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**NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
SUED FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Omaha, Nebraska (Oct. 10, 2012) – State Senator Scott Lautenbaugh today filed suit against the Nebraska State Bar Association (NSBA) and certain of its officers for ongoing violations of the United States Constitution and Federal civil rights laws. The class action lawsuit seeks to have the NSBA’s lobbying and dues procedures declared unconstitutional. The lawsuit also seeks to prevent the NSBA from collecting mandatory dues from NSBA members who object to their dues being used for political, ideological and other non-germane activities until the NSBA adopts procedures that properly safeguard its members’ civil rights.

Senator Lautenbaugh also announced that, in response to a petition he filed last February, the Nebraska Supreme Court recently ordered the NSBA to submit a detailed accounting of all its activities as well as an analysis of how its spending on these activities complies with the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court also ordered the NSBA to submit an analysis of the constitutional soundness of its “opt-out” program for dissenting members in light of a recent U.S. Supreme Court case, *Knox v. Service Employees International Union*.

“The NSBA leadership has been on notice for more than a year that their activities do not comply with the United States Constitution,” Sen. Lautenbaugh said. “I had hoped they would change their behavior after I filed my petition with the Nebraska Supreme Court. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the NSBA leadership will not alter their behavior. I regret this lawsuit was necessary, but I simply do not believe there is any other way to make the NSBA follow the law. As I said last February, I am amazed that such extraordinary steps need to be taken to make a bar association follow the law.”

The Nebraska Supreme Court petition requests that attorneys no longer be required to be members of the NSBA. Today’s separate Federal action was filed to address the ongoing civil rights violations suffered by NSBA members as their mandatory dues continue to be used without their consent for political, ideological and other non-germane purposes.

Senator Lautenbaugh is being represented by Mountain States Legal Foundation. Mountain States Legal Foundation, founded in 1977, is a nonprofit, public-interest legal foundation dedicated to individual liberty, the right to own and use property, limited and ethical government, and the free enterprise system. Its offices are in suburban Denver, Colorado.

Senator Lautenbaugh can be reached at (402) 689-8718.