

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

- *Keynote* – The Way Up Conference (Nov. 2025)
- *Leader Panel* – Taking Up Space Conference (Sept. 2025)
- *President's Panel* – EAB New Presidents Intensive (2025)
- *Keynote* – Elevate: Talent Development Summit, ATW Training Solutions (2025)
- *President's Panel* – *What Matters Most: Navigating the Current Moment* – Spring Meeting, National Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities (NAICU) (2025)
- *Women Presidents Panel* – Annual President's Institute, Council for Independent Colleges (CIC) (2025)
- *Keynote* – Fail Forward (2024)
- *Career Transitions & Higher Education Panel* – Principal Financial Women in Real Estate (2024)
- *Presenter* – Danebod Folk Meeting (2024)
- *CEO Mindset: Running the Business of You* – FemCity DSM Beyond Business Conference (2024)
- *Keynote* – Releve Club (2024)
- *Keynote* – West Des Moines Rotary Club (2024)
- *American Keynote Speaker, Rebildfesten, Denmark's 4th of July Celebration* – Rebild National Park Society (2024)
- *Presenter* – Tivoli Lodge, Danish Sisterhood (2024)
- *Keynote* – FLC Chariton Annual Luncheon (2024)
- *Keynote* – Dress for Success DSM Annual Luncheon (2024)
- *CEO Mindset* – Unapologetically Bold, A Leadership Workshop for Women, RISE Breakfast Club (2024)
- *Education to Workforce Panel* – Space Foundation Space Symposium (2024)
- *Keynote* – *Future U: Designing the Future You Want* – Annual Convention, Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (2024)
- *Keynote* – Nexus Club (2024)
- *The Future of Higher Education Panel* – Future World of Work Summit, Greater Des Moines Partnership (2023)
- *Keynote* – MoveHER (2023)
- *Leader Panel* – EmpowHER Signature Event, Banker's Trust (2023)
- *Future U: Navigating the Unpredictable to Lead Tomorrow* – Legacy NOW Leadership Conference (2023)

- *Mentor – Mentoring for Women Event*, West Des Moines & Clive Chambers of Commerce (2023)
- *90 Ideas in 90 Minutes Speaker* – Des Moines Business Record (2023)
- *Keynote – Self Fluency: Unleash Your Unstoppable Amidst the Unpredictable* – Women of Vision, Altoona Chamber of Commerce (2023)
- *Alternative Careers in Law Panel* – Drake Law School (2022)
- *Higher Education Presidents Panel* – Way Up Conference (2022)
- *Reimagining Relationships: Leading Boards, Businesses, & Benefactors Through Transformation* – President's Institute, Credo Women in Leadership Initiative (2022)
- *Futurists Panel* – Governor's Future Ready Iowa Summit (2022)
- *Bold Conversations: Adapting & Thriving in Tomorrow's Work & Learning Ecosystem Panel* – Future World of Work Summit, Greater Des Moines Partnership (2022)
- *Keynote – The Change Age: Agony or Adventure?* – NWIA AEA Superintendent's Meeting (2022)
- *Keynote – Imposter Syndrome: Leading When You Feel Like a Fake* – EmpowHER Luncheon (2022)
- *Higher Education Leadership Mastery (HELM)* – President's Leadership Academy, Briar Cliff University (2021-2022)
- *Increasing Donor Engagement & Giving with Alumni* – Annual President's Institute, Council for Independent Colleges (CIC) (2022)
- *Mission Driven Organizations & Board Governance* – Leadership Siouxland (2022)
- *Keynote* – Leadership Siouxland Graduation (2020)
- *Innovative Curriculum & Pro Bono Clinic Fosters Student Success* – Annual Conference, Higher Learning Commission (2019)
- *Education Session Leader* – Leadership Siouxland (2019)
- *The 30%: New CEOs at Higher Education Institutions Panel* – The Way Up Annual Conference (2018)
- *The Road Less Traveled: Paths to Higher Education Administration Panel* – The Way Up Annual Conference (2018)
- *How to Strategically Engage Your President, Cabinet & Deans to Advance Institutional Fundraising Goals* – National Conference for Community College Advancement, Council for Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) (2017)*
(*selected as presenter, but unable to attend)
- *Females, Philanthropy, & Fundraising: The Power of the Purse* – National Convention, American Association of Community Colleges (2017)
- *College + Foundation Strategic Planning: 2 Plans, 1 Path* – National Convention, American Association of Community Colleges (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 Conference (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 Panel* – ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference (2006)
- *Closing Experts Panel* – 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
Vice Chair
Nominating Committee Member
- Downtown DSM, Board of Directors
- EAB National Presidents Advisory Council
- Greater Des Moines Committee Member
- Heart of America (HOA) Athletic Conference, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Council of Presidents
- Iowa College Foundation (ICF), Board of Directors
Vice Chair
Executive Committee Member
- Iowa Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (IAICU)
Vice Chair
Executive Committee Member
- Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation, Board of Directors
- National Association for ELCA Colleges & Universities (NECU), Board of Directors
Vice Chair
Executive Committee Member
- National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (NAICU), Board of Directors
Tax Policy Committee Chair
Executive Committee Member
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Path Forward Task Force Member
- NEXUS Executive Women's Alliance, Member
- Rotary International, Des Moines AM Club, Member
- SEED Coalition (*fka* Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact), Board of Directors
Membership Committee Chair
- Terrace Hill Gala Committee

