The Elkouris Make a Historic, Heartfelt Gift
Dear Friends,

What a privilege it is to serve as dean of the OU College of Law. Thank you for making my first year in this position so meaningful and enjoyable.

With this issue, we debut a revised Soon er Lawyer magazine that boasts a new format and a new editor-in-chief, Jonella Frank. Jon ella has been a writer for Soon er Lawyer for the past six years, and she was promoted to editor after Steve Rice retired last December. We greatly appreciate Steve’s dedication to the magazine; he laid a solid foundation from which Jonella has been able to build. The result is this bi-annual alumni publication that provides alumni news, shares successes of the College of Law and showcases some of our most accomplished individuals.

On that note, this issue honors Professor Emeritus Frank Elkouri and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri, pictured on the cover, for their dedication to the College of Law. A 1947 OU Law graduate, Professor Elkouri joined our faculty in 1952 and was a respected mentor to many students and faculty throughout his career. He maintained his office at the College until 2010. Edna Asper Elkouri, who was an accomplished lawyer herself, supported Professor Elkouri throughout his career. In January 2011, the Elkouris made the largest one-time gift to the College in its history, an incredibly generous gift of $6 million. I think you will find their story on page 2 both touching and inspiring.

I believe you will also enjoy reading the alumni profiles of Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Noma Gurich on page 6 and Justice Vance Raye of the California Court of Appeal on page 14. These articles highlight two impressive public figures leading our judicial system in two states. As you know and exemplify, our law school produces some of the greatest lawyers in the state, region and nation.

A feature about our outgoing Student Bar Association President Christa Evans on page 10 will give you a glimpse of the caliber of our most recent graduates. Page 44 shows photos from Convocation on May 14, where 165 students graduated from the College of Law. To Christa and the Class of 2011, we welcome you to the OU Law alumni community. We know you will go far in your legal careers, and we look forward to seeing you again when you visit your “home” in Norman.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz, Jr.
Dean and Professor
Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law
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In 1944 when the young man from Byron, Oklahoma, first climbed the steps of Monnet Hall to begin his studies as a law student, no one could have imagined the impact he would have on generations of students who would follow in his footsteps. After 58 years of service at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Professor Emeritus Frank Elkouri’s impact was more fully understood with the January 2011 announcement of a historic gift of $6 million given by Frank and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri. The Elkouri gift, the largest one-time contribution in the history of the College, will support law student scholarship programs.
“The Elkouri gift will provide many students with access to an exceptional legal education and inspire generations of excellence.”

Dean Joe Harroz

Frank’s relationship with the university began seven decades ago. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from OU in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in government. He earned his first law degree, an LL.B., from OU in 1947 before his legal studies took him to the University of Michigan, where he was awarded an LL.M. in 1948 and an S.J.D. in 1951. It was a doctoral thesis, written while pursuing the final law degree, that set the course for a long-lasting, highly successful career as a beloved law professor and nationally recognized authority on labor arbitration. His thesis, *How Arbitration Works*, was published in 1952 and is widely regarded as the authoritative treatise on the law and practice of labor arbitration.

He practiced law in Oklahoma City with Quinlan & Elkouri, a firm he co-founded with a classmate. Later, Frank served as an attorney with the National Wage Stabilization Board in Washington, D.C., and Dallas prior to joining the faculty of the OU College of Law in 1952. During his time in Washington, D.C., he met Edna Asper, a freshman at George Washington University Law School.

Prior to law school, Edna, a native Pennsylvanian, had studied dress design at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, operated a ladies’ and children’s ready-to-wear store in Blairsville, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with highest honors. She graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School in 1953 and maintained a private law practice before joining the staff of the chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., where she worked for three years.

After a six-year, long-distance relationship, the couple married in 1956 and established their home in Norman, where Frank had been teaching at the OU College of Law and serving as adviser to the office of the president of the university. Working together, the couple jointly wrote and edited the second, third and fourth editions of *How Arbitration Works* and conducted research for the fifth edition.

Edna explained that she successfully converted from tax law to labor law in taking on the job of co-author and editor, but because she was the tax expert, Frank decided she should have the “dubious honor” of filing their tax returns. Giving his explanation of this division of labor, Frank said, “Through the years, Edna has handled our finances and tax returns, as well as having made the basic decisions on investments. In other words, she has allowed me more time for my professional activities and definitely deserves much of the credit for whatever I have accomplished professionally.” Their arrangement apparently worked well. In addition to collaborating on the multiple revisions of *How Arbitration Works*, in 1991, the couple wrote *Resolving Drug Issues*, which presented a factual analysis of drug-related employment issues.

In his more than 50 years serving the College of Law, Frank taught labor law, property, trade regulation, torts and workers’ compensation. He was a favorite professor of many law students, known for his keen intellect and gentle, unassuming demeanor. When not in class, many of his hours were devoted to collecting, classifying, analyzing and criticizing published labor arbitration opinions for future publication.

He has written a variety of articles and books on the subjects he taught; however, it is the book *How Arbitration Works*, now in its sixth edition, that played a major role in the creation of guiding principles for labor arbitrators and significantly influenced labor law. In explaining the importance of the book, Darin Fox, director of the law library, explained it has long been considered the leading work in the field of arbitration law and has been cited by hundreds of court decisions (including three U.S. Supreme Court decisions) and by more than a thousand
“We wanted to do for the students what we couldn’t do for those who helped us.”

Frank Elkouri

law review articles, treatises and legal newspapers.

However, Frank is a multi-faceted individual with talents beyond the classroom and his scholarly pursuits. Some OU Law graduates also will remember him as a talented clarinetist who performed in a law faculty combo, delighting students at Gridiron. Years before, as an undergraduate, he had played the clarinet and the saxophone in the OU Dance Band.

Frank also served as an arbitrator in labor-management disputes, a special justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, a member of the Oklahoma Governor’s Special Advisory Committee on Workmen’s Compensation and an executive reservist with the U.S. Department of Labor. He is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators, the American Arbitration Association and the Oklahoma Bar Association.

In 1974, he received the University of Oklahoma Distinguished Teaching Citation and was appointed to a George Lynn Cross Research Professorship in 1979. The American Arbitration Association honored him in 1980 with the Whitney North Seymour Medal for his outstanding contributions to arbitration.

For one semester in 1961, Frank taught two labor law classes as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan where, 10 years prior, he had received his final advanced law degree. In reflecting on his semester as a visiting professor and comparing the legal education experience available at the OU College of Law to that at Michigan Law, considered by many to be a top law school in the nation, he stated, “I discovered that you can do here what you can do there, whatever your inclination is. A student can receive as fine a legal education here as there. It’s all a matter of how you apply yourself.”
The Elkouris’ historic gift will provide scholarships for generations of OU law students. They see their gift as a way of paying it forward in recognition of and appreciation for financial assistance they both received when they were in law school. “We wanted to do for the students what we couldn’t do for those who helped us,” Frank said. “OU is a very high-quality institution. We always planned to give to the law school, so why wait? We decided to make our donation now, so we could enjoy it and observe it.”

To honor the couple’s long-lasting devotion to OU Law, the hall of professor emeritus offices was officially named the Frank and Edna Elkouri Emeritus Wing.

This most recent gift is not the first time the College has benefitted from the Elkouris’ generosity. In 2002, the couple made another major gift to endow the Frank Elkouri and Edna Asper Elkouri Professorship of Law, which is currently held by Randy Coyne.

Frank retired in 1985, but remained a cherished colleague often seen at the law school. “He continued his leadership at the College of Law through 2010 as an inspirational mentor and accomplished scholar,” said Dean Joe Harroz. To honor the couple’s long-lasting devotion to OU Law, the hall of professor emeritus offices was officially named the Frank and Edna Elkouri Emeritus Wing in 2010.

“Professor Elkouri is an outstanding scholar and treasured professor emeritus,” Harroz said. “He is a man of great character and his contributions throughout the past five decades of service to the College are innumerable. Now, he and Edna, his partner in life and in dedication to the OU College of Law, leave an indelible mark on the future of the College. The Elkouri gift will provide many students with access to an exceptional legal education and inspire generations of excellence.”

Dean Eugene Kuntz and Professor Frank Elkouri perform at the 1966 Gridiron.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, MADAM JUSTICE

The newest member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court is a woman of varied interests and many talents who, upon being appointed, fulfilled a long-held personal aspiration.
It was in her first year of law school that Noma Gurich ('78) first thought of serving as a judge and, ultimately, on the Supreme Court. She credits “a lifetime of work and relationships” as the reason everything fell into place to allow her to be only the third woman in the history of the state to serve on the Supreme Court.

She was born in South Bend, Indiana, one of three children of John and Ramona Gurich. She grew up in a farming community southeast of South Bend, near Mishawaka. After graduating from Penn High School, Gurich attended Indiana State University. She excelled in school while participating in a variety of extracurricular activities, including basketball and marching, concert and jazz bands. She played clarinet for years and then taught herself how to play saxophone so she could land a spot in the jazz band.

Not until she was in college majoring in political science did she meet her first lawyer — Mr. Matthews — her political science instructor and adviser. When Gurich decided she wanted to go to law school, she consulted him. His recommendation was to choose a law school in a place where she would want to stay after graduation.

She considered law schools in the east, but did not pursue them. Instead, she thought of attending law school in Indiana or Illinois, but after visiting one of the campuses, decided she wanted something different. Gurich was familiar with Oklahoma because she and her family had visited her maternal grandmother and cousins who lived here for years. Those experiences as a visitor to the state caused her to believe that Oklahoma was a place she could stay. She applied to the University of Oklahoma College of Law, was accepted and in 1975 moved to Oklahoma to begin law school. And the native of the Hoosier State has been here ever since.

During her first year in law school, Gurich worked in the OU student government copy room, where she met many student leaders. It was through these contacts that she came to be appointed to the Student Superior Court. Her service on this court convinced her that she wanted to be a judge and, eventually, a justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Gurich’s other jobs during law school also helped her get to know Oklahoma and its people. She sold programs at OU football games and became a big fan of the team and Coach Barry Switzer. She worked in the legal division of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and served as a student assistant for the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals and the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, developing long-term relationships along the way.
Upon graduation from the College of Law, Gurich entered private practice in Oklahoma City. For 10 years, her practice included cases dealing with negligence, products liability, anti-trust, securities fraud and workers’ compensation.

In 1998, Gov. Henry Bellmon, for whom she’d worked as a campaign volunteer, appointed her to a six-year term on the Workers’ Compensation Court. After six months on the court, Bellmon appointed her presiding judge, a position she held for four years.

Gurich was re-appointed to an additional six-year term by Gov. David Walters and served in that position until July 1998 when Gov. Frank Keating appointed her district judge in Oklahoma County to serve the remaining six months of the term of a retiring judge. Just days after her appointment, Gurich drew three opponents in the rapidly approaching primary election. She won the contested election. “All the right people came together for me,” she said. Gurich was re-elected without opposition three times and served in that position until Gov. Brad Henry appointed her to the Oklahoma Supreme Court on January 7, 2011. On that day, Gurich told an Associated Press reporter, “I consider being a judge sort of a mission.”

However, once again, her excitement about an appointment was tempered by the reality of circumstances beyond her control. There was a case pending before the Supreme Court that challenged the composition of the Judicial Nominating Commission and put into question any nominations it had made to the governor since the election in which state voters had passed a state question restructuring the commission. More than a month later, on February 15, the court rejected the claim and Gurich was sworn in during an informal ceremony that same day.

Her formal swearing-in ceremony took place on March 31 in the Supreme Court Courtroom at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Many people know Gurich as a respected public servant, but there are interesting facts about our newest justice that are not commonly known. For example, she is an experienced television camera operator and part of the team that produces a television broadcast of the Sunday morning worship service at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. This skill was developed as a result of her participation in her high school’s Audio Visual Club. Her motivation to join the AV Club was due in part to her being told in sixth grade that girls couldn’t run the reel-to-reel projectors when films were shown to elementary school children.

Also of interest, Gurich has made five trips to Russia. She studied Russian history in college, so when her church began a ministry in Russia in 1992, she was interested.
In the winter of 1993, she was part of the second mission trip and experienced what she called “Dr. Zhivago weather” upon arriving in Russia. “Being there was like a dream,” she said. “I felt like I was walking in Russian history.” She has lived in the homes of Russians hosts, some of whom had never before seen an American. Although she doesn’t speak Russian fluently and only “can say enough to surprise them,” she has developed relationships with people she came to know on her trips, maintaining contact with them, even attending weddings of young people she met. Photos of some of her Russian friends are proudly displayed in her office.

Another aspect of her life unknown to many is that she and her husband, John E. Miley (’86), became legal guardians for her two nieces four years ago upon the death of their parents, Gurich’s sister and brother-in-law. The girls, 12 and 13 at the time, moved to Oklahoma from southern California to live with them. The young women are now in their junior and senior years in high school and both have turned out to be accomplished artists. Becoming parents of teenagers, “has been an education for John and I both,” she commented.

