

## 2023 Alumnus of the Year – John Wagner '67



John was born outside of Creighton, NE and attended grade school at St. Ludger's Academy, a school run by Franciscan nuns. In 1962, he came to St. John Vianney Seminary, now Mount Michael Benedictine School, where he would spend nine months of the year, until graduating in 1967. During his time as a Knight he accumulated various debate awards and was an honors student.

After graduating from St. John's, he attended the University of Nebraska- Lincoln where he majored in math. He would continue onto the University of Nebraska's Law School where he was on full scholarship. In 1972 he graduated with distinction from law school and the Order of the Coif/Law review in January 1973.

John was immediately hired as the 13th employee, by a then small law firm, Kutak Rock in Omaha. Initially, he assisted the ABA Kutak Rock Commission in its total rewrite of the national ethical rules for attorneys, which are still in use today. He then began handling municipal bond issues for Wall Street bankers, specializing in financing affordable housing, a specialty practice in which Kutak Rock has become the leading law firm in the nation. He was made a partner at Kutak in 1976 and served as managing partner of the Omaha home office from 1987-1989. From 1991-2019 he was the head of the firm's National Public Finance practice group. Currently, John is a Senior Partner of Kutak Rock with an active national practice involving financing of affordable housing.

John and his wife, Carolyn McNamara live in Omaha and have three children, David, Anthony and Anne Marie and six grandchildren.