

Today's PolicyTalk contains three items. The first two relate to the Minority and Justice Initiative with which the PPC is involved (the PPC's Liz Neeley is the director of the Minority and Justice Implementation Committee -- see [http://ppc.nebraska.edu/program\\_areas/documents/mjtf.html](http://ppc.nebraska.edu/program_areas/documents/mjtf.html) or [http://www.nebar.com/publicinfo/minority\\_justice.htm](http://www.nebar.com/publicinfo/minority_justice.htm)) and the third is about the Nebraska Rural Poll:

### **1. Juror Appreciation Week in Lincoln: "It's Not Fair If You're Not There"**

On Monday, Sept. 18 at noon (National Constitution Day), Juror Appreciation week will begin in Lincoln. A PDF at <http://ppc.unl.edu/policytalk/jurorappreciation.pdf> from the Nebraska Supreme Court provides more information about the events taking place during the week. The activities in Lincoln are part of a statewide recognition of jury service. In January of this year, Governor Dave Heineman signed a joint proclamation with Chief Justice John Hendry and State Bar Association President William Dittrick proclaiming 2006 as the "Year of the Juror" in Nebraska. For example, Lexington celebrated a "Juror Appreciation Week" May 8-12.

### **2. Diversity Summit**

Nebraska's 2nd Annual Legal Diversity Summit will take place October 6th in Omaha. The legal diversity summit is an annual event, designed to promote diversity in Nebraska's legal profession. It is emerging as the region's most important forum to connect minority talent with potential employers. This year's Summit will be highlighted by a plenary address delivered by Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree, author of several books about law and race in the US. A news release from the State Bar with more information can be found at: <http://ppc.unl.edu/policytalk/summitadvancerelease.doc>

### **3. Rural Poll**

The PPC has been working with the UNL Center for Applied Rural Innovation, UNL Department of Agricultural Economics, and the NU Rural Initiative since 2005 on the Poll. Last week, the third 2006 Rural Poll report was issued, on "Views of Life in Nebraska's Rural Communities." The Report presents rural Nebraskan's responses to questions about their quality of life, whether it is different now than before, and whether the future holds hope or not. The two previous Reports focused on how rural Nebraskans are making a living and how rural Nebraskans view new residents in their community. Two more reports will be issued in the next two months. The Reports and more information can be accessed at <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/report06.shtml>.

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Alan