Looking back on her years in Oklahoma and the evolution of her professional career, Gurich referred to her journey as “a walk of faith.” From her law school classmates to the people she encountered in her various job and volunteer activities, Gurich connected with people who came to respect and support her as she climbed the ladder of public service. Four ingredients in her formula for success — treat people with respect, never make enemies, just be yourself and don’t give up, keep trying — are admirable habits that, if practiced universally, would make our world a much nicer place. [SL]
Christa Evans, a member of the Class of 2011, has wanted to be a lawyer ever since she was a child. When she was in the second grade, she even went so far as to dress like a lawyer for Halloween, donning a second-hand suit and carrying an old briefcase. However, now that she is well on her way to fulfilling her childhood aspiration, she is still getting used to the idea of being an alumna rather than a student of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. This conflict of self-identity is understandable because she’s still in study mode as she prepares to take the Oklahoma Bar Exam.
“OU does a tremendous job of fostering mutual respect and appreciation between students and professors.”

In November 2010, Evans was named by the Oklahoma Bar Association as the Outstanding Law School Senior Student from the OU College of Law. One look at her resume explains why she was selected for this award. She served as president of her law school class during her first two years and president of the Student Bar Association in her final year and still found time to participate in a variety of other activities and keep up with her classwork. She described her high level of involvement as a “labor of love, like a hobby.”

Evans was born and raised in Cherokee in northwestern Oklahoma. She is the younger of two daughters of Tom and Cheryl Evans. She described her hometown as not exactly cosmopolitan, but quickly added that it boasts irreplaceable small town charm. “You never had to lock your house or your car. I didn’t even own a key to our home until I was in college,” she said.

After graduating from Cherokee High School in 2003, Evans attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, where her mother was a professor. As a sophomore she ventured farther from home, transferring to Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. During the summer after her first year at OBU, Evans traveled to England for what she described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study Shakespeare at Oxford University. In 2007, she graduated with honors from OBU, earning a bachelor’s degree in English.

After college, Evans’ next adventure took her to Guadalajara, Mexico, where she attended La Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara for a language immersion program. She studied Spanish at the university and lived for nine months with a host family. “I got off the plane and could barely order a taco,” she commented. “I fell in love with la cultura Mexicana. In the process I learned I’m a lot better at eating salsa than dancing it.”

While living in Mexico, Evans had the opportunity to help a college friend in her mission work with underprivileged Mexican children. It was an eye-opening experience for Evans. “I’d never seen true poverty before. It really put things into perspective for me. It made me realize how fortunate we are and remember the things that truly matter in life,” she stated.

After returning to Oklahoma from Mexico, Evans moved to Norman to begin law school. However, as 1L orientation approached, she wasn’t sure what to expect. She’d seen the movies and heard scary stories about the Socratic method and cut-throat competition between students. “On orientation day, I braced myself for the worst, but I encountered the best. Instead of weeding students out, OU Law draws them in. I was amazed at the warmth and sincerity of the faculty, staff and students,” Evans explained.

In the fall semester of 2008, the College of Law was undergoing an evaluation for re-accreditation. Evans was one of the students who met with the site visit accreditation team to respond to questions about their law school experience. In a conversation after a session with the students, one of the evaluators commented to Evans that in her more than 30 visits to law schools, she had never encountered students as friendly or as happy as the OU Law students.

“Until she pointed it out, I didn’t understand how special and unique the OU College of Law community was and is. The student comments were sincere, not just an act for the accreditation committee,” Evans said. “There’s a reason students are so proud of and loyal to their teachers here. OU does a tremendous job of fostering mutual respect and appreciation between students and professors.”

During her three years at the College of Law, in addition to her presidential duties, Evans was on the American Bar Association Arbitration Competition Team, acted as a
Christa met regularly during her three years in law school with Assistant Dean Stan Evans, who served as the adviser to the class officers and the Student Bar Association.

Christa and her parents, Cheryl and Tom Evans, visit the OU College of Law booth at the OBA Annual Meeting in Tulsa prior to her receiving the award for the Outstanding Law School Senior Student from OU.

Christa Evans, Jenna McCarthy, Leah Agers and Amanda Essaili discuss Student Bar Association business.
The peacemaking and diplomacy aspects of mediation came naturally to her. “It’s so gratifying to watch the initial hostility between parties evolve into an amicable and open discussion.”

student ambassador for prospective student recruitment efforts, was a student representative on the Oklahoma Ethics Commission, served on the OU Provost’s Integrity Council and participated in the Luther Bohanon American Inn of Court. She also worked in the OU College of Law Civil Clinic, acted as a certified mediator through the Oklahoma Supreme Court Early Settlement Program and worked as a licensed legal intern for Trimble Law Office PC and the OU Office of Legal Counsel.

Evans credits other OU Law alumni with assisting in her legal education. Preston Trimble (’60), Jennifer Needham (’03) and Amy Pepper (’87) guided her as she worked as a legal intern and proved to be invaluable resources in her development as a lawyer. Additionally, Stan Evans (’03), assistant dean for students, mentored her as adviser for class officers and the Student Bar Association. After meeting with him almost weekly for three years, she said of him, “He has been one of the most influential and encouraging people in my life. He will be one of the faces I miss most after graduation.”

Her work with the Early Settlement Program piqued her interest in mediation. She explained that because she doesn’t have a very adversarial nature and her first inclination is to wonder how a dispute can be worked out, the peacemaking and diplomacy aspects of mediation came naturally to her. “It’s so gratifying to watch the initial hostility between parties evolve into an amicable and open discussion. It’s neat to be a part of that,” she added.

For Evans, graduating was bittersweet. She’s ready to move on to the next phase of her life, but she will miss many people from her three years of law school. “I’m so grateful for my experience here,” she said. “I’ve met incredible people in the legal profession and have made wonderful friends.”

Dean Stan Evans said she is a student who epitomizes why he loves his job. “Christa has always been a leader and her skills have multiplied while here. What has really grown is her ability to not only see the big picture, but also to communicate her view and to get others to buy into it. She has an amazing range of strengths and abilities.”

Wherever her career takes her, there’s little doubt that this people-oriented, project-loving young woman will be a hard-working, principled member of the profession and an excellent representative of the OU College of Law. And she will be a real lawyer — not just dressed like one for Halloween. | SL |
By Phil Horning

Do you remember Johnny Carson’s Carnac character who could divine the answer without being asked the question? Well, here is a great answer: Vance W. Raye, Presiding Justice, Third Appellate District, California Court of Appeal. The question? Who is one of OU Law’s most distinguished graduates, now recognized as one of California’s preeminent jurists?

Born in 1946 in Hugo, Oklahoma, he was raised by a single mom in Muskogee, where he attended a segregated high school and met Sandra, his bride of 43 years. He came to OU in 1964, received his bachelor’s degree in political science/economics in 1967 and his juris doctor degree in 1970, becoming the fourth African-American OU Law graduate. During his three years in the “law barn,” if he wanted to see a black law student, he had to look in a mirror. He worked briefly as a student and lawyer in Oklahoma City for the firm of Bulla and Horning before accepting his Air Force judge advocate general commission and being assigned to California, where he has remained. It was Oklahoma’s loss.

He was in uniform four years and then became a deputy attorney general, first under Evelle Younger, and then George Deukmejian, who knew a bright and personable young man when he saw one. Six years later, when Deukmejian became governor, he made Raye his legal adviser. “I enjoyed every job I ever had,” Raye said, “but the most satisfying was my job as legal counsel to the governor when I was involved in some amazing legal controversies, including the licensing of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, efforts to radically revamp the state worker safety program, implementation of an initiative program on toxic substances and reapportionment reform.”

Justice Vance W. Raye:
Serving the People of California
After six years in the political-legal thicket, Raye was appointed to the trial bench of the Sacramento Superior Court, where he served 1989-1991. Then elevated to the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, he became one of its 11 justices. California has a Supreme Court consisting of seven justices and does not have a separate criminal appellate system, as does Oklahoma. Under its Supreme Court are six appellate districts, and the Third is the largest in area, encompassing 23 of the state’s 58 counties in north central California. Raye has now served on that court more than 20 years, been retained by the voters several times and authored more than 2,000 appellate opinions.

On November 23, 2010, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him presiding justice of the Third Appellate District, making him one of six presiding administrative justices in the state. Urged to be candid rather than modest, Raye was asked to what he attributed his successful career. He replied, “It would be comforting to believe that it was all due to my God-given talent, but candor requires me to attribute my success mostly to persistence and luck with a pinch of talent and a lot of respect for and ability to work with people. I always showed up, and I also stayed a long time — often long into the night after others had gone home, and on weekends in empty offices. I still do the same.”

Asked about memorable or impactful opinions he has rendered, he recalled Planning and Conservation League v. Dept. of Water Resources, (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 892, as having the most immediate impact. It involved a plan for the allocation of water from the massive California State Water Project in the event of a permanent or temporary water shortage. It held for the first time, that in assessing environmental consequences of the plan, planners could not rely on contract entitlements to water that did not comport with realistic projections about the ability of the project to deliver the contract amounts. “It seemed like common sense to me,” he said, “but it generated great controversy.”

In the category of “most satisfying opinions,” he remembered In re Elizabeth R, (1995) 35 Cal.App.4th 1774, as “the one that really sticks in my mind.” It required county officials to give a mother suffering from postpartum depression additional time to reunify with her children. The opinion held that the trial court incorrectly assumed that it had no discretion to extend the reunification period in order to permit psychiatric treatment to run its course.

When asked to recount the best advice he has ever received, he graciously replied by email as follows: “I have benefitted greatly from advice provided by a variety of people in a variety of contexts on particular issues. The best ‘life’ advice I received is set forth in a book, The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz....1) Be impeccable with your word, which means that in all your utterances you should treat yourself and others with respect and integrity. Be honest. 2) Don’t take anything personally, which is to recognize that negative aspersions directed at you by others reflect their reality and motives. You determine your own reality. 3) In interactions with others, don’t make assumptions. Communicate clearly and ask questions to clarify their views and intentions. 4) Always do your best.”

Words to live by, and he has, as evident in his talent for understanding and working with people, which has made him such a notable jurist. “I have always been around people with dazzling intellects that put mine to shame, but so many of them do poorly with people,” said Raye. “Law is not math; human behavior does not conform to formulas, and law is mostly about regulating human behavior. To be a decent lawyer and a decent judge, you need to understand the needs of people and how law can best serve those needs.”

About the author

Phil Horning (’67) was in private practice in Oklahoma City for 35 years. Listed in “Best Lawyers in America” from 1987 until retiring in 2003, he served on the governing boards of the Oklahoma County and Oklahoma Bar Associations, and as an adjunct professor of law at OU and OCU. He is vice chair of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education.
Law students, professor join
PROS FOR AFRICA MISSION

BY EVIE HOLZER
On March 8, OU alumnus Reggie Whitten (‘80) with Pros For Africa and College of Law Dean Joe Harroz announced the two organizations would collaborate to enhance the nonprofit’s mission to assist African children and the College’s global educational offerings.

“Our organizations are working together to energize students to experience other cultures, develop a lifetime commitment to meaningful service and prepare for the increasingly global practice of law,” Harroz said. “Pros For Africa has an amazing program in place, and we are thrilled to be a part of it.”

As part of this collaboration, PFA donated $100,000 to support OU’s participation in this trip and future initiatives by the law school’s International Human Rights Clinic. In addition, OU Law Professor Cheryl Wattley and students Nazareth Haysbert, Courtney Ernston and Brandon Cato joined more than 70 PFA volunteers traveling to Uganda March 14-21 to construct a school, provide medical care and distribute food, water and clothing to children.

“We fed several thousand people, gave out hearing aids to another several thousand people and provided medical attention to thousands more,” Haysbert said. “We were there to work, but we also listened to the stories of the women, and we played with the kids.”

The trip was a dream-come-true for Whitten, who spearheaded the formation of the nonprofit in January of 2010.

Whitten first visited Uganda in 2002, after his son passed away and a friend invited him to go as a healing experience. While coping with his own personal loss, he was inspired by the African children who were so joyful, even while living in war and poverty.

“You just have to see the faces of these kids in Africa,” Whitten said. “The difference between children in Africa and children in America is just luck. My kids live in the greatest country, where they have the right to go to school. Over there, the kids are just as beautiful, but they don’t have the infrastructure in place, and they don’t have the same rights that we do.”
After meeting Sister Rosemary and learning about the difference her St. Monica’s School was making in children’s lives in Uganda, Whitten realized with special attention and ongoing assistance, Africa’s younger generation could change the future direction of their country.

Whitten came home with the desire to lead that change, and he began to enlist a team. Jay Mitchel, who was working as an attorney at Whitten Burrage Law Firm in Oklahoma City, agreed to help and garnered support from a few college friends who played football at OU. Soon, Roy Williams and Mark Clayton joined the group. Shortly thereafter, Bill Horn brought Adrian Peterson and Tommie Harris onboard and Jared Mitchel also joined the group, who established PFA in 2010.

Each of the founders plays a hands-on role in PFA and is eager to make the trips to Africa. The March 2011 trip was their second one.

“It’s not about just donating money all the time,” said co-founder and NFL player Roy Williams. “It’s about being there and having a presence. It’s an awesome sight and experience, being able to serve the citizens of Uganda together.”

Each “pro” volunteer serves an important role in PFA. Professional athletes can attract much-needed media attention. Medical personnel staff clinics and provide important care. Attorneys bring a passion for and unique knowledge of human rights, which is crucial in a place where there are so many injustices.

“One of the wonderful aspects of being a lawyer is that we bring an insight and understanding that is valuable to almost every endeavor,” OU Law Professor Wattley said. “We know the questions to ask, the problems to anticipate and where to go to get answers. By training, lawyers tend to be leaders, focusing on solutions. These programs are a reminder to our students that we are citizens of the world, not just Oklahoma.”

