

University of Nebraska College of Law Commitment to Free Speech and Academic Freedom

The University of Nebraska College of Law is a public institution that is committed to upholding the principles of free speech. This includes the rights of faculty, staff, students, and guests invited on campus to speak as well as the right of those in attendance to hear their speech. The right of free speech also includes a right to express disagreement with speakers in ways that enhance rather than undermine the culture of free expression. Protected expressions of disagreement at a law school function or approved activity may include rigorous and adversarial questioning during a question-and-answer period; invitations to speakers who represent opposing viewpoints; non-disruptive protest at the event; and additional protest at one of the free speech zones on campus. But disruption of law school functions or approved activities or attempts to shout down speakers are prohibited because they interfere with the right of those in attendance to hear what is being said. Anyone who continues to disrupt the law school function or approved activity after being asked to desist through reason and persuasion will be asked to leave and may be subject to proceedings under the University of Nebraska Student Code of Conduct and/or subject to the sanctions and procedures listed in University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policy 2.1.2.

As stated in Bylaw 4.2 of the Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, “The University serves the people of Nebraska and the common good through learning, teaching, extension work, research, scholarship, and public service. Fulfillment of these functions requires the preservation of intellectual freedoms of teaching, expression, research, and debate. The right to search for truth, to support a position the searcher believes is the truth, and to disagree with others whose intellect reaches a different conclusion is the fiber of America's greatness. It is, likewise, the strength of a great University, and its preservation is vital.” The College of Law is committed to the protection of academic freedom. These principles apply to all full and part-time faculty and all others teaching in law school courses. It shall apply to conducting research, publishing scholarship, engaging in law school governance, participating in law related public service activities, curating library collections and providing information services, and exercising teaching responsibilities, including those related to client representation in clinical programs.

The College of Law abides by the Academic Freedom and Responsibility principles and due process procedures as listed in the [Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska](#), [University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policies](#), and [University of Nebraska, Lincoln Bylaws](#).

Nothing in this statement shall be construed to be in conflict with any applicable law, the Bylaws of the Board of Regents, University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policies, or the Bylaws of the University of Nebraska Lincoln.