Two years. It hardly seems possible that almost two years have passed since I became the Consumer Protection Division Chief in Nebraska. I previously worked as an assistant attorney general in Kansas for almost eight years, and people often ask me whether Nebraska is a lot like my home state.

After two years, I can tell you there is plenty that sets Nebraska apart. From its one-of-a-kind unicameral legislature to the annual College World Series, there is plenty for Nebraskans to claim as its own. But I have been most impressed, so far, by the Nebraskans I have met to date. In fact, I have spent much of the last two years learning just why so many people are so proud to call Nebraska “home.”

In April 2017, I assumed responsibility for managing a team of attorneys, investigators, and support staff working cases related to consumer protection, nonprofit organizations, charitable trusts, tobacco enforcement, and antitrust matters. Many, if not all, of these individuals held my predecessor Abby Stempson (now Director of NAGTRI’s Center for Consumer Protection) in high regard. To say I had large shoes to fill would be an understatement.

As Chief of the Division, I support General Peterson as co-chair of both the NAAG Consumer Protection Committee and the NAAG Charities Committee. The staff at NAAG and the work of its committees is essential to the success of our offices. Thank you to the 27 other Attorneys General who graciously volunteered to sit on the Consumer Protection Committee this year!

State attorneys general regularly collaborate on some of the most challenging issues affecting consumers. Whether it is a multistate investigation, an amicus brief, or weighing in on proposed federal legislation, the stakes are often high; and in these cases, consumers benefit not
just from our collective bargaining power, but our collective wisdom. I feel honored to work with so many bright and talented public servants every day.

I know I still have much to learn about Nebraska, and I look forward to spending the next several years representing Nebraska consumers, shepherding legislation through the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, and calling Nebraska home. And if you have never been to Nebraska, mark your calendars for October 2019. NAAG’s 2019 Consumer Protection Fall Conference is being hosted in Omaha.