Whitten welcomes professionals of all types. He especially encourages others in the law community to get involved, noting that Africa’s legal system needs much improvement.
“There is strength in numbers, and the OU law community can help pave the way,” Whitten said. “It just takes one person to unite others and make a change. Just think of our country—someone had to write the first draft of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.”

PFA may be going back to Africa as early as August 2011. Whitten admits his vision for the organization is bold and broad.

“Our future is unlimited,” Whitten said. “In 2010, we helped one country. In 2011, we are going to two. In 2012, we’ll add a third, Sudan. Eventually I would like PFA to have a trip a month and a program in each of the countries in Africa. There’s almost an unlimited amount of things to do.”

For more details about PFA and how to get involved, visit www.prosforafrica.com. | SL |

Pros For Africa affiliation benefits International Human Rights Clinic

OU Law professor Cheryl Wattley helps build a shelter out of recycled plastic bottles with other Pros For Africa volunteers.

OU Law Professor Cheryl Wattley, who is also the director of clinical education in the College of Law, traveled to Uganda last January with the International Human Rights Clinic and applied that knowledge during her return trip to Uganda in March with Pros For Africa.

“Our organizations share the desire to improve life in Africa and provide life-changing global opportunities to Oklahomans at the same time,” said Pros For Africa co-founder and OU Law alumnus Reggie Whitten. “With our unique Uganda connection and so much potential for the future, this affiliation made perfect sense.”

Part of the $100,000 donation from Pros For Africa will support the International Human Rights Clinic. This clinic identifies one country scheduled for universal periodic review by the United Nations Human Rights Council and coordinates student and faculty travel to the selected country for the purpose of gathering information on selected human rights issues relating to indigenous peoples. Afterward, students submit a comprehensive report of their findings to the Human Rights Council as part of the periodic review process. The Uganda report was submitted this spring.

Through this clinic and to date, students’ findings have been included in official UN reports on Papua New Guinea and Suriname. Student reports are posted on the OU Law website at www.law.ou.edu/clinic/international.shtml.
News Briefs

1940s

Frank Elkouri ('47) and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri, made a historic $6 million gift to the OU College of Law to support student scholarship programs.

Richard James ('49) received the Stroud Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in March.

1950s

Sid M. Groom, Jr. ('51), of the Groom Law Firm, relocated his Oklahoma City office to Edmond.

William G. Paul ('56) has been awarded the 2011 Fellows of the American Bar Foundation Outstanding Service Award.

John Maley ('59) was honored by the Okmulgee County Bar Association for 44 years of service as district judge and four years as county judge for Okmulgee County.

1960s

James A. McAffrey ('64) spoke at the annual Commercial Law Update in Oklahoma City, presenting the latest developments in consumer law and auto finance.

Ed Abel ('66) has been inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

G. Michael Lewis ('67) has been named chairman of the litigation practice group of Doerner Saunders Daniel & Anderson in Tulsa.

W. Roger Webb ('67) retired June 30 as president of the University of Central Oklahoma, a position he had held since 1997.

David L. Boren ('68) began his 17th year as president of the University of Oklahoma in November, making him the second longest-serving OU president.

Von Russell Creel ('68) retired from the faculty of Oklahoma City University School of Law, where he worked for 40 years, serving as chair of the faculty and being recognized as Professor of the Year by the Merit Scholars and the Student Bar Association.

Mike DeBerry ('69), associate district judge in McCurtain County, was presented the Outstanding Elected Official Award for 2011 by the Oklahoma State Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force.

R.L. Hert, Jr. ('69) has been appointed special district judge for the Ninth Judicial District with his primary duties in Logan County while handling a domestic docket in Payne County.

Frank Keating ('69) was named president and CEO of the American Bankers Association.

1970s

Stephen Bonner ('70), associate district judge in Cleveland County, was recognized by the Oklahoma Court Appointed Special Advocates Association as the 2011 Judge of the Year.

Bruce Day ('72) joined Crowe & Dunlevy as a director, serving as the chair of the securities litigation practice group, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Richard Goodwin ('72) became of counsel to the Oklahoma City firm of Mee Mee Hoge & Epperson but will maintain his office in Edmond.

Earl A. Skarky ('72) was elected as a fellow of the American College of Bond Counsel.

Harry Birdwell ('75) joined Epworth Villa Retirement Community in Oklahoma City as vice president of development and marketing.

Gary M. Chubbuck ('75) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

James Kaufman ('76), with the Groom Law Firm, relocated his Oklahoma City office to Edmond.

Curtis L. Smith ('76) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

Robin Cauthron ('77) was honored in February as a Distinguished Alumna of the OU College of Arts and Sciences.

Rick Esser ('77) established a new law firm, the Law Center of Akers & Esser, in Bartlesville.
Doug Gabbard (’77) retired from the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals on March 31 after more than 26 years of judicial service.

Kevin Kuhn (’77), who practices with Denver-based Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell LLP, gave a presentation titled “Voir Dire” at an American Trial Lawyers CLE seminar in Colorado.

Linda A. Wilkins (’77) became a founding partner of Wilkins Finston Law Group LLP in Dallas.

Michael C. Wofford (’77) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Noma Gurich (’78) was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in January to fill the vacancy left by the death of Marian Opala.

Cynda Ottaway (’78) was elected president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Foundation for 2011-2012.

Annette Prince (’78) was named 2011 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Oklahoma Chapter.

John Canavan (’79) was appointed district judge for the 23rd Judicial District in Pottawatomie County in December.

Graydon Dean Luthey, Jr. (’79) was honored by the Islamic Society of Tulsa at the Goodwill Appreciation Awards for excellence in exemplary encouragement and protection of rights. He also was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

1980s

Jari Askins (’80) was appointed associate provost for external relations at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Martha Rupp Carter (’80) was appointed as a Tulsa County special district judge in December.

John R. Hargrave (’80) was selected to serve as president of his alma mater, East Central University in Ada.

Gene Haynes (’80) retired as district attorney for Rogers, Mayes and Craig counties after 20 years of service and established a private law practice in Claremore.

Gretchen G. Harris (’81) joined Scoggins & Cross PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Doneen Douglas Jones (’81) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Bert Marshall (’81), president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, was profiled as one of Oklahoma’s most-admired CEOs by The Journal Record in February.

Kathy Taylor (’81) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Tom Colbert (’82), vice chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Keith McFall (’82) has been named the leader of the McAfee & Taft corporate and commercial transactions practice group, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Natalie Shirley (’82), former Oklahoma secretary of commerce and tourism, has been selected by Oklahoma State University as president of OSU-Oklahoma City.

Robert Hudson (’83) joined the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General as first assistant, after serving for almost 15 years as district attorney for Payne and Logan counties.

David B. Lewis (’83), vice presiding judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.
Renée DeMoss (‘84) was elected to a three-year term on the Oklahoma Bar Association board of governors. She was also recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Deirdre Dexter (‘84) joined the Tulsa law firm of Barrow & Grimm PC as a preferred shareholder.

Michael D. Duncan (‘85) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

Ellen Caslavka Edwards (‘85) has been named assistant general counsel to the Oklahoma Insurance Department, where she has worked since 1986.

Joel Harmon (‘85) has been named a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, working in the Oklahoma City office.

Don Shandy (‘85) was elected to serve on the Norman Public Schools Board of Education.

Darlene Cypser (‘86) published The Crack in the Lens, a historical novel about eight months that changed 17-year-old Sherlock Holmes’ life forever.

Joe Cassity Jr. (‘87), who spent 29 years teaching at the college level in Taiwan, opened a law practice in Ponca City.

Susan Dennehy Conrad (‘87), assistant general counsel for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Oil and Gas Conservation Division, spoke to the Capital Association of Division Order Analysts on the commission’s new rules for horizontal drilling.

Jeffrey A. Curran (‘87) has been named of counsel with GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

Patrice Dills Douglas (‘87) was re-elected for a second term as mayor of Edmond. In addition, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women honored her with the 2011 Kate Barnhard Award, which recognizes women who have contributed to the state through public service.

Charles Greenough (‘87) has been named leader of the McAfee & Taft business restructuring, workouts and bankruptcy practice group, based in the Tulsa office.

Laura McConnell-Corbyn (‘87) was recognized by Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc. with the William G. Paul Oklahoma Justice Award.

Phillippa Tibbs Ellis (‘88), partner with Atlanta law firm Owen Gleton Egan Jones & Sweeney LLP, spoke on “Considerations of Similar Accidents/Events in Product Safety” at the Defense Research Institute's Product Liability Conference in New Orleans.

Scott Meacham (‘88) joined Crowe & Dunlevy’s Oklahoma City office.

Sarah A. Hall (‘89) was appointed as bankruptcy judge in the Western District of Oklahoma last August, becoming the first woman to serve in that capacity in the district.

Dennis Morris (‘89) was elected district judge for the 20th Judicial District in Carter County in November.

Sherry Abbott Todd (‘89) is serving as special judge of the District Court of the Chickasaw Nation.

Michele Nill Tunnell (‘89) has been named administrative law judge for the state of Kansas.

1990s

Craig Lilly (‘90) joined Greenberg Traurig in their East Palo Alto, California, office.

Timila S. Rother (‘90) has been named to the 2011 executive committee of Crowe & Dunlevy.

Ryan S. Wilson (‘90) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Sam R. Fulkerson (‘91) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Sharon Voorhees (‘91) spoke in Oklahoma City at a National Business Institute seminar on “Marshalling, Valuing and Disposing of Assets and Debts.”
Glenn Coffee ('92) has been selected by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve as secretary of state.

David A. Trissell ('92), FEMA attaché to the U.S. Mission to the European Union, delivered a presentation at the Ahr Valley Civil Protection Days Conference in Bad Neuenahr, Germany, on the use of social media in disasters.

David B. Coffin ('93) has announced the formation of his law firm, David Coffin PLLC, in Grapevine, Texas.

Judy Copeland ('93) was named general counsel to Gov. Mary Fallin.

Pete D’Alessandro ('93) joined Heroux & Helton PLLC in Tulsa as an associate.

Keith F. Givens ('93) returned to the Rainey Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

Melissa McLawhorn Houston ('94) joined the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General as an assistant attorney general in the general counsel unit.

Bryan K. Walkley ('94) joined the Shelton Voorhees Law Group in Oklahoma City.

Chris Davis ('95) of Johnson & Jones PC in Tulsa was appointed to serve as the 2011 chairman of the litigation section of the Tulsa County Bar Association.

Andy Johnson ('95) was elected president of the Tulsa law firm of Johnson & Jones PC.

Tracy Schumacher ('95) was formally sworn in as district judge for District 21 (Cleveland, Garvin and McClain counties) by Court of Civil Appeals Judge William C. Hetherington on February 24.

Katherine E. Thomas ('95) has been appointed special district judge for the Ninth Judicial District with her primary duties in Payne County.

Jeremy Tubb ('95) has been selected to serve as an administrative law judge by the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

Craig Adkins ('96) president and member of the board of directors for Bank 7, was honored by the OU College of Arts and Sciences with a Distinguished Service Award for his service as the chair of its board of visitors.

T. Michael Blake ('96) received the Mona Lambard Service to Children Award from the Oklahoma Lawyers for Children organization.

Eric S. Fisher ('96) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Darin S. Rohrer ('97) joined Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green LLP as an associate in the Oklahoma City office.

Kyle Sweet ('97) spoke at the Texas Society of Medical Staff Service Specialist annual conference in San Antonio on legal issues of interest to health care providers.

Nikki L. Baker ('98) rejoined the Las Vegas law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as a shareholder.

Vickie J. Buchanan ('99) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft and is based in the Oklahoma City office.

2000s

Matthew A. Caves ('00) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Andrews Davis as an associate.

Adam Childers ('00) has been selected to serve as an administrative law judge by the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

Layla J. Dougherty ('00) has been named an associate of Mock, Schwabe, Waldo, Elder, Reeves & Bryant PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Steven Goodspeed ('00) joined Taylor Burrage Foster Mallett Downs Ramsey & Russell in Claremore.

J. Todd Woolery ('00) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.
Randy Grau (’01) joined Cheek & Falcone PLLC of Oklahoma City as an of counsel attorney. He also represents Edmond in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Dustin P. Rowe (’01) has been appointed Chickasaw Nation district court judge.

Heather Burrage (’02) of Durant was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission, becoming the second woman to serve as a lawyer member of the commission.

Jacob Diesselhorst (’02) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Rusty N. LaForge (’02) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, working in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Keith Daniels (’03) joined the law firm of Love, Beal & Nixon PC in Oklahoma City.

Tricia L. Everest (’03) has been named of counsel with GableGotwals.

Monica J. Hoenshell (’03) joined the Calvert Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

Sheila R. Benson (’04) was named a partner in the Edmonds Cole Law Firm PC in Oklahoma City.

Sarah Brune Edwards (’04) became an associate with Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Spencer W. Haines (’04) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, working in the Oklahoma City office.

Robyn R. Baker (’05) has been named an associate of Mock, Schwabe, Waldo, Elder, Reeves & Bryant PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Casey L. Saunders (’05) joined Wyatt, Kingery, Hale & Associates as an associate.

R. Gene Stanley (’05) has been named partner in the Oklahoma City law firm now known as Rife Walters Bruehl & Stanley LLP.