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT – PAST

- Above & Beyond Cancer, Celebrity Skydiver (2023)
- American Land Title Association (ALTA), Closing Committee Member

- Council for Independent Colleges (CIC), Pioneering Presidents
- 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), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Council of Presidents
- Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, Women Build Co-Chair (2024)
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC), Board of Directors
Secretary
Trustee Organization & Education Committee Member
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC) Clinical Integration Network, Board of Directors
Governance Committee Member
- Heart of America Athletic Conference, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Strategic Plan Steering Committee Member
- 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 Member
- Iowa Sister States, Board of Directors
Governance Committee Chair
- Iowa State Bar Association
Ad Hoc Committee Member
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council Member
Family & Juvenile Law Section Council, ADR Committee Member
General Practice Section Council, Chair
Vice Chair
Judicial Administration Committee Member
Law Practice Management Committee Member
Real Estate & Title Law Section Council, Chair
Real Property Committee Chair
Title Standards Committee Member
- Iowa Supreme Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Commission Member
- Iowa Valley Community College, Paralegal Program Academic Advisory Board Member
- 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
- National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (NAICU), Student Affairs Committee Member
- Poweshiek County Bar Association, President
- Poweshiek County Compensation Board, Treasurer Representative
- Poweshiek County Inheritance Tax Appraiser
- Poweshiek County Judicial Nominating Commission Member
- Poweshiek County Mental Health Hospitalization Referee
- Poweshiek Leadership Program Advisory Council, Member

Graduate

- State of Iowa Governor's Drug Abuse & Education Advisory Council, Member
- Victory Kid Sports, Iowa Board of Directors
- Wartburg College Alumni Association Board, President
Vice President
- Wartburg College Board of Regents
Institutional Advancement Committee Member
Enrollment Management Committee Member
Presidential Search Committee Member
- Wartburg College Planned Giving Advisory Council Member
- Way Up Conference, Planning Board Member
Keynote Speaker Committee Chair
Program Committee Member
- West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Visionary Leaders Forum

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Hall of Honors – Professional Accomplishments*, Clinton High School (2025)
- *Woman of Influence*, Des Moines Business Record (2024)
- *Woman on Fire*, FuseDSM Breaking Barriers (2024)
- *ASU + GSV Summit Scholarship Recipient* (2024)
- *Pioneering Presidents & Board Chairs, Selected President*, Council for Independent Colleges (CIC) (2024)
- *Best Workplace/Company Culture*, FuseDSM (2023)
- *Excellence in Education Award*, Delta Kappa Gamma, Tau Chapter (2023)
- *Inspiring Women of Iowa - Inspiring Advocate for Women*, Girl Scouts of Greater Des Moines (2020)

LICENSES

- *Licensed Attorney*, State of Iowa