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# Nebraska Coalition to Prevent Opioid Abuse Press Conference

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## Speakers:

Governor Pete Ricketts

UNMC Chancellor Jeffery P. Gold, M.D.

Robert C. Stuart, Acting United States Attorney

Attorney General Doug Peterson



**Governor Pete Ricketts**  
Nebraska's 40<sup>th</sup> Governor



Governor Pete Ricketts was sworn in as Nebraska's 40th Governor on January 8, 2015. Governor Ricketts was first elected to office upon winning the Nebraska gubernatorial election on November 4, 2014. Prior to his election as governor, he worked to support Nebraska entrepreneurs and startup companies.

Born in Nebraska City and raised in Omaha, Ricketts is the son of an entrepreneur and a public school teacher. Governor Ricketts and his wife, First Lady Susanne Shore, have been married for 20 years and live in Omaha with their three children, Roscoe, Margot, and Eleanor.

Ricketts graduated from Westside High School before attending the University of Chicago where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology and an MBA in marketing and finance. After graduate school, Ricketts returned to Omaha and worked for Union Pacific before working as a customer services representative in his family's business, a company that would eventually become known as Ameritrade. He went on to hold leadership roles in the company including Senior Vice President of Strategy and Business Development, Senior Vice President of Product Development, Senior Vice President of Marketing, President, and Chief Operating Officer (COO). He is also a past board member of TD Ameritrade's Board of Directors.

Ricketts is the founder of Drakon, LLC that supports local entrepreneurs and startup companies. He also serves as a director for the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

Driven by a desire to give back to his community and create education and job opportunities, Governor Ricketts has taken on leadership roles in local and state associations and organizations. Currently, he serves on the boards of the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts and the Christian Urban Education Service (CUES). Additionally, he serves as a director for the Children's Scholarship Fund Foundation, a director of the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation, a member of the Board of Advisors of Opportunity Education Foundation, a member of the Archbishop's Committee for Development, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. Governor Ricketts and his family attend St. Margaret Mary's church.



**Jeffery P. Gold, M.D.**  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska Medical Center



Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., is a nationally recognized leader and tireless advocate for transforming academic medicine and health care delivery.

He became chancellor of one of the nation's rising academic medical centers, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, on Feb.1, 2014. He also chairs the board of UNMC's principal clinical care partner, Nebraska Medicine.

As UNMC's chief executive officer, Dr. Gold is responsible for all aspects of campus administration, including its annual operating budget of more than \$740 million, a staff of about 5,000 and its 3,800 students. Additionally, the clinical enterprise has 6,500 employees and an operating budget of more than \$1 billion.

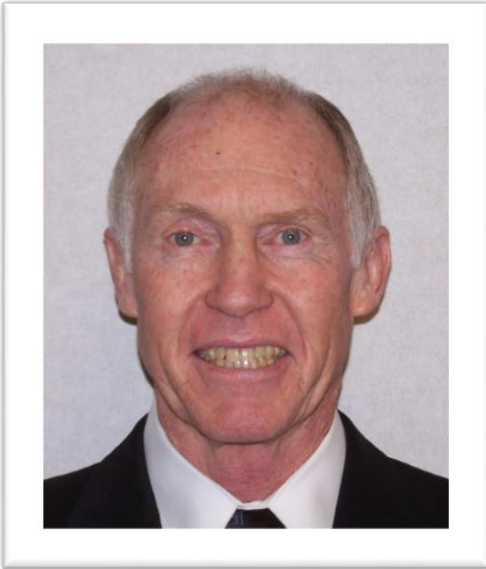
UNMC is known for its prolific research, cutting-edge education and a decade-plus building boom of state-of-the-art infrastructure. The ongoing construction includes the \$323 million Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, set to open in 2017.

In 2014, UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit were asked by the U.S. State Department to care for patients infected by the Ebola virus. UNMC has since been recognized as a world leader in the protocol and research of Ebola care.