J. Brian Brandes (’06) joined Rhodes Hieronymus in Tulsa as an associate.

Timothy Brown (’06) was appointed to the Cherokee Nation Elected Officials Compensation Committee.

Cory King (’06) joined Foshee & Yaffe in Oklahoma City.

Nicole Ruble Metcalf (’06), an associate in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker LLP, was selected by Thomson Reuters as one of its 2011 Rising Stars.

Stacey Smothers (’09) has been named Outstanding Juvenile Prosecutor for 2010 in Tulsa County.

2010s

Clint A. Claypole (’10) joined Field, Trojan & Long, PC of Enid as an attorney.

Conor P. Cleary (’10) joined Hall Estill in Tulsa as an associate.

Kristen Evans (’10) joined Best & Sharp in Tulsa as an associate.

J. Miles McFadden (’10) joined Titus Hillis Reynolds Love Dickman & McCalmon in Tulsa as an associate.

James Mills (’10) has been named assistant to the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner.

Sofia Nagda (’10) joined Fellers Snider in Tulsa as an associate.
We Remember

1930s

Mike A. Caruso ('38) of Mountain View, died August 18, 2010. He was born in Fort Cobb on September 20, 1916.

1940s

Ralph Lorne "Scoop" Jones ('40) of Roanoke, Virginia, died April 22, 2011. He was born July 12, 1915, in Haileyville, Oklahoma. He attended OU as an undergraduate and for law school. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1945 as a gunnery officer. He practiced law in New York City and, in 1985, retired as a senior partner of Brown and Wood after a 40-year career.

Jasper David "J.D." Nance ('41) of Broken Arrow, died December 7, 2010. He was born July 7, 1919, in Henryetta. He served in the U.S. Army and as an attorney, working in the petroleum industry.

Thomas Frederick "T. Fred" Collins ('48) of Ardmore, died February 19, 2011. He was born in El Reno on October 26, 1923, and earned his bachelor's and law degrees from OU. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as business manager for the Naval Flight Cadets Recreation House on the OU campus. He practiced law in Ardmore for more than 62 years, working since 1982 with his son, Lorenzo Collins ('82), in the firm Collins and Collins.

Hazel Howard LeVally ('48) of Ardmore died February 26, 2011. She was born May 4, 1920, in the Ringling-Claypool area. After earning a B.A. from OU in 1942, she taught math at Wilson High School for several years before returning to OU to earn her law degree in 1948. She practiced law in Healdton, retiring in 1974.

B. Don Barnes
1924 – 2011

B. Don Barnes ('49), retired chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, died March 3, 2011, at the age of 86. He was born on Christmas Day in 1924 in Tulsa. He grew up in Tulsa, graduating from Tulsa Central High School in 1942. He began college at the University of Oklahoma, where he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. Eighteen months later he was activated and assigned to duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

When his naval career ended in 1946, he returned to OU and studied engineering. He was an avid Sooner fan and loved to follow OU football. He met Jean Merrill, daughter of OU law professor Maurice Merrill ('19) and Orpha Merrill ('54). The couple went on their first date to an OU football game and married on July 20, 1946, five days after his discharge from the Navy.

Barnes changed his major from engineering to law, following the Merrill family tradition, and received his law degree in 1949. The couple moved to Sulphur, where Barnes established a private law practice.

In 1951, Barnes began his career of public service as the Murray County attorney. He later re-entered private practice in Okmulgee for two years. In 1954, he was elected superior court judge and was re-elected to that position for four terms until 1972, when he was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court by Gov. David Hall. After this appointment, Barnes and his family moved to Edmond.

He retired as chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1985 after 30 years on the bench. Barnes became of counsel with the Oklahoma City law firm of Stack & Barnes, working with his nephew Robert Barnes ('74). He retired from private practice in 1992 and served as an active retired judge, director of the Oklahoma Supreme Court Settlement Conference and an arbitrator. Barnes’ love of golf allowed him to transfer his well-honed skills developed in the judicial arena to the golf greens when he served as a marshal at Oak Tree Country Club.

During his career, Barnes served as president of the Judicial Conference of Oklahoma and the Okmulgee County Bar Association. He was presiding judge of the East Central Administrative District and of the Appellate Division of the Court on the Judiciary. Barnes served as vice president of the Council of State Court Representatives for the National Center for State Courts and served on its board of directors from 1972 until his retirement from the Supreme Court.

Barnes was preceded in death by his parents, Smith and Ann Barnes, and his brother, Bill N. Barnes. He was survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean; his son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Brenda Barnes ('99), of Norman; his son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Debbie Barnes, of Tulsa; his daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Steve Hall; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; his brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Michelle Barnes, of Michigan; and his sister-in-law, Mary Lou Barnes, of Yukon.
Sidney P. Upsher ('48) of Oklahoma City, died November 28, 2010. He was born July 31, 1923, in Oklahoma City and earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the OU. He served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. During the Korean Conflict, he was recalled to duty in the U.S. Air Force, where he served at the Pentagon. Upon return to civilian life, he served as general counsel for Lee Way Motor Freight for 25 years and as CEO of Mistletoe Express until 1987. He later served as of counsel to McAfee & Taft until he retired in 1999.

James William Roberts ('49) died June 3, 2010. He was born in Holdenville on April 29, 1920, and graduated from high school there in 1938. His studies at OU were interrupted by four years of military service during World War II. He returned and earned his bachelor’s and law degrees. He practiced law in Oklahoma City and, in 1966, joined the legal department of Kerr-McGee Corporation. Roberts retired in 1985 as counsel of the oil, gas and minerals division.

1950s

James Albert Peabody ('53), a lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, died November 30, 2010. He was born May 14, 1929. He graduated from Capitol Hill High School in 1947. He was a Rhodes Scholar and served as editor of the Oklahoma Law Review. He served as a military officer during the Korean Conflict and practiced for more than 50 years with Crowe & Dunlevy, retiring in 1991 and taking of counsel status.

James Edward Work ('53) died on April 18, 2011, in Oklahoma City. He was born January 16, 1927, in Wewoka. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as a member of the Naval Expeditionary Force stationed in the Philippines. He earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from OU. He began his legal practice in 1953 at the Oklahoma City firm of Gilliland, Withington and Shirk and continued for 57 years at the Shirk Law Firm until his death.

Stuart B. Strasner, Sr. ('54) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died May 7, 2011. He was born May 11, 1929, and was a banker and lawyer. He also had been a member of the U.S. Army JAG Corps. Strasner served as executive director of the Oklahoma Bar Association from 1981 until 1983 and dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law from 1984 until 1991.

R. Burl Harris ('55) of Ada died December 10, 2010. He was born in Wister on May 1, 1926. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict. After his military service, he attended law school and practiced law in Ada. He served as the Ada city attorney for several years and was a member and past president of the Pontotoc County Bar Association.

Murry Marcus “Marc” Holcomb ('56) of Buffalo, Oklahoma, died December 13, 2010. He was born in Buffalo on November 23, 1932. He attended Oklahoma A&M before law school. He practiced law in Harper County for 54 years. He also farmed and ranched most of his life and was a leader in his community.

Henry F. Featherly ('57) of Oklahoma City died December 26, 2010. He was born on August 10, 1930, in Stillwater. He graduated from Stillwater High School, Oklahoma State University and the OU College of Law. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1954 and attained the rank of captain. He practiced law for 50 years in Oklahoma City, retiring from the law firm of Lamun, Mock, Featherly, Keihling and Cunnyngham.

Joseph F. Glass ('57) of Tulsa died February 20, 2011. He was born in Tulsa on February 25, 1929. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Roosevelt during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He practiced with several firms in Tulsa and was a member of the ABA and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Bob Eugene Bennett ('58) of Ada died November 26, 2010. He was born February 13, 1930, in Holdenville. The Bronze Star recipient served in the 45th Division of the U.S. Army in Japan and the Korean War from 1950 to 1952, and he continued to serve until 1962. He practiced law for 50 years and served as the vice president and a member of the board of governors of the Oklahoma Bar Association. In 2008, the OBA awarded him the Joe Stamper Distinguished Service Award.

Charles Clark Green ('58) of Oklahoma City died March 16, 2011. He was born July 4, 1934, in Ada. He received both his B.A. and J.D. from OU. Upon graduating from law school, he spent three years in the U.S. Air Force and served as a JAG officer. He later returned to Oklahoma City, where he practiced law for 50 years.
1960s

Richard L. Bohanon (’60) of Oklahoma City, died January 18, 2011, at the age of 75. The retired bankruptcy judge was the son of the late U.S. District Judge Luther Bohanon and his wife, Marie Swatek Bohanon. He received his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and law degrees from OU and New York University. He served as law clerk for Chief Judge Alfred P. Murrah of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and later was an attorney for Gulf Oil. Thereafter, he was in private practice in Oklahoma City for 18 years. In 1982, he was appointed to the Bankruptcy Court for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, where he served until his retirement in 2010.

Charles Wayne Harris (’62) of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died on November 10, 2010. He was born February 11, 1937, in Cushing. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from OU and was an avid supporter of OU sports. He served in the U.S. Army as a judge advocate prior to joining a Fort Smith law firm, where he practiced law as a partner for 43 years. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Federation of Insurance Counsel and American College of Trial Lawyers.

Charles Gordon Humble (’63) of Bethany died January 27, 2011. He was born February 16, 1936, in Alberta, Canada, and became a naturalized citizen in 1946. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a municipal judge in Bethany for 25 years and as special district judge in Oklahoma County for an additional 22 years.

Terry Guy “Bulldog” Shipley (’65) of Noble died March 1, 2011. He was born November 2, 1938, in Oklahoma City. At the time of his death, he was practicing law in Norman.

Michael Mendel Goldberg (’68) of Edmond died April 14, 2011. He was born in McAlester on January 25, 1943. He served 20 years in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, retiring with the rank of commander. Following his military service, he worked for 21 years for the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals.

Clifford W. LeGate (’68) of Oklahoma City died December 24, 2010. He was born January 13, 1942. He was employed by the state of Oklahoma and was deputy commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture until his retirement. He also was co-owner of 1-40 Auto Auction, Inc.

1970s

Jacob “Jack” Lehrer (’70) of Santa Rosa, California, died October 31, 2010. He was born November 12, 1928. He worked as a real estate broker and builder of homes and commercial properties for 50 years in northern California, Long Island, New York, and Antigua, West Indies.

Kenneth Wayne Elliott (’79) of Oklahoma City died November 5, 2010. He was born on September 6, 1953, in Houston. He earned his B.A. and J.D. from OU. He practiced law in Oklahoma City with the firm of Elliott and Pederson. He served on the Oklahoma Ethics Commission for 10 years and on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for 11 years.

1980s

James Edward Britton (’82) of Oklahoma City, died March 23, 2011. He was born June 9, 1946, in Roswell, New Mexico. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His law practice focused on transactional law and litigation.

2000s

Ted L. Ryals (’02) of Moore, died February 23, 2011. He was born in Oklahoma City on August 12, 1948. He was a graduate of U.S. Grant High School, Oklahoma City University, Northwestern University and the OU College of Law. In addition to maintaining a private law practice, he was also a minister of music for New Hope Christian Church in Oklahoma City.
Barbara Sharos started in November 2010 as facilities attendant, a member of the six-person team that keeps Andrew M. Coats Hall clean and ready for the students, employees and many guests who visit the building daily.

Evie Holzer became the director of public affairs on January 3, overseeing public relations, marketing and other communication initiatives that promote the College. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from OU and previously worked as a PR consultant.

Jonella Frank (’79) began in January as editor of Sooner Lawyer after serving as writer and contributing editor since 2004. She previously served as assistant district attorney in Cleveland County, Oklahoma Supreme Court staff attorney and deputy director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

David Dye (’09) serves as the associate director of the John B. Turner Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program, which will begin in August 2011. He previously worked in the appellate division of the U.S. Attorney’s office and in the Donald E. Pray Law Library as a research assistant.

Cindy Boman started May 16 as director of financial services. She graduated from OU with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and was previously the manager of accounting operations for the OU Department of Architectural and Engineering Services.

Rachael Fritchie began May 16 as an information technology specialist to maintain public and internal websites and build custom applications. She earned a bachelor’s degree in meteorology from OU and previously developed web applications for a small private weather company.

Steve Rice honored at retirement reception

After working for 10 years at the College of Law as director of public affairs and editor of Sooner Lawyer, Steve Rice retired on December 31. A reception honoring him was held on February 23. Co-workers, family and friends gathered in the Sneed Lounge to visit with Steve and his wife, Sally, and to share in one of his favorite activities – eating. Dean Emeritus Andy Coats entertained the group with his “roast and toast” for Rice.
Ginger Wetz retires from Financial Services

After more than 13 years serving as director of the Financial Services Office of the OU College of Law, Ginger Wetz retired on June 30. Wetz, a CPA, obtained her accounting degree from OU and has worked with numbers, in some capacity, most of her adult life.

Prior to coming to the College of Law, she worked as a fiscal analyst in the OU Office of Grants and Contract Administration. As director of financial services for OU Law, she has been responsible for managing a budget in excess of $16.5 million. In addition, she is a member of the Provost’s Advisory Committee of Financial Administrators and Managers, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Council of Business Officers and the Oklahoma Academy. She also is a board member for the Children’s Art Network, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Norman and an alumna of Leadership Norman.

