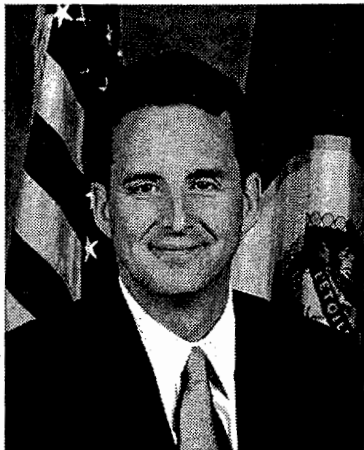


Legal/Bar Report

Gov. Pawlenty Nationally



Gov. Tim Pawlenty

will involve steering assistance to GOP candidates in close races. And he's jumped into the national health care debate, criticizing President Barack Obama's plan in a way also seen as a veiled swipe at potential rival Romney. (He labeled a Massachusetts overhaul enacted under Romney an "experiment" with a swelling price tag.)

Pawlenty also told the AP he's considering forming a political action committee – a staple that gives potential presidential candidates a way to raise money and organize travel to election battlegrounds.

Pawlenty's recent travel has taken him to Washington, Arkansas and Colorado. But he hasn't yet ventured to presidential proving grounds Iowa or New Hampshire and wouldn't say when he would. He visited both while campaigning for 2008 nominee John McCain – who considered him for the running mate slot Palin got – but still has plenty of work to do.

Republican John Finnegan, 50, of Concord, said recently he had heard Pawlenty's name but not much else.

"I don't know anything about
See PAWLENTY, page 5



Michelle Peak and Gregory Olaniran addressed the full house at the Nebraska Minority Corporate Counsel Program's latest networking event.

Diversity Arm of State Bar Is On a Roll

By Lorraine Boyd
The Daily Record

A concerted effort to give minority attorneys more opportunities is a noble goal, but it needs the work and support of many.

Earlier this year, the Nebraska State Bar Association rolled out the Nebraska Minority Corporate Counsel Program with a series of professional development and networking opportunities throughout the year for minority attorneys, corporations, government entities and law firms. The first was held in Omaha in February, the second in Lincoln.

Thursday, Omaha's Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP hosted the third networking event at the

Landmark Building, which was attended by nearly four dozen lawyers, judges and corporate representatives.

Gregory Olaniran, a Stinson Morrison Hecker attorney based in Washington, D.C., is the firm's diversity committee chairman. He was back in Omaha for the second event to show the firm's commitment and support.

In speaking to the audience, Olaniran noted that his law firm has only had its diversity committee for about five years, but strides have been made in that time. He told them he'd learned three things that contribute to its success. First, you need to have the highest level of leadership

on board and communicating that commitment, he said. His firm has made diversity part of its strategic plan and is now in the action plan phase.

Second, he said you must stay true to the policy of inclusion. To do that, not only the minority cultures but also the majority culture must be involved in the process.

And third, he said, "Try to be creative." He noted that last fall during the election season, the Kansas City office took advantage of a play, *Radio Golf*, at the Kansas City Repertory. The play is the last of 10 written by August Wilson about the black experience in the last century, See DIVERSITY, page 5

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ry of African-Americans
Latinos being stopped by
enforcement disproportion-

s reporter, having covered
police in New York City
1958, I can further define
Obama refers to as dispropo-
nate police stops of
s.

May of this year, the New
Civil Liberties Union
(CLU) reported, based on
e data, that New York City
e Department officers
ped and interrogated New
ers 171,094 times between
ry and March" – and more
151,000 of those individu-
ere sent on their way with-
charges. Approximately
0 of those stopped were
, 56,000 were Latino, and
0 were white.

anna Lieberman, the head
e NYCLU, added: "These
Yorkers' personal informa-
is now stored in an NYPD
ase."
he NYPD is, in effect,
ing a massive database of
and brown New Yorkers,"
NYCLU Associate Legal
ctor Christopher Dunn.
d on what information on
who are not charged?
r color!

ot incidentally, Barack
na, when he was an Illinois
senator, sponsored legisla-
to track racial breakdown of
ers stopped by the police.
term, "Driving While
k," is familiar to blacks
nd the country protesting
proportionate" police stops
ie road and in their streets.
wsday (July 30) quotes 44-
old Julian Gouborne,

black, an information technolo-
gist for a bank, that "whites
don't understand racial profiling
because white people don't ex-
perience it negatively."

