SOONER LAWYER

Deans of OU Law
Julien Monnet
OU Law’s First Dean

OU Law Centennial
1909-2009
On Page One

W. DeVier Pierson, ’57
Distinguished Alumni

OU Law’s Oxford Program
Celebrates 35 Years!

Named Outstanding DA for Oklahoma, 2008

Jim Chastain, ’86
Life is Real

Oklahoma Statesman
The Life of David Boren

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada
Andrew M. Coats Scholarship Fund

Help the University of Oklahoma College of Law open doors to many more students by donating to the Andrew M. Coats Scholarship Fund established in 2002. We want to build this fund which directly impacts students—and impacts them immediately. All donations to the Andrew M. Coats Fund go directly to student scholarships. The endowment that these gifts create and build will empower students for many years to come. We appreciate your gifts.

To Our Alumni

I am proud of all that we at the OU College of Law have accomplished, but am also very much aware of the needs of our students. Because of problems with state support and the necessary increases in tuition and fees, it has become necessary for students to bear more of the cost of their education. While legal education at the University of Oklahoma is still one of the best bargains in America, many students must rely on scholarships to complete their studies.

The Andrew M. Coats Scholarship Fund was created by our faculty and staff to provide support for worthy and needy students. I write this in the hope that you might make an extra tax-deductible donation this year to support this important effort and to help me celebrate our Centennial.

Gratefully yours,
Andrew M. Coats
Dean and Professor
College of Law

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The narrative account of the amazing first century of OU Law is embellished with 250 photographs of the people who have passed through hallowed Monnet Hall and the Andrew M. Coats Hall. OU Law graduates have greatly impacted the state and nation—the College of Law has produced hundreds of governors, judges, legislators, and other public servants. In addition, OU Law has produced the finest private practice, corporate, and government lawyers to assist citizens of the state and nation in enjoying the rights of living in a nation under the Rule of Law.

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On October 1, I will be delivering three books (to sell) at one of our Centennial celebrations. Having spent 17 years in the scholarly publishing industry at the University of Texas Press and University of Oklahoma Press, this really brings back some memories. As a marketing and sales director, I was constantly delivering books to celebrations, autograph parties, signings, book exhibits, library conventions — you name it — I’ve delivered it. If I had been a sales manager at Random House, some poor gofer would have been driving these heavy cases of books to and fro, but at a scholarly press, you often do that kind of thing yourself.

Of the three books we are selling this particular evening two are biographies, Special Counsel, The Life of DeVier Pierson and Oklahoma Statesman, The Life of David Boren. The third is A Centennial History of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. All three books are by Bob Burke of Oklahoma City, the most prolific non-fiction writer in America. A Centennial History was co-written with Steven Taylor. All were recently published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association. Guess it’s just that time of the century for books about OU lawyers.

A Centennial History is big, colorful and really interesting. It reads fast. Every penny of proceeds from books purchased through OU Law goes to scholarships — so your purchase of this book not only feeds your mind, but a law student’s as well.

A brochure will soon hit your mailbox with details on how to get your copy, so be on the lookout. Also see the inside front cover of this issue of Sooner Lawyer. It’s rather fun being in the “book business” again!

I am particularly indebted to Jonella Frank for her help with this issue, as I have been working many hours on A Centennial History — thanks for all your work, Jonella! Kudos also go to Susan Brassfield Cogan, who has worked tirelessly to help put this issue to bed. And thank you Bob Goodwin and all those many others at OU Printing Services for helping get this edition printed so quickly. Enjoy!

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As Mark Twain once said, “The reports of my death were greatly exaggerated!” So it is with my leaving the Deanship. I am not retiring as all the media have said! I am not going very far – only up to the third floor to join the faculty. I will stay on as an active Dean Emeritus for two years to help the new Dean with the transition and becoming well acquainted with our external constituencies. I will take on a teaching load and, hopefully, spend the next few years in the classroom. I am looking forward to the new challenge.

Also, we are looking forward to the final two of our three major Centennial celebration events.

The first one took place at Oxford as we celebrated the 35th of our Oxford Summer Programs, the 100th Anniversary of our law school, and the 500th Anniversary of our Oxford host Brasenose College. You will find more about that wonderful event later in the pages of this magazine.

On October 1, 2009, we are planning our main celebration. It should be a great occasion with alums returning and Justice Anthony Kennedy as our guest.

On November 17, 2009, we conclude our Centennial celebration when Chief Justice John Roberts comes to Coats Hall to bring the Centennial Henry Family Lecture. We are all very grateful to 10th Circuit Chief Judge Robert Henry (’77) and Governor Brad Henry (’88) who established and actively support this great lecture series.

Of course, we are trying to complete our goal for the Centennial Fund. We have made a lot of progress in fund-raising, but we still have a ways to go. Help us if you can. We have lots of very good students who are financially challenged and need your help.

We have done a total renovation of the Sneed Lounge, and it is one of the most beautiful rooms on the University campus. We were able to do this because of a substantial gift from the Puterbaugh Foundation of McAlester, Oklahoma. Justice Steven W. Taylor (’74) is the Chairman of that foundation and was most instrumental in obtaining the grant for us.

We also received a very substantial gift from the Inasmuch Foundation of Oklahoma City to build four multi-media study rooms in the Library. These are rooms where students gather to study and can plug in their computers and build hi-tech outlines for their classes. Alums Bill (’54) and Bob Ross (’99) were very helpful in our getting this grant.

Every seven years we have a visitation by a team of academics from around the country who come to review all of our programs as we seek re-accreditation. Our visitation occurred last November. Recently, we received the report, which the team prepared for submission to the Association of American Law Schools and the American Bar Association, Section on Legal Education. It was a really good report. The visitation team was very favorably impressed with our students, our faculty, and our facilities. We will tell you more in our next issue. I am confident our accreditation is not in jeopardy.

There is, as always, a lot going on – stay tuned.
Civil Liberties

February 18, 2009

Tanya Cox, a representative of the ACLU of Oklahoma spoke about legislation that could impact civil liberties in Oklahoma. Cox, a graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law, began work on September 1, 2006, as Mental Health Fellow. Cox had previously worked part-time for more than 18 months as litigation coordinator. She continues in that capacity in addition to her new position, which is funded by a grant.

Cox’s new role involves intense scrutiny and research of mental health complaints received by the ACLU. She also identifies problems that have not been referred to the ACLU. She is trying to establish stronger ties with organizations such as the Oklahoma Association for the Mentally Ill, Legal Aid and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center in order to gather information about systemic mental health service deficiencies. These activities will enable her to examine programs and issues such as adult protective services, special guardianships, homelessness and the administration of private contracts through state agencies like the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

February 18, 2009

The Energy Resources Law Student Association and Association of International Petroleum Negotiators presented Dr. Scott Greene, director of the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative at Coats Hall on February 18th. Greene laid out an aggressive plan for Oklahoma wind power and how the state might one day supply more than ten percent of the nation’s energy needs. He also spoke about the need for legal initiatives in this area of Oklahoma’s economy – particularly in the area of securing land usage for wind farms.

OU Law Student Running for U.S. Congress

OU Law 2L R.J. Harris is challenging current Representative Tom Cole for Oklahoma’s 4th District seat in Congress. To quote his promotional card, Harris feels that our government is up to a great many things that it should not be. He calls himself a Constitutional Conservative and as a former soldier, has pledged to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and use this same Constitution as a means to manage the government more closely. We will follow his campaign and let you know the results of his efforts.

Crowe & Dunlevy Diversity Reception

Thank you Crowe & Dunlevy!
OU College of Law Student Receives National Award

Ashleigh L. Boggs, a third-year student at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, was chosen as one of fifteen students from law schools throughout the United States to receive a 2009 Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award. The award was presented by the Burton Foundation, in association with the Library of Congress to recognize effective legal writing which uses plain, clear and concise language and avoids archaic, stilted legalese.

Boggs was nominated for a note she wrote in the Summer 2008 edition of the Oklahoma Law Review. The note contrasted the different interpretations of a particular clause in oil and gas leases by courts in Oklahoma and Texas.

Boggs received the award on June 15 at a black tie reception and dinner in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. In addition to the 15 students selected, others honored at the event included Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and television screenwriter David E. Kelley.

Boggs, originally from Cyril, Oklahoma, graduated from the College of Law on May 16. She has served as managing editor of the Oklahoma Law Review, has been a member of the Board of Advocates and was listed on the Dean’s Honor Roll each semester. Prior to attending OU, Ashleigh earned a degree in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University in 2006. Following law school graduation, she will take the Texas Bar Examination and begin her legal career at Thompson and Knight, LLP in Dallas, working primarily on oil and gas matters.

Volunteers Recognized at OU College of Law

May 1, 2009

Students, faculty and staff at the University of Oklahoma College of Law have volunteered more than 8,000 hours of pro bono law-related work since May 1, 2008. Those volunteers were recognized by Students for Access to Justice (SATJ) on Tuesday, April 21 at their Fourth Annual Recognition Reception in the Sneed Lounge of Coats Hall, home of the OU College of Law.

Sixty-three students, faculty and staff volunteered 8,372 hours. Twenty-two percent of the Class of 2009 volunteered a total of 4,000 hours this year and amassed 6,982 volunteer hours during their three years in law school. Professor Judith Maute, who serves as the SATJ Director commented, “That is a great indicator that this class has developed the ‘pro bono habit.’”

The second-year class volunteered 2,219 hours and the first-year class, 232. Law faculty and staff contributed 1,920 hours of pro bono, public interest or law reform volunteer hours. Students working with Professor Jonathan Forman in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program contributed 1,142 volunteer hours and prepared more than 400 tax returns for low income taxpayers.

Maute spoke about the development and growth of SATJ during its five-year history. In addition, two student volunteers were recognized for their exceptional pro bono service. Second-year student Hope Bryant volunteered for 830 hours in the office of the district attorney. Walt Crowell, third-year student, volunteered 676 hours in the same office.

Pictured at the OU College of Law SATJ Recognition Reception are from left to right: Greg Morgan (2L), Amy Kamp (2L), Mary Walters (2L), Megan Hickman (2L), Professor Judith Maute and Chase Schnebel (2L).
February 28, 2009

The Chapman Great Reading Room was the site of Justice Marian P. Opala’s birthday roast—“Roast, Toast, or Remain Silent.” Marian Opala is a fascinating individual—his early years read like a movie.

Opala was born in Łódź, Poland, the son of a prominent banker. After the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Opala, then a university student, enlisted in the Polish Army, and following Poland’s defeat by Nazi Germany, joined the Polish Underground. In 1944 he escaped Poland via Turkey on the orders of his superiors in order to meet with Polish troops enlisted in the British Army in Palestine and Ethiopia to assure them that the struggle against the Nazi occupation was being waged vigorously at home with strong Allied support. After completing his mission, he served briefly with Polish troops in Italy and then parachuted back into Poland to resume his duties with the Underground.

In 1944 Opala was captured by German forces in the Warsaw Uprising and held in Flossenbürg Concentration Camp in Bavaria. After his liberation by the U.S. Army in 1945, he was befriended by Gene Warr, a captain in the 45th Infantry Division from Oklahoma City. Opala confided in Warr that he could not return to Poland after the Communist takeover and would probably settle somewhere in the British Commonwealth.

Captain Warr helped him get a job as a translator for U.S. forces in Occupied Germany, and suggested he emigrate to the United States, and offered to help him. Opala settled in Oklahoma City in 1947. Six years later, he became a U.S. citizen. He graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law and later obtained a master’s degree from New York University Law School.


In 2000, Opala was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Throughout his career he has been known as a strong advocate of First Amendment rights, a commitment he attributes to his experiences as a youth in Nazi-occupied Poland. A group called Freedom of Information Oklahoma presents the “Marian Opala First Amendment Award” every year to an Oklahoman who has “promoted education about or protection of the individual rights guaranteed under the First Amendment.”

Sponsors of the dinner were Paul Dudman, Elliot Fenton, Allen Harris, Elaine Schuster, Hank Watson and Harry Woods.
OU College of Law Announces New Award

Dean Andy Coats announced the establishment of the College of Law Opala Scholar Award, of course named for Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Marian Opala. Coats stated that the law school was excited about the award and the honor it will bring to each year’s graduating senior who receives it. A cash stipend will be presented with the award to each winning student from funds raised by the recently formed OU Opala Scholar fundraising committee. Opala said, “I am indeed honored to be the namesake for this prestigious award at the College of Law.”

Natural Law and the Constitution

April 2, 2009

J. Budziszewski, a professor of government and philosophy at the University of Texas, Austin, presented a lecture entitled “Natural Law and the Constitution” at Coats Hall, Classroom 1.

He discussed the fact that the founders of the American republic knowingly committed themselves to a set of principles that implicitly condemned practices in which some were deeply involved, namely slavery. Does this indicate a belief in natural law? Does natural law have anything to do with our foundational documents or with law and government generally? Budziszewski is the author of ten books including his forthcoming book titled The Line Through the Heart: Natural Law as Fact, Theory, and Sign of Contradiction.

Tabb Named David Ross Boyd Professor

University of Oklahoma College of Law Professor William Murray Tabb was recently named David Ross Boyd Professor by the OU Board of Regents. Tabb has taught at the College of Law since 1990 and primarily teaches Environmental Law, Remedies and Torts.

Prior to coming to OU, Tabb taught at Baylor University Law School and Illinois College of Law. In addition, he has practiced law in Dallas, Texas.

Tabb has three times been named by the Student Bar Association as the Outstanding Professor and has received numerous other honors and awards for service, teaching and scholarship. He has written several books and published many articles in leading national law journals.

During his years of service to the College of Law, Tabb has served as associate dean for academics and deputy director of the Law Center as well as associate dean for students. He also holds the Judge Fred A. Daugherty Chair and was named the first Sarkeys Energy Fellow at the University of Oklahoma.

The David Ross Boyd Professorship was established by the Board of Regents in 1945 in honor of the first President of the University, the famous Seed Sower who is depicted on the University seal. The professorship carries a lifetime appointment and was created to recognize a faculty member who has consistently demonstrated outstanding teaching, guidance and leadership in an academic discipline or an interdisciplinary program within the University.

OU Continuing Legal Education!

June 25-26, 2009
Reed Center, Midwest City

OU Outreach held the Patrick A. Williams Criminal Defense Institute at Reed Center in Midwest City this week – it was very highly attended. For more information on OU CLE programs, contact Susan Dubbs at OCCE: sdubbs@ou.edu or call (405) 325-2891.

Susan Dubbs, right, at the Patrick A. Williams CLE
OU Law’s three scholarly journals all held banquets this year. The Oklahoma Law Review started the festivities April 8 at the Lloyd Noble Arena’s Kerr McGee Reception Room. Marketing Editor Kevin Hanger welcomed all, with Dean Coats supplying the opening remarks. Guest speaker this year was the always entertaining Steven Taylor, vice-chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

During the 2007 Oklahoma Centennial Year, Oklahoma Magazine named Justice Taylor as one of the “100 Who Shaped Us”—a list of living and past Oklahomans who influenced the first 100 years of Oklahoma. Taylor was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court by Governor Brad Henry in September of 2004.