Originally from Enid, Wetz has called Norman home for more than 25 years. She is married to John Wetz, and gives partial credit for her happy marriage to the College of Law. Assistant Dean David Poarch and his wife, Teana Lewis, introduced the couple and the matchmaking worked splendidly. In their blended family, the Wetzes have two daughters, two sons, one son-in-law, two daughters-in-law, three grandsons and two dogs.

After her retirement, she anticipates spending more time with her family. No doubt, much of that time will be devoted to grandsons Luke, Michael and Philip, three very important men in her life. “I’m also looking forward to spending more time with John at our cabin in Medicine Park,” she said.

In announcing her retirement, Dean Joe Harroz stated, “Ginger has been with the university for nearly 22 years and spent the last 13 at the College of Law. She is a very special part of our College, and she will be greatly missed.”

Devon Energy Corporation and Crowe & Dunlevy sponsor career development program

With one semester of law school behind them, first-year students attended Career Development Night on January 27 to learn about corporate, governmental and law firm legal careers. Dean Joe Harroz, with experience in all three areas of legal practice, kicked off the evening in the Dick Bell Courtroom.

A presentation on corporate practice was provided by Devon Energy Corporation attorneys Carla Sharpe (’84), Lyndon Taylor (’84), Talitha Ebrite (’06) and Andrea Miles (’06). Advice about careers of governmental service was given by David Prater (’93), Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office, Tim Wilson (’79), Oklahoma County Public Defender’s Office, Amanda Green (’03) and Kay Sewell (’84), U.S. Attorney’s Office and Rick Rains, FBI. The law firm practice perspective was given by Michael Laird (’79), Adam Childers (’00) and Drew Palmer (’06) with Crowe & Dunlevy.

[CORRECTION]

On page 58 of the 2010 issue of Sooner Lawyer, Devon Energy Corporation was omitted as a sponsor for the 2010 Career Development Night. We offer our apology to Devon Energy Corporation and thank them for their continuing support of the University of Oklahoma College of Law.
International Human Rights Clinic students travel to Uganda and Venezuela

Between the fall and spring semesters, two groups of students participating in the International Human Rights Clinic traveled thousands of miles — not as a break from their studies, but as part of their studies. Four students, accompanied by Cheryl Wattley, director of clinical education, traveled to Uganda and three students visited Venezuela, along with álvaro Baca, adjunct lecturer with the International Human Rights Clinic.

On their visits, the groups focused on human rights issues of the indigenous populations within each country. Based on their research, the students prepared a shadow report on each country to submit to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations.

Students Lynn Lawrence, David Skipper and Ryan Frazier meet with members of the Kariña Makapaima indigenous community in eastern Venezuela.

McAfee & Taft sponsors 1L Professionalism Day

The Office of Professional & Career Development presented Professionalism Day for first-year students on Saturday, January 22. The event was sponsored by McAfee & Taft and featured marshawn Evans, a Georgia attorney and former contestant on the television reality show “The Apprentice.”

McAfee & Taft attorneys Richard Nix (’85), Alison Patel (’06) and Brandon Buchanan (’00) conducted a small group session on “Professionalism 101.” Students were divided into three groups and rotated through three 45-minute presentations on professionalism in the legal market, business and dining etiquette and professional dress. Lunch was served in the Boren Atrium at the conclusion of the program.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights releases report at OU Law event

The College of Law hosted an event in the Dick Bell Courthouse on February 17 during which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights discussed its report “Indigenous and Tribal Peoples’ Rights Over Their Ancestral Lands and Natural Resources.” At the invitation of the International Human Rights Clinic, IACHR Commissioner Dinah Shelton had previously delivered a lecture at the College of Law in October 2010. As a result of that program, the College of Law was chosen as the site for the release of the new IACHR report. The event was coordinated by Professors Lindsay Robertson and Taia Wagner Helton. The IAHCR report, along with an introduction and commentary, will be published in a future issue of the American Indian Law Review.
OU Law hosts ABA national competition

Winning teams from 12 regional competitions across the country gathered in Andrew M. Coats Hall on March 11 and 12 for the American Bar Association Law Student Division Client Counseling National Competition. Connie Smothermon, director of competitions for the OU College of Law, chaired the ABA committee, which coordinated the event.

The teams competed by conducting mock initial client interviews before a panel of judges. Smothermon recruited individuals to portray the clients interviewed by the students. The Thomas M. Cooley Law School of Michigan captured the national title, with the University of Hawaii Law School taking second place.

At the conclusion of the two-day competition, a banquet was held at the Oklahoma Memorial Union. The Oklahoma Fancy Dancers entertained with a program on the history of some famous Native American dances.

In addition to hosting the national competition this year, OU Law was selected by the ABA to host one of the regional competitions in February 2012.

BLSA presents “The Black Freedmen”

The history and genealogy of the freedmen and the impact of the Dawes Commission was the focus of a Black History Program open to the public on February 24 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. “The Black Freedmen” was presented by the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chapter of the Black Law Students Association.

Speakers Marilyn Vann, Descendants of Freedmen Association president, and Ron Graham, Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band president, discussed the recent Cherokee Nation Supreme Court ruling that overturned the tribe’s voter-approved amendment to limit tribal citizenship to those with Cherokee ancestry and allowed descendants of African-American slaves held by Cherokees at the time of the Civil War to take advantage of Cherokee Nation membership.

Stan Evans, assistant dean; Nathan Williamson, BLSA vice president; Marilyn Vann, president of Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes Association; Ron Graham, president of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band; Leah Agers, BLSA president; and Anthony Douglas, president of the Oklahoma State Conference of the NAACP, gather for a photo at the conclusion of the 2011 Black History Program.

Diversity Day attracts potential students

College and high school students considering law school were able to learn more about the application and admission processes at Diversity Day March 4. OU Law students and professors offered advice about applying to law school, preparing for entrance exams and paying for law school with scholarships and financial aid.

The program also included a mock classroom session, a tour of Andrew M. Coats Hall and lunch. Diversity Day is a free event presented annually to provide information and a sampling of law school to potential applicants of all ethnic backgrounds.
OAWL celebrates Girl Power

The Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law served as host for a group of teenage girls and treated them to an evening of fun, education and food March 25 in Andrew M. Coats Hall. The teens, who participate in programs of the Norman Center for Children & Families, Inc., took part in a variety of activities designed to provide them with strong, positive female role models. During the Girl Power event, the group toured the building, enjoyed dinner in the student lounge and participated in a legal problem-solving activity in the Dick Bell Courtroom.

OAWL networking event connects students with practitioners

Members of the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law invited women lawyers to a meet and greet reception in the Sneed Lounge on April 7. Women from a variety of legal practices — corporate, large firm, solo practitioners and government — were invited to the networking event to join members, faculty and staff for drinks and light refreshments.

Bevan Graybill, OAWL president, visits with Valerie Couch (’83), magistrate judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

American Indian Law Review wraps up year

Gena Timberman, executive director of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority, was the keynote speaker for the 2011 AILR Annual Spring Banquet, held at the clubhouse of Cobblestone Creek Golf Club on March 31. Graduating members were recognized and the incoming editorial board was introduced to the 116 students, guests, faculty and staff in attendance. The law firms of Hall Estill, Pitchlynn & Williams, McCormick & Bryan and McAfee & Taft co-sponsored the event.
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation sponsors reception following OPCD event

On April 7, a lunchtime panel presentation on careers in the oil and gas industry, coordinated by the Office of Professional & Career Development, featured participants from Cimarex, GMX Resources, Mustang Fuel, Chesapeake Energy Corporation and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. Each speaker provided information about his or her job, career path and factors contributing to job satisfaction. They also shared what they wish they had known in law school.

That evening, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation sponsored a reception at Sooner Legends Inn & Suites for students and the panelists from the lunch program.

Students David Kim (left) and Brett Cook are pictured at the reception with Leslie Smith ('08), a landman with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

SATJ recognizes pro bono service

The Students for Access to Justice honored all students and faculty who provided 25 hours or more of pro bono service during the year at a reception on April 19 in the Sneed Lounge. Reggie Whitten ('80), co-founder of Pros For Africa, was the featured speaker for the event.

Whitten, a successful trial lawyer, told the group that he considers his charitable work to be the most important work he does. He also spoke of the impact of his 25-year-old son’s death on his life perspective and emphasized the importance of staying focused on things that “really matter.”

OKJOLT banquet honors members

The Oklahoma Journal of Law and Technology held the Annual Spring Banquet on April 20 in the Sneed Lounge to recognize 2010-2011 members and to introduce the incoming editorial board.

The outgoing editorial board and advisers pictured are Nicole Goza, Kristen Decker, Riley Williams, Michael Waters, editorial adviser, Professor Drew Kershon, faculty adviser, Tiffany Drake and Laura McDevitt Codopony.
Gridiron tradition continues

Gridiron was held March 26 in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Approximately 200 students, guests and faculty enjoyed an evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to music provided by a DJ.

1 Kurt D’Amour, Allison Osborn, Adam Holcomb and Sarah Swift
2 Two Gridiron guests having fun on the dance floor
3 Kaycee Spears, Michael Burns and Denise Davick
4 Rachel Barnes, Katie Oakley and Macy Jensen
5 Jenna McCarthy, Gentry Smiling, Erin McMillan and Amanda Pennington

Photos by Norman Party Pics
Riles elected SBA president

A proven student leader will serve as the 2011-2012 president of the University of Oklahoma College of Law Student Bar Association. Third-year student Jeff Riles was unopposed in the race for OU Law’s top student leadership position, and his enthusiasm is likely to be contagious.

As SBA president, he will lead the student organization, which is composed of all students enrolled in the College of Law. Through its board of governors, which is elected from each of the three classes, the SBA sponsors and coordinates a variety of law school activities and events.

Riles’ stated goal is “institutionalizing OU Law’s passion for service.” For the fall semester, he is planning a student leadership summit to allow the 30 organizations at the College of Law to coordinate and collaborate on activities for the academic year. “My underlying objective is to help the numerous student organizations share resources and co-program for student volunteer opportunities,” said Riles. “We have so many passionate students who are service-oriented. I want to organize to contribute more.”

Riles is a 2009 graduate of Oklahoma City University, where he served as president of the Student Government Association and his fraternity. It was in college when he realized that he “had a heart for public service.”

“Many of the people I aspired to be like in public service were OU College of Law graduates – Tom McDaniel, Brad Henry and Jari Askins,” he explained. Service to others was also modeled to Riles by his grandfather, father, brother and uncle through their military service.

While at OU Law, Riles has served as vice president of United Students and as the community service chair for the SBA. As community service chair, he coordinated the 2010 Race Judicata, which allowed the SBA to donate $2,500 for the Cindy Foley Memorial Indigent Defense Fellowship. As SBA president, Riles wants to continue and expand the race/walk event.

Riles is the first African-American to serve as SBA president. Commenting on Riles’ service as SBA president, Assistant Dean for Students Stan Evans (’03) said it is “unprecedented, but not un-projected. Over the past five years, 90 percent of the student organizations at OU Law have had minority leadership.”

Riles hopes to make the SBA the best student leadership organization in the state. “At OU Law, I am surrounded by effective leaders. I want every student to have an investment in the success of the SBA and I want the SBA to expand community service opportunities for law students,” he said. Riles hopes his enthusiasm will lead to a pandemic of the "passion for service" at the OU College of Law.

Scholarships awarded to students studying energy, natural resources

Scholarships totaling $66,500 were awarded to seven OU Law students by two foundations to encourage the study of energy, environmental, natural resources and mineral law. The scholarship recipients are Teresa Baumann, Keith Needham, Ashley Miller, Bradley Secrist, Stuart Edwards, Anna Hodges and Jennifer Riter.

Students from 24 law schools competed for scholarships awarded by the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation’s scholarships were available to law students from 30 schools. Combined, the two organizations awarded $184,000 to 32 students.

“We are fortunate to have an excellent group of students,” said Owen Anderson, Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil & Gas and Natural Resources and director of John B. Turner LL.M. Program. “Both of these scholarship programs are essentially major competitions that judge students largely on their merits and on their interest in energy, natural resources, water and Indian law. OU did extraordinarily well with spring scholarships. We had a banner year.”
Henry Lecture Series features former White House counsel

A trial lawyer based in Washington, D.C., Craig has represented such high-profile clients as John W. Hinckley, Jr., who was acquitted of the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan by reason of insanity, and in 2010, Goldman Sachs. Craig earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard and his law degree from Yale Law School, where he met Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham. He has taught trial practice at both Yale Law School and Harvard Law School. He is currently a partner at the international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

The Henry Lecture Series is an annual event initiated in 2000 to inspire and educate future generations of scholars, lawyers and public servants. Five attorneys in the Henry family graduated from the OU College of Law: the Honorable Lloyd H. Henry and his sons, the Honorable L. Wayne Henry and Oklahoma City University President Robert H. Henry, and the Honorable Charles T. Henry and his son, Brad Henry, governor of Oklahoma from 2003 to 2011.

This year, for the ninth Henry Lecture Series, Gov. Henry assumed the mantle of representing the family and hosting the event. Robert Henry held this position during previous events.

Students selected for public service awards

Four students have been selected to participate in two national programs that promote public service. Sarah Wynn, Felina Rivera-Brown and Luis Arango-Petrocchi received Equal Justice Summer Corps program fellowships, and Paige Hoster received a J.W. Saxe Memorial Fund Prize for Public Service.

