

Law dean among five finalists for Florida job

By D. Eric Kircher

The dean of the UNL College of Law is a top candidate for the dean's post at the University of Florida College of Law.

John W. Strong is one of five finalists chosen by a Florida University search committee for the position. The search committee cut the list from the 23 names originally considered.

Steven Silver, the John Marshall Bar Association president and a member of the search committee, said Strong has a good chance of being offered the job.

"The response seems to be that Strong and Read (Dean Tom Read of the University of Indiana) are probably the two top candidates," Silver said.

"All the comments we got about Strong were extremely positive," Silver said.

The Florida students have asked the JMBA for information on Strong, Silver said. The faculty seemed to have known about Strong before he became a finalist, he said.

"I know a number of people just on the faculty," Strong said in an interview Thursday. He knows about 10 of the more than 50 professors at Florida University, he said.

Strong said he didn't know what his chances were at Florida University.

"I don't know anything about this," Strong said. "Everybody in the world seems to know more about it than I do.

"I really am not looking for another job," Strong said. "They approached me."

Finalists invited to Florida

The five finalists will receive invitations to visit Florida University and talk to the faculty, Silver said.

"They have indicated that there will be such an invitation (to visit Florida)," Strong said. "I'm uncertain at this point. I may go down there to look."

"I got a call the last day or so asking me to think about coming down," Strong said.

Strong hasn't been told the details of the job, he said.

"Until all this happens, I certainly am not ready to say that I would accept a job if one were offered," he said.

"I have expressed a tentative interest in looking at the position," Strong said. He has no commitment to take the job even if it were offered, he added.

The Florida University Law College "is on the threshold of moving to a different plateau, as far as law schools go," said Richard Wall, a senior law student. The school is now one of the nation's top 20 law schools, Wall said.

Top 20-rated school

The Florida University College of Law has 1,200 students.

"I know very little about the school," Strong said.

"I do know that the salary levels are quite good there," he said. The salaries would help the Florida school attract nationally known professors, he added.

The Florida law school is probably in the top 20 when ranked by salary, Strong said.

The Florida law faculty will select two or three names from the five to submit to Florida University President Robert O. Marston. Marston will choose the dean after the final candidates return to Florida for another interview. He is expected to choose the dean from the submitted list of names, Silver said.

Candidates for the list must receive 60 percent of the faculty's vote.

Marston may choose a dean by late February or early March, Silver said.

The dean position opened in mid-January 1980. The last dean made about \$65,000 a year, Silver said.

Strong withdrew his name from Florida University's earlier list, when the school was searching for a new dean last spring, because he had just turned down a deanship at the University of Oregon at Eugene, he said.

On Feb. 8, 1980, Strong announced he would not accept Oregon University's offer.

Strong has been the UNL Law College dean since Jan. 1, 1977. He was an associate dean and professor at the University of

Oregon at Eugene before coming to Nebraska.

Strong taught at the University of Kansas and Duke University before he went to Oregon University.

Strong received a bachelor's degree in English at Yale University and his juris doctorate at the University of Illinois.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

John Strong

Area groups debate, argue abortion philosophies

By Beth Headrick

The UNL Students for Life met Wednesday night in the Nebraska union, and the Nebraska Religious Coalition for Abortion

Rights (NRCAR) met Thursday at the First Methodist Church. Both groups talked about abortion and the implications of a constitutional Human Life Amendment from opposite sides of the fence.

Doug Novak, president of UNL Students for Life, said the main goal of his organization is to have an amendment passed protecting all life, including the life of the unborn. From the time of conception a fetus is a human being and should have the same rights of any person, Novak said.

The 1973 Supreme Court decision (Wade vs. Roe) states that on the grounds of privacy, a woman has the right to choose to have an abortion. Novak said this decision could be likened to the Dred Scott decision of 1857, in which the court ruled that blacks could be treated as property.

"In both cases a human being is considered to be a non-person, first the blacks and now fetuses. This is a scary thing to us," Novak said.

Speaking at the United Methodist Church, Bishop Monk Bryan of the NRCAR, said opinions differ as to when a fetus can be considered a person. He said it's important to keep searching for that answer, but until then abortion can't be legalized. Bryan called the Human Life Amendment "unworkable" because the question isn't resolved.

Rabbi Henry Karp, a member of NRCAR who spoke for B'nai Jeshurun, said the Jewish religion, for example, believes that until the moment of birth a fetus is considered to be part of the mother.

Novak said his group is not imposing its religious beliefs on others in proclaiming the rights of the fetus.

"You can't mix civil law and religious law," Novak said. "Just because a tribe is following tribal laws and taking a life, for example, doesn't make it right."

Karp said pro-choice groups are not advocating "wholesale abortions." He said that a decision to abort in most cases comes only after a struggle and conflict by the people involved.

Karp said it's archaic to pass an amendment that says abortions would only be allowed if the mother's life was in danger. He said genetic disease is another valid reason to abort.

Citing Tay Sachx, a disease that is hereditary among Jews, Karp said those children having the disease come into the world to suffer and die, and their parents will also suffer.

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Vandalism to pro-life sign provokes accusation, denial

By Tricia Waters

Doug Novak, president of UNL Students for Life, said Thursday that vandalism Wednesday night to the group's rented sign west of the Broyhill Fountain is typical of the pro-choice movement.

Police reported that 34 plastic five-by-four inch letters were stolen from the sign either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.

Novak said he thinks the people who stole letters and lights and threw paint on the sign were from UNL's pro-choice group.

"The vandalism shows a lack of respect for property and life," Novak said.

Jan Deeds, vice president of UNL Students for Reproductive Freedom, said her group wasn't involved. Anyone could have done it, she said.

"I personally don't know who took the letters," Deeds said. "Our group doesn't condone vandalism."

The sign originally said, "UNL Students for Life, Respect Life Week, Help Stop Abortion."

During the past week, the vandals rearranged the letters to say "Opt abortion" and "Help Abortion." Tuesday night, 34 plastic letters worth about \$140 were stolen. Wednesday night vandals threw green, blue and yellow spray paint on the sign and took eight lights, worth about \$40, and a guard rail. The sign shows marks from a crowbar.

Novak said he may talk to a lawyer about the vandalism. He estimated the vandalism damage was about \$200-\$300.

Even if Students for Life has to pay for the damage, it's worth it, Novak said. The sign has made many people think about abortion and to stop to talk to Right to Life representatives in their Nebraska Union booth, he said.

Novak said anyone with information about the vandalism, He estimated the damage was about \$200-\$300.



Daily Nebraskan photo by Mark Billingsley

This cedar waxing bird takes advantage of spring-like temperatures to gorge its way through Lincoln. The birds stay in town only three days.