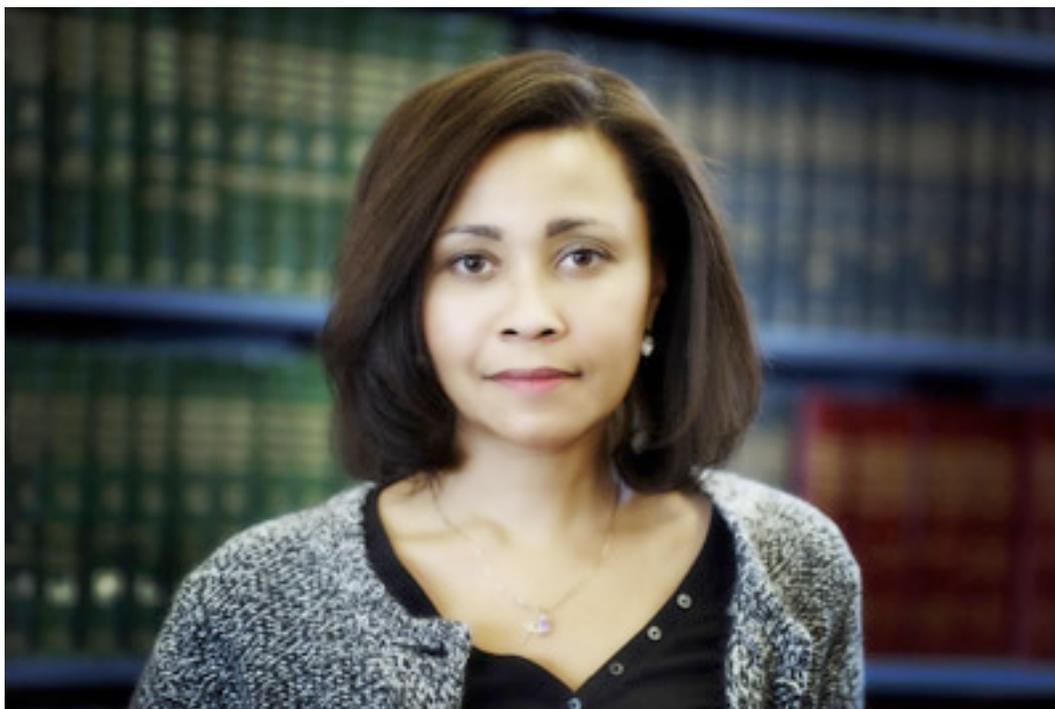


# THE DAILY RECORD

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Kelly Anders has combined her backgrounds in law and the arts with her new book, *Advocacy to Zealousness*.

## CU Law School's Anders Publishes New Book on Film Lawyering From A to Z

By Julien R. Fielding  
The Daily Record

What do lawyers and films have in common? The answer in a minute. But first, meet Kelly Anders.

Before becoming Creighton University School of Law's director of communications and diversity, Kelly Lynn Anders, J.D. spent five years at Washburn University School of Law (Topeka, Kan.), as its associate dean for student affairs.

In that job and in previous positions, she discovered that many students had a "thirst" for knowledge about professionalism in the legal field. Their questions ranged from maneuvering of social graces to how they could build a professional wardrobe.

Recognizing that many lawyers could benefit from a book on the subject, she wrote *The Organized Lawyer*, and in it, she covers myriad topics, including paper and electronic files, fi-

nancial recordkeeping, organizing your home office, and marketing and entertaining.

Since being published by Carolina Academic Press in 2009, it has continued to find an enthusiastic audience. Not only is it frequently in the Top 50 in its categories on Kindle, but it also has led to a variety of writing and public speaking opportunities.

### Classic Films

Anders demonstrates her fluency in professionalism

once again with a new book, *Advocacy to Zealousness: Learning Lawyering Skills from Classic Films* (Carolina Academic Press, 2012).

But instead of dealing with the tangible – how to arrange your office – she is dealing with qualities that lawyers can cultivate so that they can be more “marketable, build and maintain a solid reputation and law practice, and, over time, to attain economic success.”

Anders spent a little more than three years researching and writing the text, and during that time, she watched, and re-watched, about 327 films. “It took a long time to narrow the skills,” she said.

Some letters, such as C, were easier to do; others such as K and X proved more difficult. Making the process even more painstaking was the fact that she wanted her choices to do more than just explain a particular skill.

