facilitator) – Council for Independent Colleges (CIC) Annual President's Institute (2022)
- *Mission Driven Organizations & Board Governance* – Leadership Siouland (2022)
- *Keynote Speaker* – Leadership Siouland Graduation (2020)
- *Innovative Curriculum & Pro Bono Clinic Fosters Student Success* – Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference (2019)
- *The 30%: New CEOs at Iowa Higher Education Institutions* – The Way Up Annual Conference (2018)
- *The Road Less Traveled: Paths to Higher Education Administration* – 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 National Conference for Community College Advancement (2017)
- *Females & Fundraising: How to Incorporate Influencer Philanthropy in Your Advancement Plan* – Council for Advancement & Support of Education National Conference for Community College Advancement (2017)
- *Strategic Use of Your President, Cabinet, & Deans to Advance Institutional Fundraising Goals* – Amer. Assoc. of Community Colleges Nat. Convention (2017)
- *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 Address* – 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 Panel* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2006)
- *Closing Experts Panel* – Iowa Title Guaranty Conference (2006)

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## **PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT - PRESENT**

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- Heart of America Athletic Conference, Council of Presidents
- Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Vice Chair  
President’s Council, Executive Board
- Iowa Sister States, Board of Directors
- Iowa Valley Community College, Paralegal Program Academic Advisory Board
- National Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities, Tax Policy Committee

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## **PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT – PAST**

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- American Land Title Association Closing Committee
- Council for Resource Development, National Conference Awards Committee
- D.A.R.E. Montezuma, Co-Founder & President
- Girls, Inc. of Sioux City, Board of Directors
- Great Plains Athletic Conference, Council of Presidents
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Board of Directors  
Secretary  
Trustee Organization & Education Committee
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center Clinical Integration Network  
Board of Directors  
Governance Committee
- Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, Vice Chair-Work Alike Groups
- Iowa County Attorney’s Association, Associate Director
- Iowa Land Title Association 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 Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission
- Leadership Siouland Board of Directors
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
- Monte 2020, Member
- Montezuma Community Foundation, Vice President
- Montezuma Community Schools Facility Planning Committee, Co-Chair
- Montezuma Music Boosters, President
- Poweshiek County Bar Association
  - President
- Poweshiek County Compensation Board
- Poweshiek County Inheritance Tax Appraiser
- Poweshiek County Judicial Nominating Commission
- Poweshiek Leadership Program Advisory Council, Member
  - Graduate
- Siouland Chamber of Commerce, Government Relations Committee
- State of Iowa Governor's Drug Abuse Prevention & Education Advisory Council
- Sunnybrook Hope Redemption Center, Board of Directors
- UnityPoint Health – Sioux City, Board of Directors
  - CEO Search Committee
  - Quality Committee
- 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