The outgoing OLR Board: Jessica Reinsch, Editor-in-Chief; Ashleigh Boggs, Managing Editor; Blake Pinard, Curtis Thomas and James Tilly, Article Editors; Taylor King, Megan Morgan and John Napier, Assistant Article Editors; Sara Tennon, Research Editor; Kelsey Dulin, Submissions Editor; Josh Harrison, Harrison Lujan and Kara Thom, Assistant Editors; Hazen Marshall, Erin Means and Amanda Swain, Note Editors; Tyler Evans, Mary Gardner and Valerie Grey, Assistant Note Editors; Jennifer Ary-Hogue, Brandee Lyn Bruning, Grant Everett and Sarah Leatherwood, Assistant Managing Editors; Ashley Streight, Administrative Editor and Kevin Hanger, Marketing Editor.

The College of Law would like to thank the table sponsors, Chesapeake Energy; Crowe and Dunlevy; Dow Lohnes PLLC; Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey and Tippens, P.C.; GableGotwals; Hartzog, Conger, Cason and Neville; McAfee and Taft and MidFirst Bank. Dinner supporters were Ann and Gary Brooks, Phillips Murrah P.C. and Thompson and Knight LLP. Also a thank you to donors LexisNexis and Stonson, Morrison, Hecker LLP.

Next on the calendar was the American Indian Law Review Banquet, held at the Old Town Hall near downtown Norman. The well-attended banquet was held on April 22, 2009. AILR’s banquet speaker was Kalyn Free, founder and president of the Indigenous Democratic Network, INDN’s List. The Indigenous Democratic Network is the only political organization in the country that recruits, trains and funds Indian candidates and staff and mobilizes the Indian Vote throughout America.

Kalyn Free, ’87

Kalyn Free is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has been active in public service in Washington, D.C., her
Second-year University of Oklahoma law student, Alana House, was recently elected as the national secretary for the National Black Law Student Association (NBLSA) during the organization’s 41st Annual National Convention in Irvine, California. Her responsibilities include coordinating and attending meetings of the NBLSA National Executive Board, taking minutes, disseminating information and managing the electronic board member groups. House began serving in the position for one year beginning May 1, 2009.

The NBLSA was founded in 1968 and is a student-run organization with more than 6,000 members in chapters throughout the U.S. and six other countries. Its stated purpose is “to articulate and promote the needs and goals of black law students and effectuate change in the legal community.”

House has been a member of the OU chapter of NBLSA since 2007 when she was the representative of the first-year class. This year, she has been the treasurer for the chapter. Her service in NBLSA follows the example set by her mother, Aletia Haynes Timmons, a 1986 graduate of the OU College of Law. Timmons served on the NBLSA Executive Board in 1985-86 as the Rocky Mountain Regional Chair.

House reported that she was pleased with the response she received to her campaign speech for the national convention general assembly. “I was one of the few candidates to receive applause,” she said. She is already focused on a task she wants to accomplish during her term. “I want to work on creating a database of information from past boards that will be easily accessible for future NBLSA boards,” she explained.

House is from Oklahoma City and graduated from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Upon graduation from OU Law, she hopes to work in the public sector, preferably in the office of the district attorney.

OU College of Law Student Elected to National Office in Student Organization

The American Indian Law Review Board: Sean Hill, Editor-in-Chief; Benjamin Perrine, Managing Editor; Kristin Edwards, Business Development Editor; Corinne Croucher, Kirk Cullimore and Whitney Walstad, Note Editors; Bryan Rock, Special Features/Articles Editor; Nathaniel Haskins, Articles Development Editor; Ryan Mushrush and Stephanie Neighbors, Articles Editors and Rachel Caar, Writing Competition/Articles Editor.

Sponsors for the AILR banquet were McAfee and Taft; Pitchlynn and Wil-
The University of Oklahoma College of Law hosted Diversity Day on Friday, April 3 for high school and college students considering attending law school. The event is presented annually to provide information explaining the admissions process and give potential applicants of all ethnic backgrounds a sampling of law school. Diversity Day began at 11 a.m. in the Bell Courtroom in Coats Hall.

Students in attendance learned about the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), the OU Law application process and financial aid options. They also toured Coats Hall, attended a mock law school class and were treated to lunch.

“Current law school students and local minority lawyers have made themselves available to interact with the students and answer any questions they may have,” explained second-year student Alana House, Diversity Day chair. “Even if you have never thought about attending law school before, we encourage you to attend and experience the day and leave having gained knowledge to assist you in making important decisions about your future.”

Diversity Day is free and open to all high school and college students who might be interested in attending law school.

Oklahoma County Bar Association Annual Awards Ceremony

June 19, 2009

In the 70-Year Membership Awards category, there was one person from OU Law highlighted in the program – Frank O. Hamilton, who graduated from the Law School in 1939. Additional 70-Year Award Recipients listed were Paul Cummings, 1939 and Dwight E. Davis, also 1939.


Of the 39 award recipients, 30 graduated from OU Law! Congratulations to all and tso the Oklahoma County Bar Association for a great luncheon.
Legal Assistant Education Program is Reapproved

Assistant Dean David Poarch, Cynthia Minchillo, LAE Program Coordinator Larry Laneer and Anita Tebbe

On June 19 and 20, 2009, the paralegal-education program was visited by Anita Tebbe and Cynthia Minchillo, members of the site-visit team from the American Bar Association Approval Commission, in connection with the proposed reapproval of our program. The visit went smoothly, as expected, thanks in large part to the extraordinary efforts of our program coordinator, Larry Laneer, and the cooperation of our students, faculty, and Advisory Committee, all of whom made themselves available to the site-visit team.

At the conclusion of the two-day visit, we received the good news that the site-visit team would recommend our program for reapproval by the ABA House of Delegates, a process that will not be entirely completed until early next year. Needless to say, we are pleased.

Ms. Tebbe and Ms. Minchillo are both experienced in the education of paralegals. Ms. Tebbe, a lawyer and educator, is the director of a paralegal-education program in Kansas and, at the time of our visit, was chair of the Approval Commission. Ms. Minchillo is a paralegal who teaches in a program in Texas. In addition to recommending reapproval of our program, the site-visit team suggested some things that we might explore to improve our program, suggestions we have taken to heart. Constructive criticism is always welcome, so you may see a few small changes in the upcoming semesters! Thanks for making the visit successful!

—David A. Poarch, Director

Supreme Court Arguments

June 17, 2009
Bell Courtroom
The Cheyenne and Arapaho Supreme Court was in session in the Bell Courtroom this week hearing oral arguments over a variety of cases. Professor Lindsay Robertson sits on this court and was arrangements chair for the event.

BLSA Appreciation Lunch

Assistant Dean David Poarch, Cynthia Minchillo, LAE Program Coordinator Larry Laneer and Anita Tebbe
In two days in the late spring of 1921, a mob destroyed 35-square-blocks of the African American Community of Greenwood in Tulsa. Black men were rounded up by National Guardsmen and taken to concentration camps. White rioters looted black homes and set them on fire. More than 1,000 homes, along with churches, schools, a hospital and a library, were burned or destroyed. Nearly 9,000 people were left homeless. Estimates are that 300 people were killed during this riot – more people than those killed in the Murrah bombing.

Unlike the Oklahoma City bombing, the Tulsa Race Riot was ignored for years. “Before They Die” is a documentary film focused on telling the story of the survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot in their quest for justice and to let the world know about their story. The documentary follows the survivors, and their legal team headed by Law Professor Charles Ogletree, through the court system all the way to the Supreme Court and on to the U.S. Congress.

Before there was 9/11, before there was Oklahoma City, before there was the internment of the Japanese Americans during World War II, before there was Rosewood (Florida), there was the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot. The Tulsa Race Riot Survivors have survived all of this history, but have yet to be compensated for what they lost in the riots. They are still seeking justice Before They Die.

“The University of Oklahoma College of Law chapter of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) was honored to sponsor this benefit showing of ‘Before They Die,’” said Gary Davis, president of the chapter. “It is a tragedy that the riot ever happened. It is shocking that the survivors have never been compensated for what was done to them and their families. Not only are we paying tribute to the survivors, we are accepting donations for their benefit.”

The film was shown on March 4 in the Bell Courtroom at Coats Hall, OU College of Law. The showing of “Before They Die” was open to the public.

OU College of Law
Leads Oklahoma Bar Exam Results

The University of Oklahoma College of Law was recently notified by the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners of the results of the February 2009 Oklahoma Bar Examination. While the overall passage rate for persons taking the exam for the first time was 64 percent, OU Law graduates who were first-time examinees passed at the rate of 93 percent. The overall passage rate also includes first-time takers who are graduates from other Oklahoma law schools and out-of-state schools. Other law graduates taking the exam for the first time passed at the following rates: University of Tulsa, 67 percent, Oklahoma City University, 44 percent and out-of-state schools, 64 percent.

The Oklahoma Bar Examination is administered twice each year, in February and July. Passing the two-day exam is one of the requirements set by the Oklahoma Supreme Court which must be met to become a licensed attorney in the state.

The Admission Ceremony was Thursday, April 16 at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court Courtroom at the State Capitol. The 62 people who successfully passed the exam took the Oath of Attorney and signed the Roll of Attorneys.
Three second-year law students from the University of Oklahoma College of Law traveled to Chicago to compete in the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC) on April 2-4. The team of Conor Cleary, Isaac Ellis and Emily Wilson advanced from the Boston regional competition in February.

Another strong team performance at the national level caused Competitions Director Connie Smothermon to comment, “They won so many awards they had to ship them because they wouldn’t fit in their luggage.” The team was undefeated in the preliminary rounds, advanced and won their sweet 16 round, advanced and won their elite eight round and lost a hard-fought battle in the semi-finals to the team that eventually placed first.

More than 140 teams from law schools across the nation competed in the NAAC. The OU team, in addition to being a national semi-finalist, won the award for the 5th best brief. Cleary was named the 2nd best speaker and Wilson, the 10th best speaker. On its way to the national semi-finals, the team defeated other teams from Minnesota, Chicago-Kent, Louisiana State, UC Hastings, American University, Washington University and Michigan State.

The NAAC is sponsored by the Law Student Division of the ABA to emphasize the development of oral advocacy skills. Competitors participate in a hypothetical appeal to the United States Supreme Court, writing a legal brief arguing the case as either the petitioner or respondent and then presenting their argument to a panel of judges. The topic of the hypothetical case for this competition related to the War Powers Act.

Michelle Johnson, assistant professor of Legal Research and Writing, coached the team. She was assisted by numerous OU Law faculty and students in preparing the team for competition. The NAAC began in the fall semester with the distribution of the hypothetical problem in November. From researching the problem, writing the brief, developing and practicing oral arguments, each team member had more than 120 hours invested in the competition before they arrived in Chicago for the three-day competition.

Two other teams from OU Law competed in the NAAC Boston regional. The team of Spencer Hale, Christopher Staine and Meredith Walck advanced to the sweet 16 round and won best brief. Tyler Coble, Thad Danner and Charlie Wolfe also competed and Wolfe was named the 6th best speaker. Speaking of all three NAAC teams, Professor Johnson said, “All of these students represented OU very well, displaying the highest standards of performance and professionalism.”
Indigenous Films Mirror and Help Strengthen Indigenous Cultures

Two short videos created by Mexican indigenous filmmakers were shown on Monday, April 27 at 4 p.m. in the University of Oklahoma College of Law Dick Bell Courtroom in Coats Hall. The screening was part of a two-day event, Indigenous Film – North and South Dialogues. Co-sponsored by the OU College of Law, the Department of Communication, the School of International and Area Studies and the Women’s Studies Program, the event was free and open to the public. The videos portrayed the life, livelihood, hardships and conflicts of indigenous people of Mexico as captured by indigenous filmmakers – not through the camera lens of foreign visitors.

Filmmakers Alexandra Halkin and Filo-teo Gomez presented the videos and answered audience questions. Each video was under 20 minutes in length and had English subtitles. Following the screenings and question and answer sessions, a reception was held in the Sneed Lounge of Coats Hall.

Halkin, an independent filmmaker and Founding Director of the Chiapas Media Project (CMP), presented the video The Land Belongs to Those Who Work It. It portrayed the conflict between inhabitants of a town in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas and the Mexican government following the sale of land within the town to a private company for the creation of an eco-tourism center. It documented a meeting between local authorities and Mexican government functionaries and offered a critical look at the practical implications of eco-tourism.

The film is distributed by the CMP, a bi-national media production initiative providing technology and training to indigenous and peasant communities in Mexico. It began in 1998 after Halkin, while on a previous trip to southern Mexico, realized that Mexican indigenous communities wanted to control their own media representations rather than serve as subjects for foreign filmmakers’ projects. Through the CMP, video and computer equipment, as well as training, is provided to indigenous communities in southern Mexico.

Gomez presented his video Dulce Convivencia (Sweet Gathering), which showed the production of panela, a raw brown sugar made from sugar cane which is used to sweeten food and drink. The video depicted the life and work of the inhabitants of a town in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, highlighting their struggle to remain self-sufficient. It has been screened in Mexico and across the U.S., including Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where it was named Best Native Documentary at the Cherokee International Film Festival.

Gomez grew up helping with his family’s seasonal agricultural chores in the community which is the subject of Dulce Convivencia. He left home to continue his studies in a larger city. It was there he discovered video. During an apprenticeship with Ojo de Agua Comunicacion, an organization that facilitates the production of indigenous media, he was able to travel widely and participate in a variety of workshops and projects, developing his craft.

On Tuesday, April 28, another CMP video, Paying the Price: Migrant Workers in the Toxic Fields of Sinaloa, was screened. Halkin presented the video which examines the impoverished lives of migrant workers who encounter inhumane and slave-like working conditions when they leave their community to work in a large agribusiness camp picking exotic Chinese vegetables for export to the U.S. and Canada.

Coordinators of the event were Dr. Clemencia Rodríguez, associate professor in the Department of Communication, Dr. Laurel Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Honors College and professors Lindsay Robertson and Steve Knippenberg of the OU College of Law.

Robertson is the Director of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy which provides counsel to tribal, state and national policymakers in addition to providing a forum for discussion and resolution of problems facing native communities. Knippenberg is director of the Inter-American Center which promotes interdisciplinary studies centered on the law, law critique and law transformation through collaboration and sharing of experiences across legal cultures for the benefit of both Americas by encouraging and coordinating student exchanges, faculty exchanges and the development of an LL.M. degree program for advanced studies.

For further information about the above, contact Clemencia Rodriguez at (405) 325-1570 or (405) 371-1589.
OU College of Law Pro Bono Fair Matches Student Volunteers with Local Organizations

The 5th Annual Pro Bono Fair was held February 4 in the Kerr Student Lounge of Coats Hall. Approximately 90 law students met with representatives from 14 area organizations to learn about their programs and volunteer opportunities. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Student Hurricane Network, ACLU of Oklahoma and Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office were among the groups participating in the event.