“Each film was chosen for its contributions to the promotion of increased diversity in the legal profession through depictions of diverse characters,” she said. “And to be eligible for inclusion, each film had to have been released before the modern film rating system was adopted, because those [earlier] films lack the nudity, profanity, and graphic violence of modern films, thus making them easier to show in a variety of classroom settings.”

Finally, all of the films had to be available on DVD. “Some films were wonderful but weren’t on DVD, and some were wonderful but had nothing to say about diversity,” she said.

Those that made the final cut include well-known classics, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* (compassion), *Judgment at Nuremberg* (judgment), *12 Angry Men* (negotiation), *Inherit the Wind* (questioning), *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (responsibility), and *Witness for the Prosecution* (keen sense of timing), and some lesser known ones, including *Pinky* (dependability), *Talk of the Town* (flexibility), *Salesman* (marketing), and *The Fortune Cookie* (honesty). Although the process of selecting the titles was “enjoyable,” Anders said it was also “intense.”

In many ways, *Advocacy to Zealousness: Learning Lawyering Skills from Classic Films* has been an ideal project for Anders, because it allowed her to combine her interests in professionalism with her long-time love of the arts.

### **Omaha Native**

Born in Omaha, she grew up in Pasadena, Calif. She returned to Nebraska to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, from which she earned a bachelor of arts in news-editorial journalism with minors in art, French, and history.

“I almost majored in fine art, but I decided to choose a field that was both creative and practical,” she said. Like her mother before her, she attended the university on the Warren Buffett Scholarship.

She explained that during her mother’s time, Buffett’s wife, Susie, simply mailed a blank check to the recipient and followed up with a phone call, asking, “how it was going.” After law

school, Anders wrote a letter to Buffett, thanking him. His reply is now framed and hangs in her office.

Following graduation, Anders was hired by the *Omaha World-Herald*. As with most newcomers at a newspaper, she started as a general assignment reporter. She segued into features writing and eventually into entertainment writing.

As she explains it, the opportunity arose shortly after she had raved about blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughn. “I had the most wonderful one-hour conversation with him, and the next day, I reviewed his show,” she said.

During her final year at the *Omaha World-Herald*, she became a recipient of the Isaacson Fellowship at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 1991, she moved with her then-boyfriend to Seattle, and got a job as the marketing coordinator at the prestigious Washington Athletic Club.

“They had very strict rules about dress,” she said. “Women could only wear a certain color of hosiery, could wear only one ring per hand, and couldn’t wear pants or slacks. As a young artsy reporter it taught me to be creative within the confines of a conservative environment.” It also made her think about the link between dress and professionalism.

Anders left Seattle to accept a prestigious California Senate Fellowship, and worked as the Deputy Press Secretary to the Senate President pro tem David Roberti.

### **Law School**

After the one-year appointment ended, she

planned to pursue a doctoral degree. Her objective was to teach. "I didn't want to go the Ph.D. route, so I went to law school," she said. "It offers more professional flexibility, and I wanted to combine my background in journalism and law."

She earned her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, and soon found employment at the university as a communications & PR specialist.

Several years later, her parents moved to Denver, and she followed, getting a job at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver. "I started as a policy associate in the core research unit," she said. "I also developed an extern program for students who came to work for us. I was there for several years, and I was concurrently an adjunct professor at the Art Institute of Colorado. I taught my first Art Law classes there, along with various required design courses."

In 2001, she accepted a position at Xcel Energy, as a government affairs research analyst, but found out that it wasn't really what she wanted to do.

"I made the best of it, but I wanted to be in an academic environment," she said. "I have always wanted writing to be a part of my job, so I went back to Sacramento and ended up working as a reference librarian [at the McGeorge School of Law.]" Here, too, she taught a class, specifically in advanced legal research.

"I loved working with the students, and I wanted to work with them on a more consistent basis," she said. This desire was fulfilled when she got the aforementioned position of associate dean for Student Affairs & Director of the Externship Program at Washburn University School of Law. "I was there a little over five years," she said.

While at Washburn, she continued to focus on Art

Law, designing and teaching a course, and writing several articles. When her parents moved back to Omaha, she began looking for a job that would bring her closer to them. She found that at Creighton University. "I wanted to live near my family and have the opportunity to teach and do more writing," she said.

Anders said that she comes from an environment in which education is "very important." Her parents are both educated, and she has an aunt who was a music teacher for many years.

"I did a lot of reading during my childhood," she said. "Mom was a literature major, and my mom's mom was an avid reader. I was drawn to [education] because I love learning, and the process of sparking something in others." With her newest book, she will, no doubt, be achieving that objective.

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