The Equal Justice Summer Corps program provides law students with the opportunity to dedicate their summer to a legal project at a nonprofit public interest organization. Upon completion of 300 hours of service, each student earns a $1,132 AmeriCorps education award voucher that can be used to pay current educational expenses or qualified student loans.

“The Summer Corps is very competitive,” said Elizabeth Bangs, assistant professor of law and faculty director of Students for Access to Justice. “Only 700 students nationwide receive these fellowships. This is the third summer in a row OU Law has had Summer Corps members.”

Hoster received a J.W. Saxe Memorial Fund Prize for Public Service to fund her work in the Victim Services Unit in the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. She will be awarded a prize of $2,000 to enable her to gain practical experience in public service.

“This is the first time an OU student has applied for and received this award,” stated Bangs. “We are very proud of all four of these students.”
Oklahoma Law Review members enjoy annual banquet

Five students received Gene & Jo Ann Sharp Law Review Awards for their outstanding OLR work. Pictured are Dean Joe Harroz, Danae VanSickle Grace, Professor Emily Meazell, faculty adviser, JoAnn Sharp, Gene Sharp (’53), Lindsey Smith, Michael Furlong, Sean Wagner and Philip Bruce.

The Oklahoma Law Review held its annual honors banquet April 11 at the Kerr-McGee Courtside Club in Lloyd Noble Center. The banquet celebrated the year’s accomplishments and recognized the students, faculty and alumni whose time and resources made it possible to continue the OLR tradition of excellence.

Dean Joe Harroz welcomed the 120 students, faculty and guests in attendance. Following dinner, Dean Emeritus Andy Coats (’63) introduced guest speaker William G. Paul (’56). Paul, who served on the Oklahoma Law Review as a student, is an of counsel attorney with Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. He has served in numerous leadership positions during his legal career, including president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

At the conclusion of Paul’s remarks, the Gene & JoAnn Sharp Law Review Awards were presented for outstanding performances. The outgoing OLR officers and graduating members were recognized, followed by the introduction of the incoming officers.

Table sponsors were Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Crowe & Dunlevy, Devon Energy Corporation, Dow Lohnes PLLC, Fellers Snider and McAfee & Taft. Sandra and Richard Gore (’75) were banquet supporters.

College of Law graduates sworn in as attorneys

Having successfully completed the Oklahoma Bar Exam, graduates take the Oath of Attorney.

Nineteen OU Law graduates assembled in the Oklahoma Supreme Court Courtroom at the State Capitol April 21 to take the Oath of Attorney and become official members of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Chief Justice Steven Taylor (’74) administered the oath to the group following remarks by Deborah Reheard, OBA president, and Roy Tucker, OBA Young Lawyer Division chairperson.

After swearing to the oath, they proceeded to the second floor rotunda to sign the Roll of Attorneys and attend a reception hosted by the OBA Young Lawyers Division.
Awards Day 2011 honors outstanding students

On April 29, OU Law faculty and staff recognized students for their academic accomplishments, moot court and mock trial wins, promise in specialized areas, hard work and dedication. Scholarships and awards were given out during a special event in the Dick Bell Courtroom.

(left to right) Chesapeake Energy Corporation Scholarship presented to Christopher Turner, Sage Garland and Jonathan Truong by Henry Hood ('85), Chesapeake Energy Corporation general counsel and vice president

Photos by Norman Party Pics

2010-2011 Board of Advocates Officers
Jamie L. Weathers
President
Chasity D. Martinez
Vice President
Andrew F. Shi
Calvert Coordinator
Amanda N. Pennington
Calvert Assistant
Ann M. Robl
First Year Moot Court Coordinator
Jaciobi E. Nichols
First Year Moot Court Assistant
Laleh N. Chahi
Judging Committee Coordinator
Michael J. O’Rear
Judging Assistant
Jayant K. Tatchar
Judging Assistant
Shivan V. Mehta
Judging Assistant
Katharine C. Oakley
Scoring Coordinator
Emily J. Mueller
Scoring Assistant
Barbara M. Moschovidis
Scoring Assistant
Renée M. Moorad
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Jessica L. Kudryk
External Relations Assistant
Barrett T. Bowers
Brief Writing Coordinator
Michael A. Furlong
Brief Writer
Jacob S. Crawford
Brief Writer
Dale R. Rex
Brief Writer

Advocacy Competition Teams
Board of Advocates: First Year Moot Court Competition
First Place: Kristian B. Rose, Aaron J. Stewart
Second Place: Shannon M. Slagle, Carol Y. Verbeek

Judge Albert C. Hunt Advocate Award
Outstanding Oral Advocate Awards:
Nathan R. Allred, Gauri D. Nautiyal
Supported by: Judge Albert C. Hunt, and, following his death, endowed by his family

Board of Advocates: Calvert Intra-school Moot Court Competition
First Place: Nathan H. Aduddell, Lindsey A. Smith
Second Place: Amanda J. Dougherty, Shelley L. Levisay
Best Speaker: Shelley L. Levisay
Sponsored by Board of Advocates, Professor Rick Tepker and the Floyd and Irma Calvert Fund for Law & Liberty

American Association for Justice Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Shivan V. Mehta, Amanda N. Pennington, Patrick L. Stein, Jayant K. Tatchar
Team 2: Philip R. Bruce, Kristy E. Kapp, Shelley L. Levisay, Ryan P. Stephenson
Adviser: Connie Smothermon
Supported by: Norman & Edem Law Office

American Bar Association Mediation Competition
Team 1: Laleh N. Chahi, Kathryn Reichert
Team 2: Jonathan M. Gibbon, Allyson R. Kucera
Advisers: Caron Loffland, Connie Smothermon

American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Nathan H. Aduddell, Jessica N. Cory, Lindsey A. Smith
Team 2: Erin R. Israel, Barbara M. Moschovidis, Andrew F. Shi
Adviser: Michelle Johnson

American Bar Association National Arbitration Competition
Team 1: Lewis D. Craft, Lauren K. Lindsey, Jacob E. Nichols, Colby L. Robertson
Team 2: Christa L. Evans, Kyle R. Hurst, Jason A. Martin, Erin A. Troub
Advisers: Jessica Durrett, Gail Mullins, Connie Smothermon

American Bar Association Negotiation Competition
Team 1: Nazareth M. Haysbert, Amy N. Wilson
Team 2: Kristin S. Fisher, Michael S. Swensen
Advisers: Brian McCall, Connie Smothermon

(Left to right) Chesapeake Energy Corporation Scholarship presented to Christopher Turner, Sage Garland and Jonathan Truong by Henry Hood ('85), Chesapeake Energy Corporation general counsel and vice president

(McAfee & Taft Award recipients Emily Mueller (middle) and Erin Troub (right) with Richard Nix ('85), McAfee & Taft managing director and shareholder)
B.L.S.A. Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Leah E. Agers, Anita N.D. Ayisi
Team 2: Nathan K. Williamson,
January L. Turner
Advisers: Kanika Capel, Cheryl Wattley

B.L.S.A. Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team
Bianca J. Bryant
Courtney M. Griffin
Aly W. Khalili
Roy E. Mathews
Adviser: Cheryl Wattley

Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition
Jennifer N. Brannon
John M. Krattiger
J. Blake Patton
Adviser: Connie Smothermon

First Amendment Moot Court Competition
Dacia E. Abel
Joshua K. Hefner
Katherine E. Koljack
Advisers: Elizabeth Bangs, Connie Smothermon

Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition
Megan H. Dearth
Allyson E. Dow
K. Nicole Goza
Adviser: Daniel Nicholson

McGee Civil Rights Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Justin P. Grose, Sahar Jooshani, Sean C. Wagner
Team 2: Jere T. Davidson,
Brandee R. Raney, Joshua C. Smith
Advisers: Elizabeth Bangs, Caron Loffland

National Trial Team
Team 1: Caleb N. McCoy,
Jonathan G. Rector, John J. Wolf
Team 2: Matthew K. Brown,
Carl J. Buckholts, Corey L. Miner
Adviser: David Poarch

National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Abi L. Fain, Taylor P. Henderson
Team 2: Todd E. Saucedo, Lauren A. Sisson
Advisers: Tai Helton, Michael Winchell

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
Cody B. Jones
Renee M. Moorad
Emily J. Mueller
Amber Siddiqui
Zachary P. West
Advisers: Kate Burum, Peter Krug

Redbud Invitational Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Allison E. Hay, Chance B. Holland
Team 2: Robert G. Carter, Ann M. Duffy
Team 3: Clayburn T. Curtis, Dale R. Rex
Adviser: Connie Smothermon

Crowe & Dunlevy Scholarship presented to Camal Pennington (second from left) and Felina Rivera-Brown (third from left) by Recruiting and Associate Development Coordinator Morgan Hager and Christopher Staine (‘10) with Crowe & Dunlevy

WVU Energy Law Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Ashley J. Miller, Keith A. Needham
Team 2: Cody J. Cooper, Jeffery M. Riles
Advisers: David Dye, Owen Anderson

Order of Barristers:
Nathan H. Aduddeh
Philip R. Bruce
Erin R. Israel
Shelley L. Levisay
Renee M. Moorad
Emily J. Mueller
Ann M. Robl
Andrew F. Shi
Lindsey A. Smith
Zachary P. West

Order of Solicitors:
Laleh N. Chafi
K. Nicole Goza
Roy E. Mathews
Jonathan G. Rector
Kathryn Reichert
Todd E. Saucedo
Amber Siddiqui
Lauren A. Sisson
Jayant K. Tatachar
Erin A. Troub

Scholarships and Awards
Allen Harris Scholarship in Honor of Dr. John G. Hervey
Brian J. Hansford
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Scholarship
Valerie Fleurima
Megan N. Thompson

Cecil L. Hunt Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer N. Brannon
January L. Turner
Jason M. Gardner

Chesapeake Energy Corporation Scholarship
Sage G. Garland
Jonathan L. Truong
Christopher C. Turner

Cole E. Adwon Memorial Scholarship
Justin P. Grose
Sahar Jooshani
Joshua L. Lockett
Shivan V. Mehta

Crowe & Dunlevy Scholarship
Camal I. Pennington
Felina N. Rivera-Brown

Energy and Mineral Law Foundation Scholarship
Stephen T. Gary
Aaron F. W. Meek

Frank C. Love Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth A. French
Sierra G. Salton

GableGotwals Scholarship
Carl J. Buckholts

GableGotwals Supreme Court Decision Making Award
Laleh N. Chafi
Naz Karimi
Andrew F. Shi

George B. Fraser Scholarship
Craig N. Brackeen

Henry Kent Anderson Human Services Award
Andrew F. Shi

James F. Hawes Memorial Cup Award
Amanda N. Pennington

John McHenry Mee Scholarship
Crystal Masterson

Justice Marian P. Opala Endowed Scholarship
Jayant K. Tatachar

Justice William A. Grimes Civil Libertarian Award
Emily J. Mueller

Lee B. Thompson, Sr. Scholarship
Rayshon Payton
GableGotwals Scholarship awarded to Carl Buckholts by Jake Krattiger (left), future associate of GableGotwals, and Joe Thai (right), OU Law professor and of counsel at GableGotwals

McAfee & Taft Award
Emily J. Mueller
Erin A. Troub

Oklahoma Bar Association Bankruptcy and Reorganization Section Award
Lindsey A. Smith

Oklahoma Bar Association Business Association Section Award
Amanda N. Pennington

Oklahoma Bar Association Mineral Law Section Newsletter Awards
Editors of the Newsletter: Austin S. Brewer, Keith A. Needham, Douglas J. Nix

Oklahoma Bar Association Tax Section Award
Jessica N. Cory

Paul K. Frost II Memorial Award
Sean C. Wagner

Robert J. Emery Student Support Fund
Sean C. Wagner

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Scholarships
Anita N.D. Ayisi
Teresa E. Baumann
Stephen T. Gary
Aaron F. W. Meek
Ashley J. Miller
Jennifer J. Riter

Salem Civil Rights Award
Devan R. Patrick
Trista E. Wilson

Teena Hicks Scholarship
Courtney D. Hilliard
Millicent F. Daniels

Warren P. Taylor Scholarship
Daniel V. Triplett

William L. Bruce Scholarship
Courtney D. Hilliard
Camal I. Pennington
Rayshon Payton

Clinic Awards
Cindy Foley Outstanding Clinical Student Award
Erin A. Troub

Kelly Beardslee Criminal Defense Award
Taos C. Smith

Larry Siria Community Service Award
Emily J. Mueller

Captain Brian E. Wheeler Write-on Award
Michael A. Furlong

Oklahoma Journal of Law and Technology
David A. Puckett, Best Note
Jeffery C. Cartmell, Best Comment
Ann M. Robi, Best Note Editor

Special Recognition Awards
National Order of Scribes
Crystal Masterson
Zachary P. West

Students for Access to Justice
Pro Bono Students of the Year
Outstanding First Year Public Service Volunteer: Charles R. Warren
Outstanding Second Year Public Service Volunteer: Sahar Jooshani
Outstanding Third Year Public Service Volunteer: Erin A. Troub
Outstanding Public Service Graduate: Erin A. Troub

SBA Appreciation Awards
Outstanding Professor Award
Katheleen R. Guzman

Outstanding Staff Award
Paige H. Osborn
Susan E. Wilson

Justice Mariam P. Opala Endowed Scholarship presented to Jayant Tatakach by Allen Harris

Law Review Awards
American Indian Law Review Award
Colby C. Pearce, Outstanding Editor
Katharine C. Oakley, Outstanding Editor
Lori A. Murphy, Outstanding Note
Todd E. Saucedo, Outstanding Comment
Jered T. Davidson, Outstanding Second Year Member
Taylor P. Henderson, Outstanding Third Year Member
Trista E. Wilson, Outstanding Write-on

Gene H. & Jo Ann Sharp
Oklahoma Law Review Award
Philip R. Bruce, Outstanding Editor
Joel Borkenhagen, Outstanding Note
Michael A. Furlong, Outstanding Comment
Sean C. Wagner, Outstanding Second Year Member
Danae V. Grace, Outstanding Third Year Member
Lindsey A. Smith, Outstanding Third Year Member
Fellowship in memory of Professor Cindy M. Foley established

The University of Oklahoma College of Law and the John Foley family have created the Cindy Foley Memorial Indigent Defense Fellowship to honor her dedication to pro bono service and award a $1,000 stipend to one law student for 200 unpaid hours, worked during the summer, of indigent defense services to the public.