Accordingly, a July 29 *Wall
Street Journal*/NBC poll dis-
closed that 4 percent of blacks
blamed Mr. Gates for the noto-

rious arrest while 30 percent
targeted Crowley. Among white
respondents, 32 percent placed
responsibility for the arrest on
Gates and 7 percent blamed
Crowley.

If this "teachable moment" is
intended to show how far we
still have to go to enter a post-

racial society, it has succeeded.
To be continued.

In another context, Winston
Churchill urged: "Never ever
give up!" Nor should we to en-
sure the Constitution's equal
protection of the laws.

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Diversity

(Continued from page 3)

each one set in succeeding de-
cades. This one is about a young
black politician running for
mayor in Pittsburgh and the
conflicts he encounters as he
 juggles with progress versus his
heritage and tradition. Olaniran
said they created a diversity
event around the play, holding a
panel discussion first, then see-
ing the play. A creative ap-
proach, he noted, to bringing
diversity issues to the table.

The featured speaker was Mi-
chelle Peak, a 1994 Creighton
law school graduate who is now
senior labor attorney with
American Airlines in Dal-
las/Fort Worth, Texas, where
she has worked for nearly 10
years. Prior to joining Ameri-
can, Peak was a manager in
labor relations with Union Pa-
cific Railroad and a deputy
county attorney in Omaha.

Her practice at American in-
cludes all aspects of U.S. labor

relations law, with a particular
focus on labor law matters in
the airline industry arising under
the Railway Labor Act. Mi-
chelle regularly oversees a vari-
ety of litigation matters in state
and federal court, as well as
arbitration matters arising under
the various collective bargaining
agreements on the American
and American Eagle properties.
She also provides counsel and
training to management on all
types of personnel and labor
relations matters. She is a mem-
ber of the Nebraska State Bar
Association.

Peak spoke of the pioneer ef-
forts of American Airlines to
promote diversity, which has
been part of their culture since
1994.

As Olaniran urged, Peak said
the commitment comes from the
top at American. She recounted
the steps that her office takes to
ensure that minority- and
women-owned law firms are
given the opportunity to work
on American's "matters."

The mission of NMCCP is to
increase the opportunities for
minority lawyers to serve as
outside counsel for corporations
and government agencies. An-
other goal of NMCCP is to en-
courage majority-owned law
firms to hire and promote mi-
nority lawyers, to assign signifi-
cant corporate and government
agency projects to their minority
lawyers, and to refer conflict-of-
interest work to minority-owned
law firms. The organization also
encourages joint ventures and
co-counsel relationships be-
tween majority-owned and mi-
nority-owned law firms.

Peak noted that outside firms
are monitored for their diversity
and inclusion performance and
held to their standards. She said
leadership not only "talks" the
talk, but walks the walk ... and
sometimes even runs."

At least 57 Nebraska firms
and organizations have signed
onto the Call to Action Initia-
tive, pledging to work collec-
tively to promote a diverse legal
profession.

Pawlenty

(Continued from page 3)

the guy," he said.

In Iowa, Sioux City busi-
nessman and former state GOP
chairman Ray Hoffman rated

from all 50 states will get their
chance at Pawlenty's speech
Thursday.

Pawlenty tends to stick to a
formula at the podium: He'll
begin with a self-deprecating
joke – usually about a comment

tors" until it finds a better, more
inspiring message.

Whether Pawlenty can break
through to sustain a 2012 cam-
paign is hard to say.

Drake University politics pro-
fessor Dennis Goldford said a