The Pro Bono Fair was sponsored by Students for Access to Justice (SATJ) which was founded in 2004 to utilize law students to meet the legal needs of the community and promote a spirit of service within the OU College of Law. The student-coordinated Pro Bono Fair provided an easy connecting point for the community groups needing legal services and law students wanting volunteer opportunities for the spring or summer.

From 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. students were able to meet with a variety of organizations and grab a light lunch before their next class.

Judith Maute, SATJ faculty advisor explained, “We ask students to come with their resumes and be prepared to indicate substantive areas of interest and whether they want placements for the spring semester or summer. Many of our SATJ ‘alumnae’ have reported that their volunteer work was a valuable experience in terms of practical skills, relationship-building and developing career interests.” Maute was assisted by Ron Ripley as co-director and Susan Wilson, recruitment specialist for the College of Law. Students who served as coordinators for the event were Alicia Currin-Moore, Bradley Wilson, Suma Ananthaswamy and Amy Kamp.

3L Appreciation Night

This event, held April 8th in the Coats Hall atrium, was designed to celebrate upcoming graduation from law school. It also was started to create a relationship with graduates as future alumni of the College of Law. Oklahoma City corporate leader and Graymark Healthcare COO Joe Harroz was the main speaker. 3L attendance was close to 100 percent.

The College of Law appreciates OPCD staff for all their hard work this past spring: Katie Griffin, ’06, Marcus Bivines, ’07 and Trudy Sickles.

Oops!

In our last Sooner Lawyer, a photo was mis-captioned. On page 23, the photo at the bottom right should read: Myria Houlihan, 3L and Mary Gardner, 3L. – Editor
OU Law Convocation

May 16, 2009

A cold and wet Saturday greeted those attending the 2009 convocation ceremonies at Cox Center in Oklahoma City at which Justice Tom Colbert was the speaker.

Tom Colbert is a justice on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. He was initially appointed to the court on October 7, 2004 by Democratic Governor Brad Henry. In November of 2008, he won a retention election to win a full six-year term on the court.

Colbert, who served as chief judge of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals prior to joining the state’s highest court, is the first black person to sit on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. When he was sworn in, Colbert said, “There are so many people across this country of all races and nationality that never thought they would live to see this day.”

Following graduation from law school in 1982, he moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to accept the post of assistant dean of the law school at Marquette University, serving until 1984. Returning to Oklahoma in the same year, he was appointed as an assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County, serving in that capacity until 1986. Over the next decade, he alternated between
private practice and service as an attorney with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he served as a judge on the state Court of Civil Appeals from 1999 to 2004, and was the first African-American to serve in that post. He served as chief judge during his final year on the Court.

Several awards are handed out at commencement that were not part of the Awards Day Ceremonies in April (see page 24). One of these is the Joseph F. Rarick “Just Deserts” Award (and yes, this is spelled correctly for the ceremony). This award recognizes a third-year student who has made the College of Law a better place, but has not received substantial recognition in the way of scholarships, awards or other positions, which by nature, honor the person. This year the award went to Aaron L. Jackson. Another award given today was the Joel Jankowsky Award for recognition of a member of the graduating class whose combined leadership, scholarship and selfless service to others exemplified a standard of overall excellence and who has committed themselves to future service to the state and nation. J. Blake Pinard received the Joel Jankowsky award for 2009.
Bell Courtroom Provides Setting for Court of Criminal Appeals

It was standing room only in the Dick Bell Courtroom on February 10 when the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals heard arguments in *Sanchez v. State of Oklahoma*, an appeal of convictions of first degree murder, first degree rape and forcible sodomy from the District Court of Cleveland County. Seven years after the abduction, rape and murder of OU student Juli Busken in 1996, DNA testing led police to Anthony Sanchez who was, at the time, incarcerated on a burglary conviction. In 2006, Sanchez was convicted of murder, rape and forcible sodomy.

Students, faculty and staff, media representatives and the general public, including family of the victim and the defendant filled the 250-seat courtroom and the third-floor viewing room. Among the issues raised on appeal were the legality of the search of Sanchez for the purpose of taking a blood sample for DNA testing, the use of an electronic security device on Sanchez during the trial and the competence of trial counsel.

The Court of Criminal Appeals is comprised of Presiding Judge Charles Johnson, '55, Vice-President Judge Arlene Johnson, '71, Judge Charles Chapel, Judge Gary Lumpkin, '74 and Judge David Lewis, '83.

Two OU Law Alums Inducted Into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame

Among the 2009 inductees into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame are Burns Hargis, current president of Oklahoma State University and Steven Taylor, vice-chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Hargis graduated from OU Law in 1970 and went on to become the vice chairman of the Bank of Oklahoma. He also was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Oklahoma in 1990. He has practiced law in Oklahoma City for 28 years. He became the 18th president of OSU in 2007.

Taylor earned his J.D. from OU Law in 1974 and was in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1977, he became the youngest judge in the armed forces and was promoted to the rank of major. In 1982, he became the youngest mayor of McAlester, Oklahoma. He is a member of the OSU Hall of Fame and won the Regents Alumni Award from the University of Oklahoma. He has been a trial judge for more than 20 years and has presided over more than 500 jury trials. In 2004, Governor Brad Henry appointed him to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma.

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OU College of Law Students Qualify for National Competition

For the ninth consecutive year, OU was represented at the national level of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA).

This competition focuses on the oral advocacy and brief-writing skills of the participants in a simulated appellate proceeding. The OU Law team of second-year students Alana House and Joanne Lafontant placed third in the competition held at the regional NBLSA convention in Denver on February 4-8. The team traveled to Irvine, California on March 18-22 for the moot court competition at the NBLSA annual national convention.

Joining them in California was the third-year students who made up OU’s team in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, also sponsored by the NBLSA. The team of Doug Bragg, Gary Davis, Chuck Battle and Jeremy Brown was named first runner-up in regional competition and earned a spot at the national level. In addition, Bragg was named the Best Advocate at the regional event.

Commenting on the students’ success, Director of Competitions Connie Smothermon said, “This is the ninth consecutive year OU Law qualified a moot court team for nationals. This is by far the best showing of any school in the region. And it is the second year an OU Law student has won Best Advocate.” Cheryl Wattley, director of Clinical Education and Marcus Bivines, associate director of the Office of Professional and Career Development, served as coaches for the teams.

Competition Success!

The ABA Arbitration competition began five years ago, and for the fifth year, OU qualified a team for the national finals after placing at the regional level. We are only one of three schools in the country who has qualified for the national competition all five years. OU is the only school in the nation that has had a team reach the elimination rounds at nationals all five years.

OU took two teams to the regional competition held at Northern Kentucky University on November 14-16. The team of Brittany Mayes, Chase Schnebel, Steve Salwierak, and Curtis Thomas placed fifth. The team of Alex Bass, Meredith Bentley, Jessica Durrett, and Scott Rooker placed fourth at the regional competition and qualified for the national competition in San Antonio.

Alex, Meredith, Jessica, and Scott placed fourth nationally in a heartbreak- ing tie in the semi-final round, and they missed qualifying for the final round by a single point. Because the third judge failed to show for their semi-final round, the competition rules required that one judge change his score to eliminate the tie. The judge awarded one additional point to the team from the University of Missouri.

For the first time, our law school competed in the National Health Law competition this year, with two teams competing from OU. The team of Tony Childers, Amanda Clark, and Amanda Janssen placed sixth nationally. The team of Jay Albert, Brian Burget and Michael Cromwell placed 8th nationally.

A special thanks and congratulations to Gail Mullins who coached both of these competitions! Gail says, “these teams have worked so very hard, and each team member represented our law school beautifully. They were always fair, well-prepared, and gracious advocates.”

Great job Gail and students!!

—Connie Smothermon
The Office of Professional and Career Development (OPCD) at the University of Oklahoma College of Law recently hosted two events aimed at assisting first-year law students in looking beyond the classroom to their future careers. The OPCD assists students in preparing for employment through counseling, training, employment interviews and a variety of other practical services.

On Thursday, January 22, Career Development Night, sponsored by Crowe and Dunlevy and Devon Energy Corporation, was held in Coats Hall. The first-year students were welcomed by Katie Griffin, OPCD Director, Lyndon Taylor, Devon Energy General Counsel and Adam Childers, Crowe and Dunlevy Recruitment Chair. Joseph Harroz, president and COO of Graymark Healthcare, Inc. was the keynote speaker for the evening.

Next, students rotated by assigned groups to three presentations. Career development for the corporate world was presented by Devon representatives Lyndon Taylor, Carla Sharp, Justin Porter and Andrea Miles. The government perspective was provided by John Richter, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma; Chris Stephens, assistant U.S. attorney; Bobby Wegener, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and John Mabry and Rick Rains, FBI representatives. Career development for law firms was conducted by Adam Childers and Molly Tolbert from Crowe and Dunlevy. A reception followed in the Boren Atrium on the second floor of Coats Hall. Childers commented, “Crowe and Dunlevy was extremely pleased to partner with Devon Energy and showcase several distinct career paths that the state of Oklahoma has to offer its law students. Our firm is very committed to supporting OU’s law school and its efforts to develop the best and brightest lawyers.”

Nine days later, Professional Development Day, sponsored by McAfee and Taft took place on Saturday, January 31 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. A continental breakfast was provided and Marcus Bivines, OPCD associate director joined Griffin in welcoming the students. Judge David B. Lewis of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals spoke to the students before they began their rotations to three presentations.

Nationally-recognized speaker Gretchen Neels of Neels and Company spoke on 21st century professionalism. Dining etiquette was covered by Bette Scott, director of University of Oklahoma Career Services. Professionalism 101 was the topic of Brandon Buchanan, Alison McCalla, Richard Nix and Jim Webb of McAfee and Taft. Following these sessions, participants were treated to a barbecue lunch.

After the event Webb said, “Participating in Professionalism Day and getting the opportunity to interact with the law students is always a great honor for us, and this year was no exception. Judge Lewis started off the event with an unbelievably uplifting, challenging talk that set the tone for the morning, and the students remained engaged throughout, asking thoughtful questions of the presenters.”

Area Law Firms Partner with OU College of Law—Thank You
Crowe & Dunlevy, Devon Energy and McAfee & Taft

Thank you Crowe & Dunlevy!

Thank you Devon Energy!

Thank you McAfee Taft!
Lunch and Learn Programs

Opening Your Own Law Firm (Solo Practice)
Presented by Jim Calloway, '81, who is the director of the OBA’s Management Assistance Program.

Government Panel

OU Law alumni discussed their experiences working for government agencies. Representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Public Defenders Office and the District Attorney’s Office served as panelists for this event.

International Law

Marc Nuttle, ’75, an attorney living in Norman, Oklahoma, specializes in international trade, international foreign policy and political affairs. He has been an advisor to U.S. presidents, the leadership of Congress and numerous foreign nations.

Judicial Clerkship Programs

Sarah Leatherwood, Blake Pinard, Scott Backus, Beth Price and Will Farrior

Federal Clerkship Presentation

Getting a Federal Clerkship

Students and recent graduates spoke on the clerkship process and beginning a career as a federal clerk. The panelists had experience going through the clerkship process at both the district and circuit level.

Guided Tour of the OSCAR Application System

OPCD staff gave a demonstration of the OSCAR Application System, including how to research and create judge lists for mail-merge application letters and requesting faculty recommendation letters, as well as building on-line applications through the federal OSCAR system.

Federal Clerkship Perspective

The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson spoke on how to begin your legal career as a federal judicial clerk and what judges expect during both the interview process and the clerkship. Marcia Rupert, ’87 and Marilyn Edens, ’82 discussed their roles as career clerks for Judge Timothy DeGiusti.

Family Law Program

Family Law

Carolyn S. Thompson and Jennifer Lee of Ramsey and Gray discussed their family law practice and gave advice for students interested in starting a career in family law.

3L Boot Camp

Marcus Bivins, ’07 leads 3L Boot Camp

3L Boot Camp was first launched to great success in the Fall of 2008. The program sought to do just one thing: throw students job search into high gear. In “How To Work a Room” students learned skills that will further their career development for the rest of their lives. Other topics are Resume Review and Summer Clerkship. “How to Succeed in Your Summer Clerkship” was presented by attorneys with Hall Estill. Students got great tips on how to make the most of summer clerkships.
Awards Day

Awards Day ceremonies were held in Bell Courtroom on April 30, 2009. A reception followed in the Boren Atrium. Here are the results of Awards Day:

2008-2009 Board of Advocates Officers
J. Matthew Tilly, President
Megan B. Morgan, Vice President
Spencer T. Hale, Second Vice President
Ashleigh L. Boggs, Calvert Director
Emily D. Wilson, Calvert Assistant
Sarah E. Leatherwood, IL Competition Director
N. Georgeann Roye, IL Competition Assistant
H. Cole Marshall, Judging Coordinator
Gary L. Davis, Judging Assistant
Eric C. Money, Judging Assistant
Stephen J. Salwierak, Judging Assistant
S. Corey Stone, Scoring Coordinator
Christopher M. Staine, Scoring Assistant
Charlie M. Wolfe, Scoring Assistant
Rachel T. Csar, Problem Director
Adam L. Wilson, Problem Writer
Caleb Brown, Problem Writer
Tyler J. Coble, Competitions Liaison
Kenton S. Brice, Campus Relations

Advocacy Competition Teams
Board of Advocates: First Year Competition
First Place: Erin R. Israel, Tyler J. Sena
Second Place: Caleb N. McCoy, Jonathan G. Rector

Judge Albert C. Hunt Advocate Awards
Oral Advocate Awards: Lindsey A. Smith, Travis V. Jett
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: Mary M. Gardner, Myria W. Houlihan
Second Place: Blake E. Lynch, Jason D. May
Best Speaker: Myria W. Houlihan
Sponsored by Board of Advocates, Professor Rick Tepker and the Floyd and Irma Calvert Fund for Law and Liberty

American Bar Association Client Counseling Competition Team
Team 1: Andrea N. Monachella, Megan B. Morgan
Team 2: Madison B. Carey, Corrine M. Croucher
Advisor: Meredith Wegener

American Bar Association Mediation Competition
Team 1: R. Alexander Bass, Jessica R. Durrett
Team 2: Caleb M. Redman, Elizabeth J. Sark
Advisor: Connie Smothermon

American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Team
Team 1: Spencer T. Hale, Christopher M. Staine, Meredith A. Walck
Team 2: Tyler J. Coble, Thad A. Dunner, Charlie M. Wolfe
Team 3: Conor P. Cleary, Isaac R. Ellis, Emily D. Wilson
Advisor: Michelle Johnson
American Bar Association National Arbitration Competition
Team 1: Brittany L. Mayes, Steven J. Salwierak, Chase H. Schnebel, Curtis J. Thomas
Team 2: R. Alexander Bass, Meridith R. Bentley, Jessica R. Durrett, Geoffrey S. Rooker
Advisor: Gail Mullins