Prior to joining UNMC, Dr. Gold served as chancellor of the University of Toledo's health science campus.

Dr. Gold graduated from the Cornell University College of Engineering, where he majored in theoretical and applied mechanics. He earned his M.D. from the Weill Cornell College of Medicine and completed his general surgery residency at The New York Hospital and Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Gold is a board certified thoracic surgeon and specializes in adult and pediatric cardiac surgery.



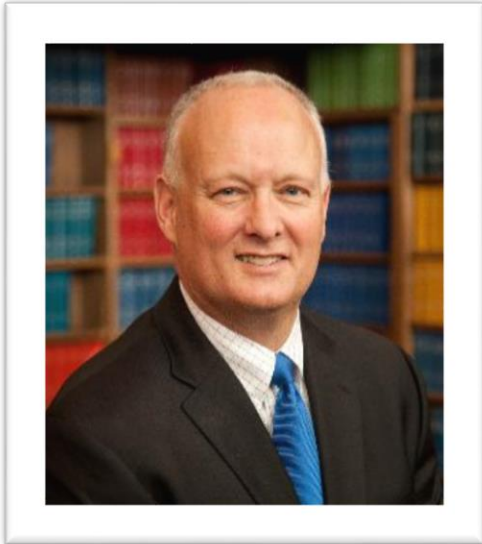
**Robert C. Stuart**  
Acting United States Attorney  
United States Department of Justice  
District of Nebraska



Robert C. Stuart became the Acting United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska on March 11, 2017. He served as the District's First Assistant United States Attorney from November 2009 until becoming the Acting United States Attorney. From August 1991 until transferring to the District of Nebraska in 2009, Mr. Stuart served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California (San Diego) where he investigated and prosecuted numerous felony crimes and held various leadership positions in the Criminal Division.

Mr. Stuart enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1970 and served on active duty until retiring in August 1991 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He began his career as an Artillery Officer and led troops in combat in Vietnam. After attending law school under the U.S. Marine Corps Law Programs, he served as a Judge Advocate in various duty stations and assignments, including Chief Defense Counsel, Chief Trial Counsel, Military Judge, Assistant Law School Professor, and Staff Judge Advocate.

Mr. Stuart is a native Nebraskan and a 1970 graduate of the University of Nebraska and a 1976 graduate of Creighton University School of Law.



**Attorney General Doug Peterson**  
Nebraska's 32<sup>nd</sup> Attorney General



Elected as Nebraska's 32<sup>nd</sup> Attorney General in 2014, Doug Peterson has dedicated his career to being an advocate for Nebraskans both in state and federal court.

Peterson was born in Columbus, Nebraska and grew up primarily in Lincoln. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a business degree in 1981, and from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1985. Following law school, Mr. Peterson spent two years in North Platte, Nebraska, prosecuting both criminal and civil cases for the Lincoln County Attorney. From 1988 to 1990, he served as Assistant Attorney General to the Nebraska Attorney General's office, representing the State in employment law matters and tort litigation. In 1990, Peterson entered private practice, where he had the opportunity to advise and advocate for both individuals and businesses.

Prior to being elected Nebraska's Attorney General, Peterson's law practice centered primarily upon employment, commercial and personal injury litigation. He is admitted to practice before the Nebraska and Federal District Courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He successfully represented the employer in the case of *Adkins v. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Comp.*, 260 Neb. 156 (2000). He has tried interstate commerce clause cases in the U.S. District Court on behalf of small businesses, including the reported decision of *U & I Sanitation v. City of Columbus*, 205 F. 3d 1063 (2000). In 2008, he represented a 16 year old head-injured plaintiff, a case in which the plaintiff was granted one of the largest damage awards in Nebraska history.

In his role as Attorney General, Peterson works closely with law enforcement agencies across the State to ensure that Nebraska communities are safe. Peterson's office has supported strengthened legislation and enforcement in the areas of human trafficking, prosecution of child sexual assault and abuse, and consumer protection laws to safeguard all Nebraskans.