National Education Association (NEA)/Kansas NEA and Legal Issues

Mission of NEA/KNEA
- Great Public Schools for Every Child
- Quality Schools, Quality teachers, and Member Advocacy/Well-Being of Members

Protection/Insurance
- For teachers
- For the teaching profession

Unified Structure of the Association
- National (NEA), state (Kansas NEA), UniServ districts (with trained staff to serve members) and local associations (Olathe NEA)
- Power from networking and resources
    - Within the Association: web sites, printed materials to support members such as Association Representative Handbook, New Educator Handbook, Quality Public Schools Standards, brochures on Child Abuse and IDEA
    - Externally, such as affiliation with the Kansas Learning First Alliance

Legal Issues—Continuum of Services
- Local Associations negotiate the contract as the recognized bargaining agent for the district bargaining unit (all non-administrative licensed/certified staff) under the Professional Negotiations law in Kansas; Association staff provides counsel and advice on state and federal law and court cases on contract language and negotiable contract items

- Trained UniServ directors and KNEA legal staff help protect both contractual and constitutional rights, with service ranging from consultations to support through the grievance procedure to filing prohibitive practice suits

- Legal representation on "job rights" issues is provided through the Unified Legal Services Program of NEA and KNEA.

- Professional Educators Employment Liability Insurance of $1 million underwritten by Horace Mann is a member benefit.

- Personal legal services area available through the Attorney Referral Program.

- Staff lobbies state and national legislators for laws protecting public education and educators' rights (such as due process rights).

- KNEA members serve as advisors to KSDE and KSBE on committees that help formulate new regulations and policies (such as licensure, QPA, and professional development).