American Bar Association Negotiation Competition
Team 1: Aaron F. Pembleton, Jessica R. Sine
Team 2: Gregory R. Mulkey, Chase H. Schnebel
Team 3: John M. Salmon, Haylie D. Treas
Advisors: Brian McCall, Connie Smothermon

B.L.S.A. Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team
Team 1: Alana H. House, Joanne Lafontant
Team 2: Jasper Abbott, Nathan K. Shrewsbury
Advisors: Cheryl Wattley, Marcus Bivines

First Amendment Moot Court Competition
Team 1: Matthew R. Gile, J. Miles McFadden, A. Brooke Murphy
Team 2: Nicholas A. Bender, Judith L. Peck, Elizabeth J. Sark
Advisor: Connie Smothermon

National Health Law Moot Court Team
Team 1: James P. Albert, Brian A. Burget, Michael W. Cromwell
Team 2: Anthony T. Childers, Amanda L. Clark, Amanda L. Janssen
Advisor: Gail Mullins

National Hispanic Bar Association Moot Court Competition
Imelda Maynard
Amanda R. Mullins
Shamsia W. Osman
Advisors: Daniel Nicholson, Jonella Frank

National Moot Court Team
Aaron L. Jackson
Kara S. Thom
J. Matthew Tilly
Advisor: Rick Tepker

National Trial Team
Team 1: Gregory P. Beben, Nathaniel T. Haskins, Miranda R. Russell
Team 2: David W. Dye, Kevin R. Hanger, S. Corey Stone
Alternates: Hunter K. Boling, Whitney L. White
Advisor: David Poarch

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team
Kenton S. Brice
Caleb Brown
Rachel T. Caar
Isaac C. Finkbeiner
Amy L. Kamp
Advisors: Peter Krug, Katie Griffin

Thomas Tang National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association Moot Court Team
Team 1: Tyler A. Alvarado, Kyle N. Eastwood
Team 2: Jobby C. Mathew, Sofia R. Nagda
Advisor: Mike Winchell

Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Team
Charles T. Battle
L. Douglas Bragg
Jeremy L. Brown
Gary L. Davis
Advisor: Cheryl Wattley

William J. Spong Moot Court Team
Clint A. Claypole
James R. Donovan
N. Georgeann Roye
Advisor: Mary Sue Backus
**Order of Barristers**

L. Douglas Bragg  
Kenton S. Brice  
Thad A. Danner  
Mary M. Gardner  
Myria W. Houlihan  
Aaron L. Jackson  
Blake E. Lynch  
Jason D. May  
Megan B. Morgan  
Kara S. Thom

**Order of the Solicitors**

R. Alexander Bass  
Charles T. Battle  
Nicholas A. Bender  
Ashleigh L. Boggs  
Jeremy L. Brown  
Alicia Q. Currin-Moore  
Gary L. Davis  
Jessica R. Durrett  
David W. Dye  
H. Cole Marshall  
Caleb M. Redman  
S. Corey Stone

**Scholarships & Awards**

**Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Scholarship**

Carly D. Griffith  
Diana L. Wheeler

**Cecil L. Hunt Memorial Scholarship**

Charlie M. Wolfe

**Chesapeake Energy Corporation Scholarship**

Elizabeth D. Brown  
Amanda Essaili  
Aaron F. W. Meek

**Crowe and Dunlevy Scholarship**

Anita N.D. Ayisi  
Kaitlin J. Philley  
L. Mariah Thompson

**Frank C. Love Memorial Scholarship**

Adam L. Wilson  
N. Georgeaun Roye

**GableGotwals Supreme Court Award**

Sarah E. Leatherwood  
J. Blake Pinard

**George B. Fraser Scholarship**

Travis V. Jett  
Lindsey A. Smith

**Henry Kent Anderson Human Services Award**

Rachel T. Csar

**James F. Hawes Memorial Cup Award**

Michael L. Brooks

**John McHenry Mee Scholarship**

Matthew D. Neal

**Justice William A. Grimes Civil Libertarian Award**

Micah G. Ayache

**Lee B. Thompson, Sr. Scholarship**

Richard J. Harris

**McAfee and Taft Award**

Jeremy L. Brown

**Oklahoma Bar Association - Business Association’s Section Award**

J. Blake Pinard

**Oklahoma Bar Association Mineral Law Section Newsletter Awards**

Jared W. Buchan, Editor-in-Chief  
James P. Albert, Assistant Editor  
Faculty Advisor: Owen Anderson

**Paul K. Frost II Memorial Award**

Meredith A. Walck

**Robert J. Emery Scholarship**

Terra R. Lord

**Salem Civil Rights Award**

Kyle N. Eastwood  
Kristen N. Pence
Teena Hicks Scholarship  
Shelley Levisay  
Reggie O. Thomas  

William L. Bruce Scholarship  
Leah E. Agers  
Courtney M. Griffin  
Brittini L. Jagers  

Clinic Awards  
Kelly Beardslee Criminal Defense Award  
Charles T. Battle  

Larry Siria Community Service Award  
Eustacia S. Mason  

OU Legal Clinic Distinguished Student Award  
Criminal: Christopher W. Ellison, Matthew P. Swain  
Civil: Jeremy L. Brown, Stephanie L. Neighbors  

Law Review Awards  
American Indian Law Review Award  
Nathaniel T. Haskins, Outstanding Editor  
Cullen D. Sweeney, Outstanding Note  

Meredith A. Walck, Outstanding Second Year Member  
Nicholas M. Jones, Outstanding Third Year Member  

Gene H. and Jo Ann Sharp Oklahoma Law Review Award  
Kevin R. Hanger, Outstanding Appointed Editor  
Michael L. Brooks, Outstanding Case Note  
Michael W. Cromwell, Outstanding Comment  
N. Georgeann Roye, Outstanding Second Year Member  
Jennifer Ary-Hogue, Outstanding Third Year Member  

Captain Brian E. Wheeler Write-on Award  
Katherine R. Morelli  

OKJOLT  
Spencer T. Hale, Outstanding Note  
Sarah C. Boyer, Outstanding Brief  

SBA Appreciation Awards  
Outstanding Professor Award  
Peter F. Krug  

Outstanding Staff Award  
Gary D. Boatner  

The University of Oklahoma College of Law appreciates the generosity of all donors to this event. Thank you! We also appreciate the attendance of so many alums at the ceremony.
Alumni Career Advisor Program

The Alumni Career Advisor Program is a valuable resource for current OU Law students seeking practical guidance. The program will comprise alumni who practice in diverse legal settings across the country and who have volunteered to serve as informational resources. This will enable the Office of Professional & Career Development (OPCD) to connect students and graduates with Alumni Career Advisors who can provide advice and information on particular practice areas, specific employers and/or geographic areas.

Because the database is only accessible to OPCD staff members, the OPCD can closely monitor its use and ensure that no Alumni Career Advisor is ever unduly burdened by too many referrals. In addition, before a referral is made, students and alumni must first discuss their career objectives with a career development professional in the OPCD. These discussions help clarify career goals and help the OPCD counselors identify the most appropriate contacts for that person.

The program is a great opportunity to be involved on a personal level with current students of the OU College of Law. One of OU Law's greatest assets is the diversity and breadth of expertise and experience, and providing alumni an easy way to share their expert knowledge on a one-on-one basis is the goal of the program.

Please complete the registration form and fax or mail it to the OPCD at 300 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019, fax (405) 325-0502.

### General Information

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Name at Graduation (If different from above)

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Ethnicity (Optional):
- Native American
- Asian
- Hispanic
- African American
- Caucasian
- Other

### Employment Information

| Employer Name |  |  |  |  |
| Work E-mail Address |  |  |  |  |
| City |  |  |  |  |
| State |  |  |  |  |
| Zip |  |  |  |  |
| Phone |  |  |  |  |

Job Title

Size of Firm (If Applicable):
- Small (2-25)
- Medium (26-50)
- Large (51+)

Contact Me:
- At Work
- At Home

- By Phone
- By Mail
- By E-mail

Are You Retired?
- Yes
- No

### Education

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### Career

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Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts in Oklahoma and Beyond

A panel in April included OU Law Professor Peter Krug, U.S. Attorney Mark Yancy, Associate Director of Catholic Charities, OKC Dick Klinge and Oklahoma Representative Rebecca Hamilton. Krug spoke on the international criminal law perspective and the relevant treaties dealing with trafficking in humans. Yancy spoke on investigations and criminal prosecutions of these cases in Oklahoma while Hamilton referred to the status of the newly-enacted Oklahoma anti-trafficking statute. Klinge spoke on immigration attorneys’ legal representation of trafficking victims in helping them obtain legal status in the U.S. The panel discussion was held in Bell Courtroom, Coats Hall. The evening was sponsored by the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law, OU Law Chapter.

Krug spoke on the international criminal law perspective and the relevant treaties dealing with trafficking in humans.

Peruvian Professor Visits OU Law

The newest Fellow of Professor Lindsay Robertson's American Indian Law and Policy Center is Mercedes Manrique who lectured at OU Law this summer. Robertson is faculty director of the Center.

Mercedes Manrique's professional work is focused on recovery of the individual and collective rights of the Amazon indigenous people of Peru. She is the legal advisor to the Confederation of Amazon Nationalities of the Peru – CONAP. She has seventeen years of experience working with the indigenous people of the Peruvian Amazonia, she advises the indigenous people and native communities and their organizations in how to get legal recognition and to get title to their communal lands. She also provides training in legal norms to native communities.

Lindsay hopes this visitor will leave with knowledge that will directly benefit the indigenous people of the home country from which the visitor came. The visiting professor from Peru has returned home to impart information to her own students about how Peru's indigenous peoples' lives could benefit from what she learned while in Norman.

The Policy Center hosts visitors each summer to help indigenous people throughout the hemisphere.

American Constitution Society

March 10, 2009

John Williams, ‘83, executive director of the Oklahoma Bar Association discussed the current bills before the Oklahoma legislature at a Coats Hall meeting of the American Constitution Society.

2nd Amendment Forum

March 11, 2009

Professor Rick Tepker and ACLU Oklahoma legal director, Chuck Thornton discussed the 2nd Amendment. Was it meant to be an individual or collective right? The audience heard from legal scholars and were provided an opportunity to voice their own opinions.
Honored by College of Arts & Sciences

W. DeVier Pierson

by Jonella Frank

W. DeVier Pierson, ’57, was one of four University of Oklahoma alumni honored by the College of Arts & Sciences on February 19-20 with a Distinguished Alumni Award. As part of this recognition, Pierson delivered a lecture entitled “Are We Living in the Age of Obama?” on February 19 in the Regents Room of Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Having practiced law in Washington, D.C. for more than 30 years and spending two of those years in the office of special counsel to the President, Pierson was able to use his first-hand knowledge of past presidencies to develop his presentation.

Pierson began by saying that in order for a presidency to be transformational, two factors must be present. First, impressive things must occur during the presidency. Secondly, the greatness of those accomplished things must live beyond the presidency.

Describing himself as an “American history junkie,” Pierson listed presidencies which he considered transformational. The most recent was Ronald Reagan’s two terms in office. In fact, Pierson said, our country has been in the “Age of Reagan” for the last 28 years.

He next turned his attention to the month-old Obama presidency. Pierson commented that the Obama campaign was the best presidential campaign he had ever witnessed. As two of its strengths, he listed its fundraising acumen and use of the internet. In its campaign, he said, the Obama organization defeated two other powerful organizations – the Clinton organization and the Republican Party.

In terms of political leadership, Pierson said Obama knows how to get the job done in elections.

Pierson also said that two other factors will contribute to the perception of the Obama presidency. The historical significance of being the first African American president will be a highlight. However, Pierson observed that a candidate’s race will probably no longer be considered a major obstacle to seeking the office, drawing an analogy to the presidency of John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic elected to the presidency. A second factor listed was the generational change of leadership that came with the election of Obama, “a post-Vietnam candidate.”

Pierson acknowledged that Obama “has a full plate economically.” He believes that for his to be considered a transformational presidency, the U.S. must have a sound economy with “a reasonable number of people holding reasonably good jobs.” The American people must feel “ok” about their future. Additionally, our nation’s interests around the world must be protected. People must feel safe—at least as safe as they did when he took office.

Pierson believes that internationally, Obama is currently enjoying rock star status. However, to be long-lasting, that popularity has to translate into policy that will have some worldwide appeal. Pierson added that as the war in Iraq has come to be known as George W. Bush’s war, with Obama authorizing an increase of troops in Afghanistan, the war there will become his war.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Pierson answered questions from the audience. His thoughtful responses were seasoned with his self-effacing sense of humor. In response to a question about his duties when he served President Johnson as special counsel, he
observed that he was sometimes introduced in meetings as “John Dean’s predecessor.” Later, when asked to comment about political interactions in the nation’s capital, Pierson remarked, “I know so little about this that I’m considering becoming a commentator.”

Pierson currently serves as special counsel at Hunton and Williams, LLP, in Washington, D.C. Previously he was a founding member of Pierson, Semmes and Bemis. There he served as the senior litigation partner in federal and state courts and worked with corporate clients on federal affairs, corporate governance policies and compliance with federal and state corporation laws. In addition to serving as Special Counsel to President Johnson, Pierson has been Chief Counsel to the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress and served on the Task Force for the Organization of the Department of Transportation, Trade Advisory Group of the Council on International Economic Policy, Carter Energy Task Force, U.S. Delegation to the El Salvador Elections and delegations to the Peoples Republic of China in 2000 and 2005.

Pierson serves as chairman of the OU College of Law Board of Visitors and is a member of the Board of Visitors for the OU International Programs Center. He is also a trustee of the University of Oklahoma Foundation and a donor to the Pierson Professorship at the OU College of Law. He was a member of the University of Oklahoma Centennial Commission and was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2002.
While attending the OU College of Law in the late 70s, extracurricular moot court competitions were not a part of my legal education experience. Such things apparently existed (the National Moot Court Competition sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Young Lawyers Committee of the New York City Bar has been around since 1950), but they weren’t on my radar screen. My introduction to the competitions program came nine years ago when the position of director of competitions was created and I wrote an article for the spring 2000 Sooner Lawyer about the person hired to develop the program. At that time, about 45 students competed in 10 to 12 competitions involving legal skills such as appellate advocacy, trial practice, mediation, negotiation and client counseling. In the last academic year, 78 OU Law students competed in 16 competitions.

I recently had the opportunity to accompany a three-member moot court team to the Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition in Miami. The competition is held annually, in conjunction with the HNBA’s mid-year meeting. When the professor who served as the coach for the team learned that he was unable to go, Assistant Dean David Poarch asked me to make the trip with second-year students Imelda Maynard, Amanda Mullins and Shamsia Osman. I returned from the four-day adventure with a better understanding of this type of competition and an admiration for the students who compete.

I first met the team members on a Sunday afternoon during one of their practice sessions. Two days later, our second meeting was at the airport prior to our journey to Miami. After arriving and checking in at the hotel, we had more of an opportunity to become acquainted over a late dinner. During our time in the hotel restaurant, we spotted a group at another table who we thought might also be participating in the competition.

