



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Karla R. Rupiper, JD, Named President of Midlands Community Foundation Board of Directors**

Papillion, Neb., September 24, 2008 – The Midlands Community Foundation Board of Directors has elected Karla R. Rupiper, JD, to a three-year term as President. Ms. Rupiper holds a bachelor of science degree from Iowa State University, a master's degree from Central Michigan University and a law degree from Creighton University. She is the Director of Legal Recruiting and Development for Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. Ms. Rupiper is a member of the Nebraska, Omaha, Sarpy County and American Bar Associations and previously served on the board of directors of the Nebraska Women's Bar Association. She also serves on the Papillion Civil Service Commission, the Papillion LaVista Public Schools Foundation, the Metropolitan Community College Law Program Advisory Committee, and the St. Columbkille Parish Education Trust Board of Directors.

"I look forward to working with the other members of the Midlands Community Foundation Board of Directors to carry out the Foundation's mission. We are here to serve the non-profit organizations in Sarpy and Cass counties through financial support of their worthwhile programs and services. I value the Foundation and its efforts to enhance the quality of life for the residents of these communities," Ms. Rupiper said.

Joining Ms. Rupiper on the Board's Executive Committee are: Vice President Randy Sump, RTR Properties (Gretna); Vice President-Advisory Rita Ramirez, City of LaVista (LaVista); Secretary/Treasurer John Sheehan, Douglas County Hospital (Bellevue); Past President Mary Gawecki (Papillion), and Executive Member Terri Scholting, American Family Insurance (Louisville).

In addition, the Board has named Julie E. Bear and Phil Pankonin as new board members. Ms. Bear is the Chief Deputy Public Defender for Cass County and is an attorney with Reinsch Slattery & Bear in Plattsmouth. She holds her bachelor and law degrees from Creighton University. Ms. Bear is a

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member of the Nebraska State Bar Association House of Delegates, Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, National College of DUI Defense, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Mr. Pankonin is former President of Home State Bank in Louisville. He holds a bachelor degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska. He has served on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross, the Louisville Care Center and the Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education for the State of Nebraska. “We are delighted to have Ms. Bear and Mr. Pankonin join our Board, representing Cass County,” said Ms. Rupiper

The 20-member board, representing the communities the Foundation serves, also includes: Janet Barna, Gretna Insurance Agency (Gretna); Brenda Carlson, American National Bank (LaVista); Linda Clatterbuck (Bellevue); Kevin Dasher, Northwest Bank (LaVista); Jan Davis, Black Hills Energy (Papillion); Bob Frederick, Pinnacle Bank (Papillion); Mary Beth Harrold, Papillion Flower Patch (Papillion); Dr. Jim Langley, Langley Animal Hospital (Papillion); Bonnie Miller (Papillion); Lee Polikov, Sarpy County Attorney (Papillion); Jeff Renner, Freeman Company (Bellevue) and Dr. Kevin Riley, Superintendent, Gretna Public Schools (Gretna).

The mission of Midlands Community Foundation is to benefit the diverse needs of the Sarpy and Cass county communities by providing financial support, involvement and service. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated millions of dollars to many worthy organizations with an emphasis toward prevention and education in the areas of health, art, culture, community, education, economic development and human services.

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