The fellowship honors the memory of Professor Cindy M. Foley, who worked for 19 years in the OU College of Law Criminal Defense Clinic, representing those who could not afford legal representation and training students to become, in her words, "the best lawyers money can’t buy." Foley died on August 10 from cancer.

After earning a juris doctor degree from OU in 1983, Foley began her career in the Oklahoma County Public Defender’s Office. She was recognized for "Outstanding Accomplishment" by the Oklahoma Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in 1988.

"Cindy knew better than anyone that her clients were real people with real problems who needed real help but who had no money," said her husband, John Foley. "She learned how to be a real and caring trial lawyer while working in the trenches of the Public Defender’s offices. There is no better training."

The fellowship is made possible by donations from Foley’s family and friends, including many from the OU community. Last fall, OU law students, faculty and staff reinstated the Race Judicata 5K and donated $2,500 to the Foley fellowship fund.

“Cindy will always be remembered fondly by students, colleagues, lawyers and judges,” said Cheryl Wattley, professor and director of clinical education in the OU College of Law. "With this fellowship, we honor her by encouraging a student’s interest in representing criminal defendants who may not have financial resources but who do have an undisputed right to effective legal representation."

In addition to the Foley fellowship, the college annually recognizes law students for pro bono services by awarding the Coats Fellowship for Summer Public Service to four law students in the amount of $1,000 each and the Maureen Maute Memorial Pro Bono/Public Service Fellowship to one law student in the amount of $1,500.

On April 19, Luis Arango-Petrocchi was awarded the first Foley fellowship. Cody Jones, Abigail Townsend, Mallory Carlberg and Felina Rivera-Brown received the Coats fellowship. Allyson Kucera was awarded the Maute fellowship.

Reception kicks off graduation weekend

The College of Law hosted a reception for the Class of 2011 and their families May 13 prior to the university-wide Commencement held later that evening. The annual event provides graduates with an opportunity to acquaint their families with their professors and the place that has been their “home away from home” during their law school years.
Five named to OU College of Law Board of Visitors

The College of Law Board of Visitors advises the leadership of the College as they strive to advance the quality of academic programs and research within the College and increase the stature of the College nationally. Since its inception in 1996, the board has been co-chaired by DeVier Pierson and Bill Ross. Five new members have been added to the Board of Visitors, joining other members who have graciously dedicated their time, talents and treasures to OU Law. New members are OU Law alumni Sean Burrage (‘93), Glenn Coffee (‘92), Tricia Everest (‘03), Brad Henry (‘88) and Kathryn Taylor (‘81).

Burrage serves in the Oklahoma Senate, representing Oklahoma’s Rogers and Mayes Counties in District 2. In 2011, he was named assistant minority floor leader. Burrage has served as a delegate to the American Council of Young Political Leaders and was designated as Member of the 2008 Class of Aspen-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership.

Coffee is the 30th Oklahoma Secretary of State, having been appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin. He was the first Republican president pro tempore, having previously served as a co-president pro tempore during the previous Legislature.

Everest practices law at GableGotwals. She previously served as an assistant attorney general representing the state of Oklahoma as general counsel to state agencies and commissions and as a litigator in tort, procedural and employment law cases. In 2010, she served as general counsel for Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson’s gubernatorial campaign.

Henry practices law at Lester, Loving and Davies. He was the 26th governor of the state of Oklahoma. He was first elected governor in
2002 and won re-election in 2006. Henry is only the third governor in Oklahoma history to hold two consecutive terms.

Taylor practices law at McAfee & Taft. She was Tulsa’s 38th mayor from 2006 to 2009, the second female to hold this position in the city’s history. In 2003, Taylor was appointed Oklahoma secretary for commerce and tourism by Gov. Henry and was tasked with heading three executive state agencies and acting as the governor’s small business advocate for the state. She returned to work with Gov. Henry in 2009 as chief of education strategy and innovation.
Thousands of family members and friends gathered May 14 at the Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall to celebrate the 165 students earning their juris doctor degrees from the OU College of Law. Chancellor Glen D. Johnson (’79) provided the keynote address and Class of 2011 President Amanda Essailli shared her own lessons learned during law school. Dean Joe Harroz also gave advice and encouragement to the graduates and noted how significant the Class of 2011 is to the law school.

“The graduating class of 2011 is a special class,” Harroz said. “They set academic records when entering the College and achieved many accomplishments in service to the law, working a record number of pro bono hours and establishing new service programs. On a personal level, this year’s convocation is exciting for me because this is the first class I will graduate as dean.”
Special awards presented at Convocation

Amanda Essaili received the Professional Responsibility Award, given to a graduating student who, by vote of fellow classmates, most clearly exemplifies the spirit and attitude of professional responsibility and leadership.

Christa L. Evans received the Student Bar Association Award, given to the graduating student who has rendered the most valuable and significant service to the student body.

Courtney Griffin received the Joseph F. Rarick “Just Deserts” Award, established by an OU Law alum to honor Professor Rarick and recognize a student who has contributed the most in the eyes of the faculty, staff and students in making the College of Law more beneficial to all but has not received other substantial awards or recognition.

Zachary Oubre was awarded the Nathan Scarritt Prize, a medal awarded to the student with the highest academic record at the end of five semesters of law school. The award was established by alumnus Nathan Scarritt of Enid, and his sons, Nathan Scarritt, Jr., and Richard W. Scarritt, continue this prize in their father’s memory.

Bevan Graybill received the Joel Jankowsky Award, established in 1998 by Julian Rothbaum (’38) of Tulsa to honor his stepson and admired friend, Joel Jankowsky. The award recognizes a graduate whose combined leadership, scholarship and selfless service to others exemplifies a standard of overall excellence deserving of the highest honor.
Faculty changes

Leadership for new LL.M. program named

An expert in energy and natural resources law and a research and writing specialist have been appointed to guide the new John B. Turner Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program in the University of Oklahoma College of Law. The new 24-credit program, which begins August 2011, is the first LL.M program in the United States focusing on the fields of energy, natural resources and indigenous peoples.

OU Law Professor Owen Anderson will serve as director of the program, which will provide students with an additional year of education after receiving their juris doctor degree. Former OU law library research assistant David Dye will serve as associate director.

“Professor Anderson has extensive experience in energy and natural resources law, and Mr. Dye is an accomplished OU law alumnus who previously assisted students in the OU Law Library,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “I am confident this program will excel under their leadership.”

Anderson, an OU Law faculty member since 1992, is the Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil & Gas and Natural Resources. He has lectured worldwide on domestic and international oil and gas law. He is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee in Scotland and serves on the LL.M. visiting faculty at the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney. Anderson has authored numerous articles on oil and gas law and serves on the board of editors for the Oil and Gas Reporter and the Texas Title Examination Standards. A member of the Oklahoma, Texas and North Dakota bars, he serves as a commissioner for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and is a member of the American Law Institute. In addition, he is a trustee of both the Eastern and Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundations; a member of the International Oil and Gas Educational Center Advisory Board of the Center for American and International Law in Dallas; and a member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.

Elizabeth Bangs was named assistant professor of law, director of research and writing, and director of the Students for Access to Justice program.

She previously served as a visiting associate professor at the College of Law. Before coming to OU, she served as the director of the first-year legal research and writing program at Harvard Law School and was a lecturer in the department of politics at Princeton University.

Bangs graduated from Harvard Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Women’s Law Journal (now the Harvard Journal of Law and Gender). She began her legal career as a judicial clerk, first to the Honorable Richard A. Paez on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and then to the Honorable Audrey B. Collins in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Bangs also was a trial attorney.
Three faculty members retire

Three members of the faculty, with almost 60 years of combined OU teaching experience, will be noticeably absent when the fall semester starts in August. Professors Michael Winchell, Peter Krug and Robert Spector are exceptional and dedicated teachers who have made significant contributions to the quality legal education provided to students of the OU College of Law.

Michael G. Winchell
Michael Winchell (’76) joined the College of Law faculty in 2004. He was the assistant director of Legal Research and Writing and taught Introduction to Legal Methods, Government Contracts and Environmental Law. Prior to joining OU Law, Winchell spent 28 years with the federal government. Winchell was a member of OU’s team in the 1976 National Moot Court Competition.

“With a distinguished government career serving as chief counsel for NASA and the U.S. Marine Corps, Professor Winchell brought unique experience and perspective to the classroom,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “He actively participated in moot court competitions, and the individual attention he provided students greatly encouraged their success.”

Peter Krug
Peter Krug, formerly the Herman G. Kaiser Foundation Chair in International Law and a member of the OU Law faculty since 1991, is known as OU’s expert on international law. During his 20-year tenure, he has taught Comparative Law, European Union Law, International Business Transactions, International Criminal Law, International Human Rights Law, International Trade Regulation, Public International Law and Mass Media Law.

“When introduced at the 2011 Convocation, Professor Krug received a spontaneous, standing ovation and sustained applause from his colleagues and students. This is representative of the level of respect and admiration his colleagues and students have for him,” Harroz said. “His leadership and work in international law will impact generations of law students.”

Robert G. Spector
A member of the faculty since 1980, Robert Spector was the Glenn R. Watson Chair and Centennial Professor of Law. He taught courses including Family Law, Children and the Law, Conflict of Laws, Evidence and Child Abuse and Neglect. In addition, Spector has served as the director of the OU College of Law Oxford Program since 1999.

“Professor Spector is an international figure in the field of family law. He is one of those special professors who impacts the landscape in all three areas of teaching, scholarship and service,” stated Harroz. “During his three decades of service to the College of Law he has been committed to advancing the knowledge of his students, his field and the bar as a whole.”

Emily Meazell assumed the role of associate dean for academics, a position previously held by Mark Gillett. She joined the OU Law faculty in 2007 after serving as a visiting professor at the University of Georgia School of Law, her alma mater.

Meazell began her legal career as a law clerk to Judge Richard W. Story of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Following her clerkship, she served as an associate at the law firm of Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP in Atlanta. A former civil engineer who practiced in the environmental and water resources field prior to attending law school, Meazell earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Meazell’s scholarly interests are in administrative law, law and science, risk regulation, energy law and water law. Her research-related service includes work for the International Atomic Energy Agency and service as a hearing examiner for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. She teaches torts, administrative law, energy law and risk, public policy and law.

Fred Miller, professor emeritus, and his wife, Marcia, moved in January to Edina, Minnesota. He joined Gray Plant Mooty in Minneapolis, serving in an of counsel capacity with the firm’s commercial financial services practice group.

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Faculty honors

Spector elected to American Law Institute

Professor Robert Spector was elected to the American Law Institute in December, becoming one of only 38 members in Oklahoma. ALI President Roberta Cooper Ramos said, “I am delighted to welcome these distinguished and talented new members to the American Law Institute. From its very beginning in 1923, the Institute has been dedicated to clarifying and improving the law. I am sure our newest members will find their association with the institute to be both professionally and personally rewarding.”

Robertson and Wattley receive OU faculty awards

Two OU Law faculty members were recognized at the university-wide Spring Faculty Awards Ceremony April 7. Lindsay Robertson received the Merrick Teaching Award and Cheryl Wattley was presented the Regents’ Award for Superior Professional and University Service and Public Outreach.

Robertson joined the law faculty in 1998 after serving as a visiting professor in 1997. He teaches courses in Federal Indian Law, Comparative Indigenous Peoples Law, Constitutional Law and Legal History and serves as faculty director of the OU Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy and associate director of the Inter-American Center for Law and Culture. The Merrick Teaching Award is presented to recognize outstanding achievement in bringing students a better understanding and appreciation of the American free enterprise system.

Wattley serves as the director of clinical education and teaches Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Litigation Skills and Trial Techniques. Prior to joining the law school in 2006, Wattley practiced law in the areas of criminal defense, civil rights and employment litigation. Since joining the College of Law faculty, she has taken on a variety of responsibilities beyond her formal obligations, including developing and implementing the Mediation and Dispute Resolution Externship and writing and producing the play “I’ll Do It” about Ada Lois Sipuel’s 1946 admission application to the segregated University of Oklahoma law school.
Beyond the classroom

Symposia and colloquia

Biographer relates challenges of writing book

The University of Oklahoma College of Law and the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage presented “Writing a Brandeis Biography” featuring Melvin Urofsky, author of Louis D. Brandeis, A Life, March 7 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. The book is the most recent full-scale biography of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

Urofsky is a professor of law and public policy and professor emeritus of history at Virginia Commonwealth University. Working closely with OU History Professor Emeritus David Levy, Urofsky edited seven volumes of Louis Brandeis’ letters. He also authored Louis D. Brandeis and the Progressive Tradition. He discussed the challenges of researching, reconstructing and describing the life of a significant legal figure in America.