I introduced myself and learned that they were from the Syracuse University College of Law. They told me of receiving an email that night which called for all teams to meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 a.m. the next morning for transportation to the site of the competition at Florida International University School of Law. This piece of information wasn’t enthusiastically received by our team. This was 30 minutes earlier than we’d previously been told and meant that we’d need to get up by 4:30 a.m. “Oklahoma time” to be dressed and ready to board a bus.

As it turned out, the 30 minutes wouldn’t have made much of a difference to any of us since we all slept horribly, waking up every 60-90 minutes to check the clock to make sure we hadn’t overslept! The buses didn’t actually depart until after 7 a.m. but we all arrived at FIU before the competition organizers were set up for business. Eventually, team assignments were made available. Our team was set to argue at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the preliminary rounds that day. They had previously been assigned to represent the petitioners, for briefing purposes. In the morning match-up they would argue “off-brief” (for respondent) and in the afternoon, “on-brief” (for petitioners).

We arrived at the designated classroom several minutes early and Amanda and Imelda, the two team members who were competing in this round, took their seats across from their opponents from the University of Hawaii. Shamsia and I took a place in the classroom away from the competitors and judges. When the three local attorneys who were serving as judges arrived, our opponents began their arguments. No questions came from the bench which prompted Shamsia, seated next to me, to write a note which said, “Cold bench.” Her second note said, “He’s checking his Blackberry!” I looked over and saw that she was referring to the middle judge.

The bench warmed up and a few questions were asked as our team presented their arguments and the petitioners rebutted. The three judges conferred briefly and then orally critiqued the teams, but did not announce the scores. Judge Blackberry did most of the talking. His points of criticism were, I thought, valid and done in a constructive...
manner. The two other judges echoed some of his points and thanked the students for participating. Afterwards, outside the classroom, we visited with the other team and in a very “mom” moment, I asked the students to allow me to take a photo to memorialize the event.

During the break between the morning and afternoon rounds, lunch was served on-site, which provided the opportunity to meet other teams and relax before the afternoon rounds. For our team’s second argument against a team from Chicago-Kent College of Law, Shamsia joined Imelda, replacing Amanda. As petitioners, they argued first. This was not a “cold” bench. The questions began early and continued steadily for both teams. At the conclusion, the two judges critiqued the teams and provided suggestions for improvement.

Very relieved to have the day behind us, but not able to go back to the hotel until the last groups were finished and the bus departed, we made a second run at the food left from lunch and took the opportunity to check out the FIU Law library and courtroom. Finally, we were able to board the bus and eventually leave for the hotel in rush hour traffic. Notification of which teams advanced to the next day’s competition was to be done by email that night. Thirty-two teams competed in preliminary rounds and only eight would advance to the quarter-final round. We were all exhausted and decided to forgo the HNBA nighttime activities to which all moot court participants had been invited.

As it turned out, our team did not advance to the next round and we had some free time on the second day of the competition. We headed to South Beach where the girls bravely waded into the cold surf before we had lunch. Afterwards, we walked around the area like the tourists we were and enjoyed the area’s art deco architecture and the pleasant weather. Later that night, the team members attended the HNBA Gala and Awards Ceremony where they learned that the University of Texas and Loyola-Los Angeles had taken first and second-place honors in the moot court competition.

Although our team may not have won any of the monetary prizes, they can take pride in the fact that they represented the OU College of Law well. Considering the amount of time spent researching and writing a brief as well as practicing oral argument, while at the same time keeping up with the normal law school workload, these students made a substantial investment in representing OU Law.

However, for these three students, it was worth it and they want to compete again. Amanda said she is interested in participating in other competitions “because they provide unique opportunities to continually hone necessary skills.” For Shamsia, the large commitment of time is worth it and the payoff comes with “the adrenaline rush of oral argument.” Imelda added, “I would love to compete in another competition and as a matter of fact, while we were at this competition we were invited to participate in the National Latino Law Student Association Moot Court Competition being held next year in Chicago.”

The students recognized the benefits they gained from the competition. “During the preparation it really helped my time management skills because I had to write this brief and also keep up with my classes. It also helped my oral advocacy skills. We must be able to think on our feet and be precise with our answers,” stated Shamsia. Imelda agreed that she learned how to balance her time and also appreciated being reminded that “legal issues do not occur in a vacuum, they involve real people and situations that have lasting repercussions.”

In addition to developing skills, the students were also able to meet and interact with students from other schools. Amanda remarked that she “really enjoyed getting to know other law students from across the country. Not only were we able to make connections, but we were also able to forge friendships.” Meeting other students was also an important benefit for Imelda, “When I compared notes with other law students, I realized our school really does a lot for us to facilitate our ability to compete at events such as these. I think that is something worth mentioning and applauding because this is not something that happens at all law schools.”

I came away from my Miami adventure with a new appreciation for the Competitions Program. The legal skills experience gained by the students who participate is extremely valuable to them in their development from students into lawyers. Another benefit for the students is the potential for networking, as evidenced by the comments above. With that networking can also come the realization that not all law schools provide as much for students as we do here at the OU College of Law. That added bonus is good for the students and OU Law.
On his first day at work as an assistant district attorney, new lawyer Greg Mashburn became involved in a jury trial which ultimately convinced him that prosecution was to be his life’s work. Mashburn, OU Law ’98, had accepted a position as an assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County where he had previously worked as an intern during law school. He was assigned to assist with the retrial of a 15-year-old case in which two elderly women had been raped and murdered. During the trial, Mashburn came to know the families of the victims. He “connected” with the people whose loved ones had been brutally taken from them many years before. The pain of their loss was renewed with yet another trial. When the jury trial was concluded, they hugged Mashburn and the other prosecutors. It was then that he was certain of how he would use his law degree.

Born in Wagoner, Oklahoma, in 1971, Mashburn moved with his family to Idabel where he attended public school, graduating from Idabel High School in 1990. As a college freshman he attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Mashburn transferred the following year to Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, where he played football on scholarship and completed his education, earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1995.

In the fall of that same year, he started classes at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Norman has been home since that time for Mashburn and his wife Shannon, a first grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School. The couple has two sons—Cole, 8, and Cade, 10.

Mashburn had served as an assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County for 10 years when he was approached by a group of Norman police officers who encouraged him to run for district attorney in District 21 which includes Cleveland, McClain and Garvin counties. Knowing that would mean going head-to-head with a three-term incumbent, his initial response was, “I have no connections and no money to run a campaign.” Yet, he did it. He took off from work for four months and knocked on 7,400 doors throughout the district campaigning. “Raising money to finance the campaign was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done,” he explained.

With no Democrat filing for the office, the race was decided in the Republican primary. Mashburn finished the July 25, 2006, primary election with 10,480 votes representing 63 percent of the votes cast. The young man who had initially doubted his ability to pull it off had soundly defeated the incumbent who had held the office since 1994.

Mashburn took office in January 2007. He has made a number of changes since taking over. The case management system has been reorganized. The major crimes team handles sexual offenses, violent crimes, drug dealers and repeat offenders. Other teams of prosecutors handle other specific types of offenses—general felony, misdemeanor, domestic violence and juvenile matters.

Mashburn has also added one attorney to each of the two counties in the southern portion of his district. The McClain County office has eight staff members including attorneys, investigators and support personnel. Garvin County has 14.

Additionally, Mashburn has changed the way charges are filed. “We want to be sure and do the work up front so that we have everything we need before charges are filed. You need to have all your ducks in a row before you sign your name,” commented Mashburn.

Under his leadership, the office is now doing some training in the community. As an example, Mashburn cited an exercise the Norman office conducted for the Norman Police Department. Officers took part in a mini mock trial during which they were required to testify about a given set of facts presented to them in the form of a police report. The exercise helped officers better understand what information is needed in the reports they write.

Mashburn stresses the importance of developing strong relationships with all the local and state agencies involved with the work done by the district attorney’s office. He told police officers, “We will disagree, but we will continue to talk because we are on the same team, serving the same people.”

Mashburn takes pride in the fact that the office now boasts a jury trial conviction rate of 80 percent, up 46 percentage points...
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from where the number stood before he took office. Although, he explains, only about five percent of cases go to a jury trial, those cases “drive” the remainder of the cases. “When a defendant thinks, ‘I only have a 20 percent chance of beating this if I go to a jury trial,’ they are more likely to plead out,” Mashburn said.

In addition to the criminal cases handled by the various teams, Mashburn’s office also includes the Child Support Enforcement Division, the False and Bogus Check Division and a Civil Division. The District 21 District Attorney’s office has a $6.5 million dollar budget. Ninety-five people are employed in the three offices–25 lawyers and 70 support personnel.

Reflecting on his 30 months in office, Mashburn commented on two cases that stand out in his mind. The first is the prosecution of Kevin Ray Underwood for the murder of 10-year-old Jamie Rose Bolin. The case which included evidence of the defendant’s interest in cannibalism attracted national media attention. “It will stick with me forever,” stated Mashburn.

The other case, described by Mashburn as very tragic, involved the death of five-year-old Noble boy, Austin Haley, who was struck and killed by a shot fired by two police officers who were responding to a call about a snake in a birdhouse. When second degree manslaughter charges were filed against the two officers, Mashburn said, “Although this event was accidental, with reasonable care and caution, the death of a child could have been avoided.” Although it was a very difficult decision for him, Mashburn believes “we did the right thing and we got the right outcome.”

Mashburn was named the Outstanding District Attorney for Oklahoma in 2008 by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association. Being recognized in this way by his peers after only one year in office was a true honor for Mashburn. He counts it as one of his greatest accomplishments. However, he still has a number of projects on his “to do list.”

Having the district attorney’s office be more involved in the community is a priority for Mashburn. He wants his staff to interact and collaborate with social service agencies. He listed a presentation at a Norman high school about online predators and a seminar about prescription drug abuse in youth as examples of the type of programs he wants to continue.

Recent prescription drug round-ups co-sponsored by the offices of the Cleveland County district attorney and sheriff have been hugely successful. Collection containers overflowed with hundreds of pounds of expired prescription drugs which were later destroyed in an environmentally safe manner. Commenting on his office’s involvement in the communities it serves, Mashburn stated, “My job isn’t to just wait for a crime to prosecute, but also to prevent crime by doing things like this in our communities.”

Greg Mashburn’s Favorites

TV Show – The Office
Movie – Christmas Vacation
Book – The Daybreakers (Louis L’Amour)
Food – Pasta
Professor – Rodney Uphoff
Vacation – Any beach
Team – Sooners
Hobby – Golf
Quote – “But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them.” Proverbs 24:25
Who I’d like to meet – Jesus

A Team Effort
If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do.” This quote has been attributed to famous comedienne Lucille Ball. Although when she uttered those words, she probably was not speaking about Oklahoma City attorney D. Kent Meyers, they would have been appropriate.

Meyers, born and raised in Oklahoma City, attended the University of Oklahoma, earning a bachelor’s degree in finance in 1960. After completing two semesters of law school, he served two years active duty in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant. Upon completion of his tour of duty, he returned to school and graduated from the College of Law in 1964. Meyers accepted a position as an associate with the Oklahoma City law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy, where he has worked for 45 years and now serves as a director of the firm.

After more than ten years with the firm focusing on commercial law, Meyers began doing more antitrust work. He enjoyed the work and wanted to “immerse” himself in it, so with the firm’s blessing, he moved to Boston and entered the graduate program at Harvard Law. In 1976, he earned a master of laws degree with emphasis in commercial and antitrust law and returned to his Oklahoma City law practice. Along with his newly acquired LL.M., Meyers brought home an idea for a program, which directly benefited the OU College of Law.

While studying at Harvard, Meyers discovered many of the foreign students who made up 75 percent of the graduate program there had not seen the United States before coming to Boston. In addition, most would return home after completing their degree programs without traveling to see more of the U.S. Meyers conceived a program that would utilize the expertise of foreign program graduates as teachers at OU Law. His firm liked the idea and the Crowe & Dunlevy International Professorship Program was created in 1976. Foreign Harvard LL.M. or S.J.D. graduates came to teach for a semester under the sponsorship of the firm. While here, they had the opportunity to travel within the U.S. The program benefited the College of Law students and faculty as well as the visiting professors.

Meyers himself began to teach as an adjunct professor at OU Law in 1982 and continues to this day. For 27 years, OU Law students have known him as Professor Meyers in their antitrust, bankruptcy, trial techniques and professional responsibility classes. He also teaches antitrust law as an adjunct professor at the Oklahoma City University School of Law and the University of Tulsa College of Law.

With the American Bar Association’s approval of distance learning for legal education, Meyers has been able to reduce his driving time by utilizing technology. He can teach an antitrust class at OU, OCU and TU while being physically present at only one of the schools. Screens, microphones and cameras are set up in the remote classrooms so that students can see and hear Meyers and he can see and hear them. There is interaction and exchange between all locations. When all three schools participate, Meyers teaches in person at OU 50 percent of the time and 25 percent at each of the other two law schools. He jokes that in Oklahoma, “I have a monopoly on monopoly.”

In 1997, Meyers received a call from one of his good friends, Don Nicholson, ’65. Nicholson informed him that he’d signed them both up to go on a Child Watch Tour organized by the Oklahoma Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. On the day of the tour, the pair boarded a bus and toured numerous facilities in Oklahoma County housing agencies providing services to children and families in need. Meyers and Nicholson were overwhelmed by what they heard and saw that day.
On the day of the tour, the pair boarded a bus and toured numerous facilities in Oklahoma County housing agencies providing services to children and families in need. Meyers and Nicholson were overwhelmed by what they heard and saw that day.

They learned that Oklahoma County had a surprisingly large number of children in foster care. In fact, the number of children in foster care in Oklahoma County was so large it was greater than the state totals in 17 states. Additionally, they learned that there were only three public defenders to represent more than 2,100 deprived children in foster care and they had to do so without adequate support staff or technology. Meyers and Nicholson decided they wanted to do something to help the public defenders and the children they represented.

The two friends created Oklahoma Lawyers for Children (OLFC). After Meyers and Nicholson organized meetings with all parties involved in the juvenile system, the presiding judge of Oklahoma County entered an order authorizing OLFC to assist the Oklahoma County Public Defender’s Office in representing deprived children in Juvenile Court. Two later orders expanded the role of OLFC to include involvement in other court matters affecting children.

Meyers and Nicholson began recruiting lawyers to volunteer to take one case for OLFC. After the first month, they’d signed up 50 volunteers. The number of attorney volunteers continued to climb. Next, non-lawyer volunteers were recruited to provide other needed services within the system. The program has continued to grow and now has more than 450 lawyer volunteers and more than 300 non-lawyer volunteers. Speaking of the creation, development and growth of the highly successful organization, Meyers said, “We didn’t really know what we were doing. Sometimes we would take two steps forward and one step backwards.” Apparently they got the choreography down.

In 1999, Meyers was the recipient of the Oklahoma Bar Association Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service relating to OLFC.

