



Melany S. O'Brien

*Managing Partner
Attorney at Law*

Bar Admissions:

- Nebraska
- U.S. District Court
District of Nebraska
- U.S. Federal Courts

**Professional Associations
and Memberships:**

- Omaha Bar Association
- Nebraska State Bar
Association
- Nebraska Women's
Bar Association
- Nebraska State Bar
Foundation
- Women's Center for
Advancement
- American Association
for Justice
- Nebraska Association
of Trial Attorneys

Education:

- Creighton University
School of Law
Omaha, 1993
Doctor of Jurisprudence
Cum Laude
- University of Nebraska
Lincoln, 1989
Bachelor of Science

Melany (Lanagan) O'Brien was born and raised in South Sioux City, Neb. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1989 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Ms. O'Brien also earned a law degree in 1993 from Creighton University School of Law and was admitted to the Nebraska Bar and the Federal Courts in 1993.

"I was inspired to go into legal work because I wanted to help people. I was always interested in the law, and out of law school I took a job that I thought would be great," recalled Ms. O'Brien. "It was with a great law firm and a really great group of people, but it was doing insurance defense work. I was working for the insurance companies, and after a couple of years I found it was not rewarding. I started in personal injury and I now feel like I'm helping people who would not be able to get through this process by themselves because the insurance company will just walk all over them, and take advantage of them, if they're not represented by someone who is looking out for their best interest."

With a career focused on Personal Injury and Product Liability Law, as well as Civil Litigation, Melany has served on the Practice and Procedure, Mediation, Legislative, Ways and Means, and Judicial Resources committees in the Nebraska State Bar Association. She is currently the Chair of the House of Delegates and a member of the Executive Council of the Nebraska State Bar Association. She is also a Fellow and Board Member of the Nebraska Bar Foundation. Ms. O'Brien is also the managing partner of the firm.

Of all the affiliations Melany is deeply involved with, she is most proud of the work she does with the Women's Center for Advancement (WCA). "Being on that board, I feel we're doing so many meaningful things to help people get out of abusive situations, and as you know, Hauptman O'Brien provides free cab rides for someone who's in an abusive situation. If they want a ride to an agency or a hospital, we cover the cost of rides for people who are going through an unfortunate ordeal and are seeking help."

Ms. O'Brien is a recipient of the David A. Svoboda Trial Award and is the author of "Lead Poisoning Prevention in Nebraska," in The Nebraska Lawyer Magazine and "Personal Injury & Workers' Compensation Proceeds in a Divorce," for the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys.

"Ask anyone who has worked with Melany or been part of her social life and they will all be quick to tell you she is determined, funny, loyal, hard working," said Partner Tim O'Brien. "She is caring and she is always open minded, but when it's time to fight for her clients, nobody is more tenacious than Melany O'Brien."

When she isn't busy working for her clients and the many organizations she helps to succeed, Melany enjoys hiking, biking, scuba diving, golfing and many other outdoor activities, and spending time with family.