

# The COMPASS

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July 2004

We have prepared this special edition of *The Compass* to announce some recent and upcoming changes in our firm. Two of our named partners have decided to make some changes at this point in their legal careers and we are pleased to share the details with you.

## David Ludtke Elects “Of Counsel” Status

On June 1, 2004, Dave Ludtke changed his status with the firm from partner to “Of Counsel”.



David was a partner with Rembolt Ludtke & Berger LLP for over 30 years. As a partner, he practiced law and actively participated in firm management decisions. Being “Of Counsel” means that David will remain an active attorney with the firm, but his management responsibilities will be greatly reduced. He will continue to work with his existing clients and will actively (but somewhat more selectively) seek out new projects. David joins John H. Binning, who has worked with our firm in an “Of Counsel” relationship for the past 12 years.

Those of you who know David understand why we have been so fortunate to have him as an attorney and partner in the firm. He earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard University, served as a naval aviator for five years, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Michigan law school. After practicing law in Washington, D.C. for a time, David became a tax professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1972. He joined Rembolt Ludtke & Berger LLP in 1973 while continuing to teach on a full time basis until 1986. David taught part time through 1990 when he stopped teaching on a regular basis at the College of Law. He continues to be an active mentor to attorneys inside and outside the firm. As a practicing attorney, David is recognized as one of the premier tax attorneys in the state with a wide range of experience in commercial

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transactions and sophisticated estate planning. In recent years, David became certified as a commercial arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, which has provided him new opportunities to contribute to the business community.

Please join us in congratulating David.

### **Penny J. Berger to Serve as General Counsel & Dean**

Penny J. Berger recently accepted a position with Nebraska Wesleyan University to serve as Dean of University College and General Counsel. Penny has long been interested and involved in higher education, having represented both Nebraska Wesleyan and Union College during her long career at the firm. Unfortunately, her duties with Nebraska Wesleyan require that she end the private practice of law with Rembolt Ludtke & Berger LLP, effective as of the end of July, 2004.



Penny's departure will mark a significant change of professional direction. Penny started her career with the firm in 1975, after receiving her law degree, with distinction, from the University of Nebraska College of Law. She had already earned a bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a master's degree from Columbia University and had completed Ph.D. course work at the University of Chicago. When she began her practice, there were very few women attorneys in private practice in Lincoln. Penny has served as a leader for our firm and the community and broken ground for women who began their law practice in the years to follow. We believe that Penny's 29 year association with the firm is the longest tenure of any woman with a firm in Lincoln.

Penny is a Fellow of the Nebraska State Bar Association, and has taught individual classes at the University of Nebraska College of Law and College of Business Administration. Penny was a Leadership Lincoln VII Fellow and was recognized as the Lincoln YMCA Volunteer of the Year. Among her numerous civic contributions, she served on the Mayor's Urban Design Committee, the Board of Trustees of Lincoln General Hospital, and on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Mediation Center. She recently completed a ten year term as the President of the Lincoln City Libraries Foundation.

We wish Penny all the best in her new position. Penny has made a difference in our firm and in the community, and all of us here at Rembolt Ludtke & Berger LLP know that she will make a difference at Nebraska Wesleyan University.