Meyers became involved in yet another venture with friend and co-worker, Larry Blankenship, ’65. Blankenship expressed interest in creating a weekly television show to present information of local, regional and national interest. Meyers thought it sounded like a good idea and the format of the show was developed. Guests knowledgeable about legal and social issues would appear on the show and be interviewed on the selected topic. Blankenship was to work behind the camera, planning and lining up the guests. Meyers was to conduct on-camera interviews. However, the two realized that for the show to be successful, they needed a media professional involved. Mick Cornett, a former local television news anchor signed on to co-host with Meyers.

At the suggestion of Meyers’s wife, Amanda, the show was titled “The Verdict.” The name was appropriate she explained, because the viewers would listen to the information presented and arrive at their own verdict on the subject. The first show aired on April 1, 2001. Since its inception, almost 450 shows have been produced with subjects ranging from capital punishment to education reform to stem cell research. Taped in advance, three at a time, each show runs eight times during a week on Cox Communication channels—four times in Oklahoma City and four times in Tulsa.

Meyer’s legal practice is focused on commercial litigation and antitrust law. In addition to trying numerous cases, he has written extensively in his areas of expertise and has had 12 articles published. He is a member of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and served as the OCBA president in 1983. Meyers is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children and has served on the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission.

He was the principal author of the 1998 Oklahoma Antitrust Reform Act and has twice been invited by the Federal Judicial Center to present a recent developments paper to the Tenth Circuit judges. Meyers has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America every year it has been published. He also is listed in Chambers USA, Benchmark, and Law Dragon. All of these publications base their ratings solely on peer reviews.

When asked how he has found time to do everything, he responded, “It’s just a matter of priorities.” He added that he has had the “unbelievable support of his wife, kids and firm. They make it all possible.” Meyers was also quick to point out that a friend from high school has also played a role in his full and varied professional life. “Andy Coats and the law school have been wonderful to me and I’m grateful for it.” He confesses that he loves to teach, however, quoting an unknown source, he added, “I teach for free. They pay me to grade.”
Graduating from law school and passing the bar exam...chasing bank robbers...practicing law with your sister...working on multiple continents in international finance...feeding almost 400 people three meals daily. It’s not the traditional career path of an OU College of Law graduate, but then no one ever accused Bill Patten of being traditional.

Patten grew up in Norman, or as he often refers to his hometown - Normal, Oklahoma - the son of Jane and John H. “Jack” Patten, ’49. He attended the University of Oklahoma and earned a bachelor’s degree in history in 1976.

Patten began attending the OU College of Law with the class of 1979, but attended two sessions of summer school and was able to complete law school one semester early in December 1978. His name is often included on the list of 1978 graduates, but like me, he is a really a 1979 model, participating in convocation in May 1979. In describing this confusion as to his date of graduation, Patten jokingly said, “I’ve always felt a bit displaced. Just be sure that you make it clear that I graduated early, not late.”

Patten took the Oklahoma bar examination in February 1979 and the following month began work as a loan officer at Security National Bank in Norman. After working at the bank for six months, his father who served as president and CEO came to his desk following a meeting of the bank’s board of directors and offered his congratulations, informing him that he had been approved for a promotion to assistant vice president. Pleased with the news, Patten inquired about the salary of the new position. His father looked at him incredulously and stated, “Oh there’s no extra pay with that title.”

Patten continued working at Security and became very involved in the Norman community, volunteering in numerous organizations. Among those was the Chamber of Commerce, where he was a member of the board of directors and served as president in 1986-87. He also served for 14 years on the board of trustees of the University of Oklahoma Foundation. As he progressed in his banking career, his responsibilities at the bank continued to increase and on one memorable occasion, included chasing and apprehending a bank robber who had passed to a teller a note which read, “Give me all your monkey.” (Yes, “monkey.”)

In March 1983 following his father’s untimely death, Patten was named executive vice president. He served in that capacity until January 1987 when Security National Bank became one of the victims of the 1980s banking crisis which drastically changed the landscape of the banking industry across the nation.

For the next five years, Patten practiced law with his sister, Rebecca J. Patten, a 1977 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. In late 1993, he began working with his uncle, Richard Patten, an international consultant on microenterprise lending. Based in Jakarta, Indonesia, Patten worked with his uncle on the World Bank Poverty Alleviation Project. The job required him to travel throughout Indonesia, the world’s largest archipelagic nation which is comprised of more than 17,000 islands. In addition to travel within southeastern Asia, Patten also made a trip to South Africa to arrange financing for a small business venture involving indigenous South African women. It was on this trip that Patten, the impeccably-dressed businessman, lost one of his favorite shoes in a mud hole in a remote village.

Patten returned to the United States in 1995 and selected southern California as his new home. He’d visited San Diego years before and the city and its temperate climate appealed to him. This begins the time period Patten refers to as “the awkward eight-year gap on my resume.” As he had done in Norman, Patten became involved in his new community. He volunteered with the Rolling Readers child literacy program where he helped third graders...
develop their reading skills. He also worked with the San Diego AIDS Foundation, facilitating HIV awareness groups. In addition, he volunteered with a San Diego nonprofit, Mama’s Kitchen.

Mama’s Kitchen is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization which prepares and delivers food to men, women and children affected by AIDS or other critical illnesses. Established in 1990, the organization delivers three nutritional meals a day, seven days a week at no charge to clients who are referred to them by physicians or social agency case managers. In 2004, the program was expanded with the opening of Mama’s Pantry for clients who don’t need meal delivery but can benefit from a monthly visit to the pantry to select their own non-perishable food items.

Patten began volunteering at Mama’s Kitchen shortly after moving to San Diego. He became an employee in 2003 when he took the position of Manager of Volunteer Services. His job responsibilities came to include volunteer recruitment, orientation, training, scheduling and recognition.

New job responsibilities brought a new title. Patten is now the director of Client and Volunteer Services. Commenting on the similarity to his first promotion in his banking career, he stated, “Once again, there was no increase in salary, but I did get to pick my own title.”

During 2008, 644 volunteers and nine full-time employees along with two part-time employees prepared and delivered 332,529 meals to 535 clients. The 644 volunteers racked up 30,173 hours of volunteer service and drove 172,104 miles to deliver meals. Since its inception, Mama’s Kitchen has delivered more than 4,680,000 meals to residents of San Diego County.

Patten may grumble about the size of his paycheck, but people who know him well understand this job is not about acquiring wealth. The 2005 Annual Report of Mama’s Kitchen contains a quote from the Dalai Lama which pinpoints Patten’s purpose.

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

The Dalai Lama
In a part of the world rich in history, we gathered to celebrate anniversaries of 35, 100 and 500 years. The summer of 2009 marked the 35th year in which the University of Oklahoma College of Law has conducted the Oxford Summer Program. The historical significance of this year’s program, from July 5 until August 8, was magnified by two other celebrations—the Centennial of the College of Law beginning in September 2009 and the 500th anniversary of the founding of Brasenose College, the current home for the program.

Brasenose College was founded in 1509 and is one of 38 independent, self-contained and self-governing colleges of the University of Oxford. It is located in the heart of the ancient university in the center of the city. The College takes its unusual name from the bronze knocker removed from the gate of a medieval hall previously located on the site. It looked like a “brass nose,” hence the name. The door knocker now hangs in the Brasenose College dining hall.

Twenty-nine OU Law students traveled to Oxford to live and study at the internationally-renowned university. They enrolled in four to eight credit hours of classes selected from five subjects: Family Law, International Environmental Law, Professional Responsibility, The English Legal System and European Union Law. Classes met Monday through Thursday, leaving students with time to visit and observe English legal institutions and other nearby points-of-interest.

Professor Robert Spector, program director, and Professors Judith Maute and Taiawagi Helton comprised the OU Law faculty in residence. In addition, Dr. Jonathan Black-Branch, Professor of International Law at the University of Buckingham, taught two classes and Sir David Yardley, Chairman Emeritus of the Commission for Local Administration in England, served as Distinguished Visiting Lecturer.

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the program, Dean Andrew Coats arranged for the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, to serve as Distinguished Jurist in Residence from July 14-17. During her time at Oxford, the Chief Justice taught classes and was the featured speaker at a high table dinner on July 15. (The term “high table” refers to the set-up of the dining hall with the head table elevated above the main floor.)

During the first of her class lectures, Chief Justice McLachlin provided her audience with an interesting discussion of the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Canadian systems of government. Among the similarities mentioned was the two countries’ sharing of the North American continent and the longest undefended border in the world. And she continued, our legal systems are both based on the rule of law, upheld by an independent bar and bench. When Canadian and U.S. lawyers get together she said, “We are talking the same language.”

Differences, which she classified as broad generalizations, included the origins of our countries. Canada, she stated, was the result of evolution of the English model of government whereas the U.S. resulted from revolution. Another major difference mentioned was the manner in which the government’s role is viewed by society. In Canada, there is more of a group consciousness with protection by the state. In the U.S., the emphasis is on robust individualism with protection from the state.

The second lecture focused on the Canadian judiciary. During the presentation, the Chief Justice answered numerous questions from students and professors. One question was asked regarding the
makeup of the Canadian Supreme Court with four of the nine members being women. Asked if that made a difference, she answered that she thought it did, but in a subtle way. She explained that sometimes a question asked from a particular perspective can cause others to think. “We need diverse perspectives,” she stated.

The high table dinner honoring Chief Justice McLachlin was preceded by an outdoor champagne reception held on the lawn in the beautiful Old Quad of Brasenose College. The clouds and rain from earlier in the day cleared in time for students, faculty and guests to enjoy a lovely English evening before moving inside to the dining hall for an impressive four-course dinner.

Following the meal, Professor Spector introduced William Swaddling, Senior Brasenose Law Fellow. During his remarks, he mentioned a link between the United States and Brasenose College. Swaddling reported that the great, great grandfather of George Washington had been a Brasenose student and would have taken his meals in the dining room in which we were seated.

Spector next called on Dean Coats to introduce DeVier Pierson, a 1957 graduate of the OU College of Law and chairman of its Board of Visitors. Pierson spoke of some connections and similarities between OU and Brasenose College. He also referred to Coats as the “finest law school dean in the United States” and commented that the ultimate compliment was paid to him by OU when the Board of Regents named the law school building for him.

Coats returned to the podium and explained the evening was the first leg of the Centennial Celebration of the OU College of Law. The second and third will take place in Norman in the fall when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy visits in October and Chief Justice John Roberts speaks in November as part of the Henry Lecture Series. Coats then called on Judge Robert Henry, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, to introduce the evening’s keynote speaker, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. With flair and eloquence, Judge Henry complied.

The Chief Justice, realizing the lateness of the evening, graciously edited her presentation without disappointing her audience. She began by stating that she was happy to see so many women in the group of law students. She thanked Oxford, Brasenose College and the OU College of Law for hosting her visit. During her remarks she told a story about hiking in the mountains in northwest England where she came upon a man sitting at the top of a mountain admiring the view of the valley below. Soon, a woman came struggling up the side of the mountain, huffing and puffing, totally exhausted. “Just look at that view,” the man exclaimed to her. His hiking companion responded, “My only view is the view of my boots!”

McLachlin was amused by the scene, but upon reflecting further, saw an important lesson in her fellow hikers’ exchange. “Never become so obsessed with the process,” she said, “that you forget to look at the big picture. Look and be aware of where we’ve been and where we are going.”

“We must,” she said, “be open to the bigger picture of what’s in the next valley and the next country.” She encouraged the use of the law of foreign countries, explaining that it can be relevant and enriching if applied in a way that remains true to the law of your own country. “The caution,” she stated, “lies in how we use it with due attention to the legal and historical context of the source country and our own.” Speaking specifically to the students McLachlin said, “I hope you will feel enriched by this experience and never forget it. There are other valleys and other perspectives.”

She explained that she and her husband had traveled to England on the Queen Mary. In closing, she passed along advice the captain had given to his passengers, “Meet other people, dine with other people and sleep with a good conscience.”

At the conclusion of her remarks, Judge Henry presented gifts to the Chief Justice, her husband Frank McArdle and Baroness Emma Nicholson. Dean Coats closed the evening, saying to the students, “We hope this is an evening you’ll never forget. But keep in mind; we are all here because of you.”
Her personal story could serve as the inspiration for a Hollywood screenplay. Small town girl works hard, meets challenges and ultimately, rises to the top level of her nation’s government. For Beverley Gietz McLachlin, the story started in Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada, a town with a present-day population of 3,700. She grew up the eldest of two girls and three boys living with their parents on a ranch in the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, approximately 140 miles south of Calgary and 50 miles north of the Canada-U.S. border. The Gietz family ranch and sawmill provided McLachlin and her siblings with many opportunities to learn about the benefits of hard work. “We all had to work,” she explained. “My father said the most important thing to learn was how to work. It was great training.”

Upon graduation from high school, McLachlin attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton where she earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1965. While contemplating pursuing a postgraduate degree in philosophy, she was intrigued by the suggestion of her boyfriend that she consider studying law. However, she had some questions. She wrote a letter to the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta asking for information about the degree program. Much to McLachlin’s surprise, when she received the reply letter, it stated that she was “accepted.” This turn of events causes her to say that the decision to become a lawyer was “an accident.” In 1968, she earned both a master’s degree in philosophy and a law degree, graduating at the top of her law school class.

From 1969 until 1974, McLachlin practiced law with firms in Edmonton, Alberta, and Fort St. John and Vancouver, British Columbia. During this time period, her legal practice focused on litigation and included insurance defense as well as some personal injury cases. In 1974, she accepted a position with the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law. For seven years, McLachlin taught a variety of courses, but most often, evidence and contracts. However, over the course of her seven years as a law professor, she sometimes “taught courses no one else wanted to teach.” With what seems to be her typical glass-is-half-full attitude, she adds that teaching a variety of classes during her professorial career was “good for her as a judge.”

Her judicial career began in April 1981 when she was appointed as judge of the Vancouver County Court. Six month later, she was named to the British Columbia Supreme Court where she served for four years. Her next judicial appointment was to the British Columbia Court of Appeal in 1985. Three years later, McLachlin was named Chief Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court, a post which she held for one year before being appointed to the Supreme...
Court of Canada in 1989. On January 7, 2000, history was made when McLachlin was appointed Chief Justice of Canada, becoming the first woman to hold the position. As Chief Justice, she presides over the most gender-balanced national high court in the world—four of the nine justices are female.

With a judicial career which has attracted media attention due to the pace of her advancement, McLachlin’s personal life seems to fade into the background. By maintaining her privacy, she says, she is able to experience a sense of freedom. However, she has shared some of her personal story, enabling Canadians to feel that they know their Chief Justice.

The college boyfriend, who suggested she study law, later became her husband, Rory McLachlin. A biologist and environmental consultant, he died in 1988, a few days after his wife was appointed Chief Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court. He left behind his wife and their 12-year-old son. Chief Justice McLachlin came to know the challenges facing a working single mother.

In 1992, she married Frank McArdle, the executive director of the Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association. They live and work in Ottawa, Ontario. McLachlin has taken to heart advice given to her by a former justice and has developed outside interests. She describes herself as a “voracious reader” and says she also loves music. She enjoys being outdoors whether it is to garden, hike or walk her black Labrador retriever. She and her husband maintain a country cottage about an hour’s drive from Ottawa where they are able to escape the hectic pace of their lives on weekends and holidays.