Prior to his afternoon presentation, Urofsky spoke at noon in the Sneed Lounge as part of the OU Law Faculty Colloquium Series. His topic at the lunch event was “Dissent as a Form of Constitutional Dialogue.”

Final faculty colloquium features BYU professor

The final installment of the 2010-2011 Faculty Colloquium Series was presented April 27 in the Sneed Lounge. Brigham Daniels, associate professor of law at Brigham Young University, discussed regulatory nukes, a concept introduced by his paper that will appear in The George Washington Law Review in 2012.

Daniels defines “regulatory nuke” as an agency’s power, beyond ordinary regulation, which has the capability to obliterate its regulatory targets or make major waves in a large segment of society. His discussion with the OU Law faculty included the topics of Congress, agencies, environmental law and political science.

OU Law, Texas Tech participate in exchange program

As part of an exchange program with Texas Tech University School of Law, on March 31, the OU Law Faculty Colloquium Series hosted Michael Hatfield, professor of law and associate dean for research and faculty development at Texas Tech. He presented his paper on professional ethics of tax lawyers, “Legal Ethics and Federal Taxes, 1945-1965: Patriotism, Duties and Advice.”

OU Law’s Rick Tepker previously spoke March 24 at Texas Tech on “Christian Legal Society v. Martinez: Mediating the ‘Cultural Civil War’ at Public Universities.”
Family law symposium honors Professor Robert Spector

Three groups co-sponsored the 2011 Family Law Symposium: Divorcing the Multinational Family February 25 at the College of Law. The Oklahoma Bar Association Family Law Section, Imprimatur Press and Oklahoma Law Review brought together an internationally recognized group of family law experts to speak to students, faculty, staff and guests at an event honoring Professor Robert Spector.

Robert A. Brown, OLR editor-in-chief, welcomed those in attendance, and Dean Joe Harroz provided opening remarks prior to Professor Rick Tepker’s introduction of William Duncan, the keynote speaker. Duncan is the deputy secretary general of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. He spoke about some of the remaining challenges in the globalization of the Hague Children’s Conventions.

Other speakers were Linda Silberman, New York University School of Law; Jack Sampson, University of Texas School of Law; Jeff Atkinson, DePaul University College of Law; Ann Estin, University of Iowa College of Law; Linda Elrod, Washburn University Law School; and the honoree, Professor Robert Spector.

Following the afternoon symposium, there was a reception in the Sneed Lounge and a dinner that evening at a restaurant in downtown Norman. The symposium and its companion events were held to thank Spector for his long and dedicated service to the university, his students and the community and for his significant contributions in family law.
**Published**

**Drew Kershen** co-wrote the article “Innovation Arrested by the Law of Unintended Consequences,” posted on Forbes.com March 31.


Meazell will publish “Deference and Dialogue in Administrative Law” in a forthcoming issue of *Columbia Law Review*.


**At the podium**

**Owen Anderson** was the keynote luncheon speaker at the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators Pemex Conference in April in Mexico City. “International Oil Investment Return to Mexico: Will Mexico’s Risk-Service Invocation Work and Where Might It Lead?” was the title of his presentation.

**Mary Sue Backus** was the featured speaker on confrontation rights at a Symposium of Protections Under the Sixth Amendment at William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia, March 23.

Backus spoke on “Your Right to Privacy—Where Does It Come From and How to Protect It” April 12 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

Backus also delivered two CLE presentations, “Confronting Confrontation” at the Seminole County Law Day observance on April 29 in Wewoka, and “OMG! Evidence Challenges in an Electronic World,” at the 17th Annual Legal Institute of Pickens County, I.T., May 6 in Ardmore.

**Dean Emeritus Andy Coats** was the speaker at Rose State College’s 10th annual Law Day observance April 25.

**Jonathan Forman** spoke on “Tax Reform in an Era of Hyper-Deficits and Gridlock” for the Oklahoma City Economic Roundtable in Oklahoma City March 2.

Forman also presented “Tax Reform and Deficit Reduction: Proposals, Implementation and Policy Considerations” and served as a panel moderator for the meeting of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation May 6 in Washington, D.C.

**Steve Gensler** was a panelist before the National Academy of Science Committee on Science, Technology and Law at its meeting April 11 in Washington, D.C. He spoke on “Knowledge in the Public Interest: Considerations of Incidents Where Scientific and Technical Knowledge Is Kept From the Public Because of Sealed Settlements and Other Restrictive Arrangements.”

Gensler also appeared as a CLE panelist with the Honorable Carl Stewart (5th Cir.) and the Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal (S.D. Tex.) at the Judicial Conference of the Fifth Circuit May 3-4 in San Antonio. His presentation was “Civil Rules and Appellate Rules: What’s New and What’s on the Horizon.”

Kershen also spoke on “The Illinois River Litigation: Water Law Implications Extra Large?” to the Mineral Law Society of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Association of Municipal Attorneys, the Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Lease and Title Analysts, and the Oklahoma City Real Property Lawyers Association.

Judith Maute was a panelist at the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism Spring 2011 Workshop at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 1. Her topic was “Teaching Legal Ethics Using Comparative Materials,” and included information on regulatory changes of legal professions in the United Kingdom and Australian reforms.

Brian McCall addressed a symposium—Corporate Governance and Business Ethics in a Post-Crisis World—hosted by Notre Dame Law School and sponsored by the Hewlett-Packard Company April 1. He presented a paper that applies Aristotelian political philosophy to develop a new model of corporate governance.

Michael Scaperlanda presented his current book project, To Bind Up the Nation’s Wounds, at the Sixth Annual Conference on Christian Legal Thought in San Francisco in January.

Scaperlanda also presented a paper, “Secular, Not Secularist America,” at the Campbell University School of Law Symposium in Raleigh, North Carolina, in March. The paper will be published in the Campbell Law Review.

Scaperlanda co-hosted the Sixth Annual Conference on Catholic Legal Thought at the OU College of Law in May.


Darin Fox was elected to the Law Libraries Committee of the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar.

Fox also was elected to the executive committee of the American Association of Law Schools Section on Law Libraries.

Fox serves on the AALLnet Strategic Planning Committee for the American Association of Law Libraries. In addition, he just completed a two-year term as president of the Mid-America Law Library Consortium.
Steve Gensler was quoted in The New York Times March 22 regarding a civil procedure issue in litigation involving the owners of the New York Mets. “It looks like a fairly mundane timing issue,” said Steve Gensler, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma. He said that the Mets’ lawyers could not officially ask for the evidence until both sides held a formal ‘discovery planning conference.’

Steve Gensler also was quoted in the ABA Journal article “For Federal Plaintiffs, Twombly and Iqbal Still Present a Catch-22” January 1. Gensler serves on the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, which commissioned the Federal Judicial Center to conduct its own comprehensive study of post-Twombly and -Iqbal dismissals. “Like everybody else, we would like to know,” Gensler says. “The courts must provide just, speedy and inexpensive administration of justice. At the advisory committee, we take that very seriously — and not just the speedy and inexpensive part.” Until the committee analyzes the FJC data, Gensler advises, “If I were a plaintiff, I’m certain I’d plead more detail. The problem is in those cases where the information is in the hands of the other side.”

Taiawagi Helton was quoted in The New York Times April 11 and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser April 12, concerning the Sardis Lake controversy. “There are huge and vested rights to water that are unquantified,” said Taiawagi Helton, an expert on Indian law and water law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law and a member of the Cherokee tribe.

Rick Tepker was quoted in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal and on CNN in November 2010, following the passage of State Question 755, which prohibits courts from considering international or Sharia law. “Many of us who understand the law are scratching our heads this morning, laughing so we don’t cry,” he said. “I would like to see Oklahoma politicians explain if this means that the courts can no longer consider the Ten Commandments. Isn’t that a precept of another culture and another nation? The result of this is that judges aren’t going to know when and how they can look at sources of American law that were international law in origin.” (CNN)

OU Legal Clinic turns 40

In September 1971, Professor David Swank brought live-client representation to the law school. Since that time, the OU Legal Clinic has continuously represented persons who could not otherwise afford legal representation. Literally hundreds of clients have been helped, hundreds of thousands of hours of legal service have been provided and invaluable experiences have been gained by law students as they worked side-by-side with faculty attorneys.

October 14-16, the OU Legal Clinic will celebrate its beginnings. Everyone, especially clinic alumni, is invited to check the OU Legal Clinic Facebook page for further event information. You can also contact Lori Ketner at lketner@ou.edu or (405) 325-3433.
Marian Opala remembered at event to benefit endowed scholarship

Friends and colleagues of the late Marian Opala gathered January 22 at what was to be the celebration of his 90th birthday to remember the former chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and to raise money for a scholarship honoring him. The Justice Marian P. Opala Endowed Scholarship was established at the OU College of Law in 2009 by a committee of his friends, led by Allen Harris. Opala died October 11, 2010, after serving on the Supreme Court for 32 years.

The dinner event was held in the Chapman Great Reading Room of the Donald E. Pray Law Library. Howard K. Berry, Jr., John Mark Young and Dean Emeritus Andy Coats shared remembrances of Opala. Josephine Freede was benefactor of the evening, while patrons included Howard K. Berry, Jr., Paul Dudman, Elliott Fenton, Hank Watson, Allen Harris and the Linda C. Weaver Family Trust.

The scholarship was created to recognize and honor Opala’s contributions to the state and the nation. It is awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership and service, following the example set by Opala.
Two new giving societies formed

As the University of Oklahoma College of Law enters its second century, College leaders are building upon OU Law’s generations of excellence, ensuring the College thrives as a great public law school and continues to train outstanding lawyers who will serve the state and society.

Achieving these objectives requires private support to ensure a quality education and assist students with financial needs. Major endowment gifts are important, but a strong annual giving program is vital. Annual giving provides immediate support for the College of Law and its students each year.

The OU Law community announces two new giving societies – The Dean’s Leadership Circle and The Dean’s Second Century Scholarship Society – which were created to pave the way for future successes.

The Dean’s Leadership Circle

This is a key group of exceptionally committed leaders who have made a three-year annual commitment of $5,000 to the College of Law. Critical to the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of a legal education from OU Law, this giving society offers the dean resources to take advantage of exciting opportunities for faculty and students and to support innovative programs to further enrich the OU legal education.

The Dean’s Leadership Circle fund will be available to:

• Send members of OU’s legal teams to annual competitions
• Develop global programs like the International Human Rights Clinic
• Bring in guests lecturers who can provide a unique legal perspective for OU Law students
• Provide special recruitment awards to help OU Law attract top students
• Provide fellowships to allow OU Law students to work for public interest organizations
• Provide faculty awards designed to help OU Law attract, retain and reward outstanding professors

The Dean’s Second Century Scholarship Society

Members of this giving society will make a three-year annual commitment of $1,500 to the College of Law. This fund provides annual scholarships and will be fully expended each year, having an immediate impact on students. These scholarships, in addition to those provided by endowed scholarship funds currently available to the College of Law, have the potential of making a difference in the lives of one in five OU Law students.

Since state funding only covers approximately one-third of OU Law’s budget, it has been necessary to increase tuition and fees. About two-thirds of OU Law students take out loans to pay for their legal education, which increasingly affects choices they make upon graduation, including steering students away from careers in public service or government.

“As we enter our second century, there has never been a time of greater opportunity,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Building upon the successes of Dean Andrew Coats, we are poised to fulfill the mission of being one of the great state flagship colleges of law. With your help, we will provide a national caliber legal education while providing access and opportunity for those who aspire to service under the law.”
Thank you to our donors
Gifts received January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

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**Inaugural members of the Dean's Second Century Scholarship Society

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Anonymous $1 million gift used to create scholarship fund

In February, University of Oklahoma College of Law Dean Joe Harroz announced the establishment of the Oklahoma Scholars Fund, the College’s largest scholarship fund for Oklahoma residents. The new fund was established with a $1 million gift to the College by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

“The Oklahoma Scholars Fund will allow us to recruit and retain outstanding Oklahomans pursuing juris doctor and master of laws degrees at OU,” Harroz said. “This gift enhances our ability to keep Oklahoma talent in state and provide Oklahoma students the opportunity to obtain one of the top public legal educations in the nation.”
As the cost of a legal education continues to increase, private financial support is even more critical to the OU College of Law. Private financial support allows us to fulfill our mission of providing our students with an excellent legal education at an affordable price. On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, a heartfelt “thank you” goes out to each of our donors for their loyal support and continued generosity.

As the College of Law continues to grow and develop, we are creating new ways to give back. We are excited about the increased interest in planned giving and would be delighted to visit with you about the many options available. If you would like more information, please fill out and send back the card enclosed in this issue of Sooner Lawyer or contact me directly at (405) 325-4699.

Again, we truly thank you for remembering us in your giving plans as we continually seek to improve the quality of legal education available in Oklahoma.

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Assistant Dean for External Affairs
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