



**David Mayer**

**Julie Schultz**

**Heather Voegele Anson**

## NEW MEMBER DVORAK LAW JUMPS INTO NTA COUNCILS, ACTIVITIES

By Kristin Allman

Thanks to efforts from members and staff, the Nebraska Trucking Association is growing in membership, events and benefits.

One new member Dvorak Law Group is jumping in and getting engaged.

It's their proactive approach to relationship building and problem mitigation that precipitated their membership with the Nebraska Trucking Association. David Mayer, executive vice president of the firm, is actively working with the NTA to coordinate a 2020 event for members, complete with seminars addressing risk management and theories behind current, newsworthy cases. "Our goal is to serve our clients, continue to grow and get better in our practice by giving back," says David. "We have a great

relationship with other members in the Nebraska Trucking Association and we are really excited about this program." Through outreach and education, Dvorak Law Group hopes to extend their advocacy efforts and reaffirm the significance of the industry.

"We have developed a strategy for every aspect of helping trucking companies," says Heather (Voegele) Anson, a founding partner of the firm and head of the litigation department. "I think there are a lot of great law firms out there that represent transportation, but we strive to get to know the company at every level." For the firm, proactivity is the driving force behind dispute resolution. While insurance

coverage exists for trucking companies, Dvorak Law attorneys oversee insurance counsel, manage litigation and ensure that companies are protected throughout the entire process.

From the pavement to the courtroom, Dvorak Law Group oversees complex litigation cases affecting Nebraska trucking professionals nationwide, combating predatory practices and working to redefine public perception of the industry. Newly joined members of the Nebraska Trucking Association, Dvorak's attorneys understand every aspect of the trucking industry, from internal operation, to hiring and training practices, corporate structure, and most importantly, how to

help trucking companies battle liability and manage risk.

Aiming for significant verdicts against trucking companies following singular accidents, today's plaintiffs are looking for maximum payouts. In a more outlandish case, one of the firm's current clients is facing a lawsuit over damages the plaintiff suffered in a collision, on the grounds that the truck shouldn't have been in its location at time of the accident.

"I think the trend right now is to blame the trucking companies for everything, no matter what," says Heather. "They think big dollars." "Reptile Theory," as it's known, is a contentious problem facing industry professionals across the country. To put it in perspective, attorneys are currently overseeing cases with demands in excess of \$50 million in non-fatality accidents.

Attorneys have to contend with punitive damages against Nebraska

trucking companies when accidents occur outside of state lines, which can lead to excessive verdicts and badly bruised companies. But, with the right tools and adequate representation, trucking companies can expect positive outcomes.

Seeking ways to circumvent these reptilian practices, Dvorak's attorneys examine company employment practices and policies, and work closely with human resources, senior management and safety departments to proactively identify and address potential issues before they become problematic.

Attorneys delve into corporate structure, review manuals and advise companies on areas to strengthen their operations. Julie Schultz Self, partner and head of the employment and labor department, identifies areas for trucking company improvement and growth, some of which relate to representation.

"Statistically, women are underrepresented in the trucking industry, which may affect the recruiting efforts of trucking companies," explains Julie. 🚛

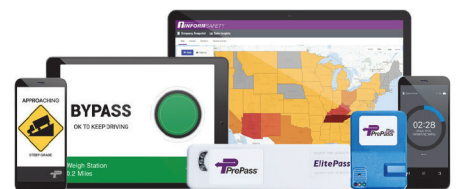
Our Firm is fortunate to work with various trucking companies in the U.S. We joined the NTA to gain greater exposure to, and a better understanding of, issues that exist within the trucking industry. We anticipate that we will be able to share our experiences in the trucking industry while learning from others. We also may be able to informally suggest solutions or new approaches that will benefit other NTA members.

-Julie Schultz Self, Attorney

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