As Chief Justice, the demands on her time are many. She represents the court at official events and for many Canadians, is the public face of the Supreme Court. She makes numerous informal appearances before student and community groups in Canada and several times each year, travels abroad in her official capacity interacting with foreign heads of state. Her communication skills are finely honed as she crafts and delivers between 40 and 50 speeches annually.

The OU College of Law was fortunate to have McLachlin as its featured speaker at the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Oxford Summer Program in July 2009. During her time in Oxford, she twice spoke to students, faculty and guests in the Brasenose College classroom and answered questions. At a high table dinner held in her honor, she addressed the group and echoed President John F. Kennedy’s remarks upon his visit to Paris when the French people were so enamored with his wife Jacqueline. After a glowing introduction by Judge Robert Henry, she demonstrated her well-documented sense of humor by saying, “Frank is the real star of the team.” She continued, “I am the woman who accompanied Frank McArdle to Oxford.”

The sense of humor has served her well as Chief Justice. She describes the process of the court’s conferences by saying that they are informal with much discussion back and forth. In the first phase of the meeting, she gives an overview of the case being considered and the members of the court have an exchange of views. After this preliminary discussion, each justice, starting with the most junior, states where they stand on the issue(s) presented. Her job as Chief Justice, she says, is to try to get the court to reach a consensus, while still respecting an individual justice’s right of dissent. She admits that it is hard work but adds that other members of the court also have a sense of humor. “We are nine people just trying to do our best. Sometimes humor can cut through tension,” she explained.

McLachlin’s advice to young lawyers is to “remember you are serving your clients and the system.” The practice of law, she says, should be a profession of service rather than a means to make a living. “What brings satisfaction,” she stated, “is loving the law, making it your passion and combining that with service to your client, your community and your nation.” That is advice which has been proven true by the legal career of the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin.
David Barnett, ’76, set aside his gavel after 21 years as associate judge, Tillman County. Barnett began his journey on May 4, 1988, when he was appointed by Governor Henry Bellmon after the passing of Judge Harrison Roe.

Barnett moved his family from Weatherford to Frederick, leaving behind his position as municipal judge and his law practice. David, with his wife Katherine and four children; Kristin, Melanie, Jennifer and Stephen settled happily into their new home.

Barnett was born and raised in Tillman County, graduating from Frederick High School in 1964, then continuing his education at Oklahoma State University earning a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. After graduation, he spent four years in the U.S. Air Force. Barnett received a Master of Business Administration degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, then went on to complete a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Judge Barnett feels the most rewarding part of his career was the “adrenaline rush” during difficult trials. “You really have to dig deep to effectively handle difficult cases, especially criminal jury trials,” he said. He considered the most difficult part of his job to be situations where a judge is required to follow the letter of the law even though he believes the law is ill-conceived.

The 2003 murder of his friend, Highway Patrol Trooper Nik Green, refined his view of his job. Barnett stated, “During my career as judge, I’ve tried approximately 10 murder cases, including one in which the jury assessed a death sentence, in addition to around 100 other jury trials, and thousands of other trials, such as divorce, probate, small claims, mental health, criminal and general civil cases.

According to Barnett most Associate District Judges in Oklahoma have not tried a murder cases, especially death penalty cases. Barnett feels he has given much opportunity to develop his skills as a trial judge.

When asked if he thought the judicial system had progressed or regressed during his time as a judge, Barnett said he felt that society has regressed in the areas of judicial independence and in dignity. He feels that judicial independence makes our system work and is necessary to make us accountable to the law. Alternatively, the system has been greatly improved with the expanded the use of dispute resolution such as mediation, settlement conferences and arbitration. Barnett added “Our country’s jury system is not perfect, but it is the best. It’s a clunky system, but it works.”
One of Barnett’s most enjoyable memories was the Tillman County Frog case. Joe Miller, editor of The Frederick Press, wrote an editorial analyzing the handling of a case in which two men were charged with illegally hunting frogs. The headline read “CROAK! Judge’s ruling unpopular with County Bullfrog Population.” The humorous piece was picked up by wire services all over the country.

Barnett is a member of First Baptist Church in Frederick, a deacon and lay preacher. He and his wife Kay plan to do some traveling, possibly taking a cruise. They plan to stay in Frederick, where they have a small herd of cattle. He will continue to teach night classes for Wayland Baptist University at Altus AFB.

The thing Barnett will miss most about his job is the people. Barnett said he had great staff and a wonderful working relationship with a very good county government and with state and district judges.

Barnett said he had always had a strong conviction that he should treat everyone who appeared in his court with dignity, and that commitment was one of the most important parts of his job. He wants to be remembered as a good judge. He said “The foundation of my life is my faith, and this position has given ample opportunity to practice it.”

A retirement reception was held June 30, 2009 in the Tillman County Court House.

“Our country’s jury system is not perfect, but it is the best. It’s a clunky system, but it works.”
Still Learning at 87

by Doris Wedge

At 87 years of age, Bob Naifeh, ’50, can look back on a life filled with a strong family, good education opportunities, service to his country, and success in his profession. Yes, it has been a good life, he says.

He enjoys reminiscing and can reel off the dates and places, hinting that he isn’t telling all that he remembers about life in Norman, where he has lived since he was a child.

Naifeh’s parents emigrated from Lebanon and settled near Tulsa. They became naturalized citizens in 1902. Home then was the oil boom town of Kiefer. “There were 17 saloons in the town, and it was a good place to move away from,” Naifeh joked.

His father took a business opportunity in Tennessee, where Naifeh was born. He has claimed Oklahoma as his home since his widowed mother moved to Tulsa with her seven children in 1929. In 1931 she moved to Norman and her two oldest sons, Mitchell and William, opened the Naifeh Grocery, a main street fixture for many years. Goodno’s Jewelry now occupies that site.

“The whole family worked at the store. I grew up on Main Street,” Naifeh said, recalling a town of less than 10,000 when there were nine drugstores and nine groceries in the three blocks from the railroad tracks to Porter. “They all made a living,” he said, adding a bit wistfully, “and now there is not a single one.”

Those were the days when “everybody knew everybody. If you did anything wrong, your parents knew about it before you got home.”

And home wasn’t too far from that downtown strip of stores, as the town’s boundaries of development were Robinson, the state hospital grounds, Lindsey and Flood. “Pavement ended at Flood.”

Another recollection of the early days brings a smile to his lips. “I had an appendectomy in the American Legion Hospital. It was an eight-bed hospital,” he recalled of the facility run by two doctors. “The two nurses lived in the basement.”

A highlight of each day at the hospital was the arrival of the owner of Gilt Edge Dairy. “He would deliver a pint of ice cream as a treat for every patient who could have it.”

The youngest of the Naifeh siblings, he was in his third year at the University of Oklahoma when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He vol-
unteered for the Army Air Force and was trained as a machine gun mechanic. Tapped for Officer Candidate School followed by the Air Force Intelligence School, he ended up as an intelligence officer attached to the 92nd bomber group.

“We were a B-17 bomber group stationed in England,” he said. They saw action in England, France, North Africa, Italy and Greece. “I went in as a private and came out as a captain.”

The bomber group, which received honors for flying the 300th mission, holds annual reunions and he has enjoyed the continued relationships. One reunion was held in England where they gave $15,000 to restore a pipe organ in the church of a village near their air base.

“The little town consisted of a pub, a school, a filling station and an Anglican Church,” he said.

The gift was a memorial to the men and women who didn’t return from the war. Attendance at the reunions is “thinning,” he says, and he had to miss the last reunion due to illness.

While he was able to return home after the war and resume his studies, his brother Alfred, who had graduated from OU Law School in 1940, died in the Pacific. Heroic actions by Alfred Naifeh resulted in the christening of the USS Naifeh, a destroyer that was active from 1944 until 1966. Naifeh attended the christening of the ship when his mother broke a bottle of champagne on the bow. “I am the only honorary crew member of the USS Naifeh,” he said as he put on a cap bearing the ship’s insignia.

Naifeh enjoys the outdoors and can’t talk about a summer job he held while a college student without smiling. He was a Yosemite National Park ranger, “and it was the most delightful job I ever had.” It was such an enjoyable place he took his bride there on their honeymoon, and they spent three months living in a tent. His ranger hat hangs in his den today.

He left the life of a park ranger behind when he finished law school. He practiced general law in Norman for a few years before joining forces with Charles Nesbitt in an Oklahoma City office. Together they built a practice in oil and gas law. Their reputation as authorities on the law was so well-known that Mobile, Phillips and Chevron oil companies asked them to represent them in securing a portion of the proceeds in the Prudhoe Bay oil pool.

Prudhoe Bay records were kept in Seattle, so he and Nesbitt and their wives lived in Seattle for three years (1983-85) as the litigation proceeded. “We would come home regularly during that time,” he said.

The oil companies only wanted two percent of the Prudhoe Bay find, but that amounted to $5 billion. “We came home with our share of it,” he said.

His career also included appearing before the Court of Claims — “that’s when people sue the government, and you find out who has all the money.” He also was an arbiter for the New York Stock Exchange, and served for two years as state assistant attorney general, working under his friend, Charles Nesbitt.

“For the last 25 years I have had an office with Bill Woodson,” he said.

He has enjoyed excellent health until the last few months, a situation that has kept him out of the office. He still gets calls from attorneys from across the country who tap his knowledge of oil and gas law.

“My profession has treated me well.”

Naifeh has been active in the Norman community all of his life, even having served on the City Council in the early 1950s. He recalls it as “a turbulent time” in city politics, and he was going against the stream. “It was a tough go,” and he doesn’t want to resurrect those memories.

He has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years, and a “rank and file” member of the Norman Kiwanis Club. He is a Shriner, an OU Associate, a life member of the OU Alumni Association and has held OU football tickets for more than 50 years.

His illness has kept him from one of his pleasures in life, coffee each morning with friends in a downtown coffee shop on the site of what once was the Murray Department Store at the corner of Main and Crawford. One of those coffee drinkers is his lifelong friend, Dee Powell. “We bought our first car together.” It was a ’34 Model A Ford that barely ran, he recalls.

His wife, Lil, passed away in 2004. They were partners in raising three children. Their son, Robert Naifeh Jr., followed him into the practice of law, and the girls, LeeAnn Kuhlman and Karen Sue Meyer, are teachers. All are Edmond residents. They are OU graduates, as are three of the Naifeh grandchildren. Another one is a freshman at OU now. They frequently drop in to check up on Bob and he was host for the Christmas dinner this year.

He is regaining his strength from a major illness, and recovering from a corneal transplant. Looking to the future, he said “I am learning to use the computer. I have a new vision machine and a talking watch.”

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Photo by Jerry Laizure

“My profession has treated me well.”
by Steve Rice

Your entire practice is based on doing battle for your clients. Unfortunately, the issues that arise when it comes to assessing the value of these protective and beneficial services are a source of contention for both yourself and your clients.

This newly revised third edition of the highly acclaimed Winning Alternatives to the Billable Hour: Strategies that Work provides you with tools you can use in your practice to implement and evaluate alternative billing methods, including real case studies of lawyers and firms successfully using alternative billing to deliver value to both the client and the lawyer.

In addition to an appendix containing sample agreements, forms, proposals, and client letters, you’ll find topics addressed include:

• Understanding the client’s perceptions of value
• Ethical rules and practices (covering most of the gray areas)
• Interpreting and applying the “value curve”
• How to build a billing method
• Integrating technology and alternative billing
• Developing a case and/or transaction plan
• Evaluating alternative billing method results

The new case studies and forms have been carefully compiled to be used by solo practitioners, specialty practices, general practices, and small and large firms. In-house general counsel will find it helpful in structuring fee agreements and arrangements with outside counsel.

MARK A. ROBERTSON, ’75, is a partner the law firm of Robertson & Williams in Oklahoma City where he represents businesses and the families that own them. His practice is concentrated in corporate, securities, estate and asset planning and mergers and acquisitions. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from DePauw University and graduated from OU Law in 1975. Robertson is on the Editorial Board, the articles editor and the columns editor for the Law Practice Management Magazine of the American Bar Association Law Practice Management Section, has served on the Publishing Board for the Law Practice Management Section and is a past chairman of that Section.

JIM CALLOWAY, ’81, is a member of the American Bar Association and an active member of the ABA Law Practice Management Section and the ABA LPM Section Council. He is on its Practice Management Advisor’s Committee and Periodicals Community Committee. He is also an active member of the ABA’s General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division. As a part of his duties with the OBA, he designed and now manages the OBA-NET, the official online service of the Oklahoma Bar. Mr. Calloway publishes the award-winning weblog, “Jim Calloway’s Law Practice Tips” at http://jimcalloway.typepad.com.
DAVID L. BOREN has influenced Oklahoma perhaps more than any other person in the state’s first century. The son of an Oklahoma congressman, Boren sought excellence at every level of education, from the Seminole, Oklahoma, public schools to Yale University, to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Oklahomans are well aware of Boren’s contributions as governor of Oklahoma, United States Senator, and president of the University of Oklahoma. However, this biography reveals Boren’s previously unchronicled roles in some of the most politically and historically important moments of American history in the final two decades of the twentieth century.

Authors Bob Burke and Von Creel reveal details of private meetings with American presidents, world leaders, and even the KGB. They also relate the never-before-told story of a single, handwritten letter from Boren that may have had an important impact upon the final years of the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

In each position of trust Boren has held, he has excelled as a statesman in every sense of the word.

BOB BURKE has written more than 90 books about Oklahoma’s heritage. He is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and practices law in Oklahoma City.

VON RUSSELL CREEL has B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Oklahoma and was chief of staff to Boren when he was governor of Oklahoma. Creel is currently professor of law at Oklahoma City University School of Law.
It was noon and there was free food, but the crowd would have been there even without the food. They came to hear Jim Chastain, '89, share his thoughts and personal experiences. Chastain came to the OU College of Law on April 7 at the invitation of Phi Delta Phi and the Christian Legal Society. The announced topic, “What Else Can I Do With My Law Degree?,” would have been of interest to many law students, but the crowd in the classroom was made up not only of students, but also College of Law staff and faculty. Some knew him as a former student, others as a friend and neighbor, but many felt as though they knew him because of his public, yet personal account of his eight-year battle with cancer.

Chastain, 45, is a lawyer for the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, film critic and author who is currently writing a blog, “Life is Real—Writing the final chapters” for The Oklahoman. When approached by the newspaper, Chastain didn’t immediately say “yes” to the project. He consulted the team with whom he would work—a senior staff writer, a photojournalist and a therapist who is also a columnist for the Oklahoman. More importantly, he consulted his family—LeAnn, his wife of 22 years, a teacher at Whittier Middle School, 18-year-old daughter Maddye who was in the final weeks of high school with graduation and college rapidly approaching and 15-year-old son Ford, a musician, songwriter and singer who at the ripe old age of eight joined three friends to form the successful band Refuje.

According to Chastain’s blog, the family discussed their readiness to “let it all hang out” and have a reporter and cameraman recording them as they made their way on this unwanted journey. In his own words, they decided, “Rather than just cut ourselves off from everyone and feel sad about what was happening, we had the chance to turn something bad into something good. Maybe, just maybe, we could tell our story and other people facing similar issues would realize that they are not alone. Maybe, just maybe, we could participate in something that is bigger than we are, something that could somehow make a difference.”

Since December 2008, Chastain and his family have been doing just that. Every day or so, he posts a new Life is Real entry. The subjects are varied, sometimes emotional, often funny. You never know before you start to read if you’re going to laugh or cry… maybe both. As he explained, “I love to laugh. A lot. I find humor in almost everything, even this.”

At his talk at OU Law, Chastain began his presentation by empathizing with the students who would soon be looking for employment. In spite of the doom and gloom surrounding the current job market, he offered this advice to jobseekers, “There will always be a need for lawyers.”
He offered ten pieces of advice to the law students (see sidebar) and shared some of his legal employment experiences. Interviews with potential employers while still in law school didn’t go well for Chastain. He “kept not getting the job.” He graduated from law school without a job but eventually found employment with a small law firm of four attorneys who did oil and gas work. Chastain handled litigation. Although the salary was good, the job itself was “awful” and the small firm finally unraveled due to a variety of circumstances but largely because of the loss of the main client. The day after Christmas, it was announced that the firm was shutting down. Four days later Chastain, who was to be a first-time father in a few months, was out of work. Later, his former boss took his own life.

But Chastain rebounded, finding a job with another firm. With this job came a bigger paycheck. He handled the firm’s appeals. He really got into legal research and writing. Again, disaster struck. One of the firm’s partners died in a scuba diving accident while on vacation. Because he was the “glue that held the firm together,” his death ultimately led to the demise of the firm.

Next, Chastain went to work for the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner. He described his job there as “deposing mafia-types” and representing the Commissioner in legal proceedings. When the Insurance Commissioner “took over” the largest insurance company in the state, he was put in charge. Chastain was only 29 years old at the time. The time demands and pressure of the job were taking a toll. He was “burning out.”

He said he was thinking, “I don’t know if I can do this.” So he took a day off and went to the movies. When he got home, he wrote a review of the movie and submitted it to four newspapers, including The Norman Transcript. The Norman newspaper ran the review and his career as film critic began. Soon other newspapers followed.

Chastain decided he wanted to move more towards writing in his fulltime job, so his next position was writing legal opinions for the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. He still has that job. He is one
of two attorneys working for Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Gary Lumpkin. He refers to his current position as a “great job” and the “very essence of creative writing.”

With his job as a judicial assistant, Chastain’s professional life had settled. However, in 2001, at the age of 37, he noticed a tiny lump on his right arm. It turned out to be cancer—a very rare and aggressive form. The battle began. In 2004, his right arm was amputated as part of that battle. For three years, he was healthy and cancer was in the background of his life. However, in September 2007, cancer again claimed center stage. The diagnosis was colon cancer which had spread to his liver and lungs. Chastain describes his eight-year battle by saying, “Cancer came, went away … came back after about a year, then went away again. Then it came back and went away for the third time. Cancer hit me for the fourth time in 2004, and they (doctors) took my arm. After three years, cancer came roaring back for the fifth time, and it seems to have no plans to leave.”

Throughout this period, Chastain has continued writing—legal opinions, film reviews, poems, essays and screenplays. He’s also written three books. The first is his memoir, I Survived Cancer but Never Won the Tour de France, published in 2006. That same year, a book of poems, Like Some First Human Being, was also published. His second book of poems, Antidotes & Home Remedies, was published in the summer of 2008. He is currently working on another book as well as contributing to the Life is Real blog. He maintains an active schedule of speaking engagements including an important September 11, 2009 appearance in Houston at M.D. Anderson’s Cancer Survivor Conference in which he will lead one of the breakout sessions.

At the end of his appearance at the College of Law, Chastain read some of his poems. Many were humorous and sometimes the humor was wrapped around raw emotion. The final lines of my favorite, “On Remembering Poetry,” appear below.

No matter what I do, you won’t remember this poem. Even if I told you I know Elvis or that Jim Morrison lives in my basement, or that I’m the bastard child of Marilyn and JFK, or that the poem has a hidden code that reveals the secret of life, which it does, even if I stooped to making one line in the poem much too long, or adding an extra line in one stanza, it simply wouldn’t matter.

You won’t remember this poem. You won’t remember this poem. You won’t remember this poem. I’m not wearing any underwear. You won’t remember this poem.

This is where I live, hating chemo and loving it too. Happy some days, sad on others. Trying to tell you readers out there, as best I can, to go live your life, without sounding preachy or melodramatic.
The Telephone Call
Posted by jim chastain
on August 20, 2009 at 10:53 am

It had been a long, emotional day of tests at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

First blood work. Then a chest x-ray. Next, I had to gulp down two large bottles of banana-flavored barium contrast. Then an IV was inserted, followed by a chest CT scan. And to top it all off, a lot of waiting with nervous people.

Test days can be hard for anyone, but I think it’s especially difficult for one-armed people like me. There’s lot of changing clothes, putting on this, carrying that, i.e., tasks that I’m not particularly good at. It’s stressful, and matters of privacy aren’t the hospital’s primary concern.

Anyway, I’d managed to get through it once again, and I was standing downstairs in the lobby, waiting for my wife and son to pick me up in the car. They’d been out shopping while I did the lab rat thing.

As I was standing there waiting, a family walked up and took their place on a nearby sofa. A man of 60 years or so then took out his cell phone and made a call.

“Hey. It’s me… Yeah, we just got through visiting with the doctor… Get this. It’s good news. They couldn’t find any cancer on the scans…. That’s right. Mama won’t have to do any chemo for the next two months. Then we’ll come back and check her again.”

As I listened to this call, I found myself thinking about how much I’d give for news like that. Two months without chemo? That sounded like heaven. I mean, really. Sixty days without chemo sounded about as good as it gets.

I had been having chemo every two or three week for 22 months. I’d already endured 35 rounds of the stuff, only taking breaks for surgery or a few days of vacation.

I nearly lost it, standing there, considering what my life had become and the relentless nature of my chemo regimen. It had surely prolonged my life, and some of my greatest memories had resulted. But it was grueling all the same, and there was no end in sight.

This is where I live, hating chemo and loving it too. Happy some days, sad on others. Trying to tell you readers out there, as best I can, to go live your life, without sounding preachy or melodramatic.
First Annual OAWL Auction 1988

Native Peoples Collection Established 1991

OU College of Law Timeline 1985-1993

- Mark Gillett joins the College of Law 1987
- Lisa Bowles, Kathleen Guzman join the College of Law 1993
- Joyce Palomar joins the College of Law 1991
- First Annual OAWL Auction 1988

OU College of Law Timeline 1993-2001

- Sandra Sobrado joins the College of Law 1994
- First Law School Internet Connection and Web Site Established 1995
- Andrew M. Coats named the 11th Dean of the College of Law 1996
- Carl Ketner, Ginger Wetzel join the College of Law 1998
- Don Bogan, Elaine Bradshaw, Peter Kramer join the College of Law 1999
- 50th Anniversary and Ground-Breaking for Coats Hall 1999
- 300,000th Volume Added to Library 1996
- Lauren Bardgett, David Pears, Lindsay Robertson, Bill Smith join the College of Law 1997
- Steve Genisler, Meg Penrose, Steve Rice join the College of Law 2000
- First Online Application to Law School Accepted 1998
- Denise Sanchez, Tai Helton, Lisa Richter join the College of Law 2001
- Peter Goplerud named the 10th Dean of the College of Law 1998
- Larry Lanier, Joel Wegener join the College of Law 1996

OU College of Law Timeline 2002-2009

- Andrew M. Coats Hall Dedicated by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor 2002
- First Multimedia Classroom (3) Created 2002
- First Laptop Exam Offered, OKJOLT Established 2003
- Mary Sue Backus, Jonella Frank, Cindy Garrett, Don Pickel, Trudy Stickles, Connie Smedthermon, Mike Winstead join the College of Law 2004
- Brenda Barnes, Vishi Ferguson, Michelle Johnson, Brian McCull, Jon Self, Kathy Shahan, Cheryl Wolley join the College of Law 2005
- Darin Fox, Jennifer Gerish join the College of Law 2006
- Marcus Bivines, Bobbie Foster, Katie Griffin, Misty Hubbard, Jennifer Karr, Emily Moseal, Sarah Oltzowski join the College of Law 2007
- Stan Evans, Karen Houkley, Paige Osborn, Srinivasra Ragavan, Joe Ragan, Joe Thai join the College of Law 2003

OU College of Law Timeline 2002-2009

- Bettye Rust, Michelle Short join the College of Law 1999
- 90th Anniversary and Ground-Breaking for Coats Hall 1999
- 300,000th Volume Added to Library 1996
- OKJOLT Established 2003

Andrew M. Coats Hall Dedicated
By Justice Sandra Day O’Connor 2002

Compiled 2009 by Darin Fox with assistance from Ginger Wetzel, Marilyn Plotz, Jan Ragan, Carl Ketner, Kathy Shahan, David Swank, Dean Andrew M. Coats, Sandra Sobrado and others.
The project began in 1996. Its roots are founded in the Law Library’s commitment to be a repository of Indian Law. The University of Oklahoma has collected exhaustively in Indian law for many years. There is a large collection of Native American legal, historical, and cultural materials in its Native People’s Collection which also includes some world indigenous materials. Many of the titles in this collection can be checked out by the public. The collection was dramatically enhanced in 1991 by a major donation from Rennard Strickland.

In the 1990s the developing technology of the World Wide Web offered the Law Library a new opportunity to disseminate information. An e-mail discussion led us to consider mounting tribal constitutions on the web. The project was a one woman effort—me. Over the past 14 years I have selected materials to put online and, with the aid of a series of part-time student workers, I created the content of the web site as it now exists, a mixture of public domain and authored works. The technical issues of maintaining the web site are handled by the law school computing department.

In 1996 an informal agreement was entered into with the National Indian Law Library to provide the University of Oklahoma with constitutions to put online with the permission of the tribes. Later codes were added to the project. At that time the National Indian Law Library did not have the means to convert these documents to electronic format so a partnership was formed.

Today the National Indian Law Library (NILL) has an extensive collection of codes and constitutions on its web site. NILL also has many other materials including an updating feature for federal and state court cases, U.S. legislation and other current awareness information. The National Tribal Justice Resource Center web site also has extensive links to codes and constitutions. And of course, tribes themselves are publishing their law on their own web sites.

As other avenues for the availability of codes and constitutions evolved, the OU web page changed its focus to adding secondary resources in the public domain as well as materials by authors who gave permission to include their works. An early project was the digitizing of Cases and Materials on Problems in Land Allotted to American Indians by OU Law Professor Joseph Rarick. Professor Rarick was a pioneer in the development of law school curricula for teaching federal Indian law and his book consisted of unpublished course materials. His widow, Louise Rarick, gave me permission to make these materials available online. I have been told that this monograph is very useful to attorneys doing Indian title practice, particularly in Eastern Oklahoma.

Another monographic title is American Indian Territoriality by Imre Sutton. Imre Sutton is Professor Emeritus of Geography at California State Fullerton. This book is very interesting in that it includes many maps. Professor Sutton has written books and articles about the topic of Indian lands.

A major source of public domain materials came from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Government Documents De-
There is a section of the web site devoted to research guides. There are three guides now, one by Marilyn Nicely, one by Professor Lindsay Robertson of the OU College of Law and a link to Indian Law Research, a guide prepared by Mary Whisner at the Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington in Seattle.

dartment and consists of Indian Reorganization Act-era constitutions and charters which were created pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. These are often called “cookie cutter constitutions” because they are so similar to each other.

I felt that access to Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian, first edition, 1941 (which is in public domain) would be important as it was not available in many libraries and at that time had not been reprinted. It was too extensive to digitize so we purchased scanning software from Adobe Acrobat. This software created an image as well as underlying HTML so that it is searchable. However the PDF files were large so we broke down the chapters into small groups of pages for each file so that they hopefully could be opened even using telephone lines for connectivity.

Another major project was the digitization of the Opinions of the Solicitor of the Department of Interior Relating to Indian Affairs 1917-1974. These materials are useful in tracing the policies of the U.S. government toward Indians. Opinions of the Solicitor has been updated online and also is on Lexis and Westlaw.

Lisa Jaeger, Tribal Court Specialist for the Tanana Chiefs, is an author who gave permission to digitize her monograph, Tribal Court Development: Alaska Tribes published by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., in 2002. Besides being valuable to understand Alaskan indigenous issues, it also is interesting in the many comparisons made with the court systems of tribes in the “lower 48 states.”

There is a section of the web site devoted to research guides. There are three guides now, one by me, one by Professor Lindsay Robertson of the OU College of Law and a link to Indian Law Research, a guide prepared by Mary Whisner at the Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington in Seattle.

The most recent additions to the web site are documents pertaining to Tribal UCC. These have been contributed by Frederick Miller, Emeritus Professor of Law at OU and commissioner from Oklahoma to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

The Native American Constitutions and Law Digitization Project has files in two formats, PDF and HTML. While I have concerns about the permanence of HTML – I am not sure at this point in the history of the project about how to convert such a massive amount of data into a consistently structured format. My approach has always been to try to recapture the appearance of the printed page in the digitized product.

I think of the web site as a shared digital library. It began as an effort to make very practical, useful but fugitive material available online. Over the years it has evolved into a more scholarly site. To the extent that additional authored materials not in the public domain can be added, that is the direction I hope to pursue.
Julien Charles Monnet was born in Iowa and earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the State University of Iowa. After practicing law in North Dakota and Iowa, he earned a second law degree from Harvard University.

In 1909, after a year as professor at George Washington University Law School, Monnet was contacted about organizing a new law school at the University of Oklahoma and serving as the school’s first dean. Although dismayed at conditions he found on the Norman campus, he recognized that Oklahoma was one of the last places on the frontier in which a law school could be built from the ground up.

Monnet began with limited campus space and the university’s reluctance to invest in separate facilities for the law school. He helped his cause by becoming acting OU president in 1911. Taking matters into his own hands, he activated his students to lobby the legislature, events that eventually funded a separate law building. The building was named Monnet Hall.

The dean insisted upon academic excellence. At the time he founded the OU Law School, the average preparation for law students was low, only a high school diploma was required at most American law schools. When OU Law began, only 20 percent of AALS law schools had higher entrance requirements.

Monnet served as dean of OU Law for 42 years before his retirement in 1941. He was ably assisted by his wife, Helen Dubois Olton, who enjoyed entertaining university faculty members at formal dinner parties. “The Dean,” as Monnet was fondly called, watched nearly 1,500 law students graduate during the first decades of OU Law, from birth, to the first 60 students, to a student body of 300. Monnet was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1941.

On Easter Sunday, 1951, Monnet was looking at new construction at the law school building which bears his name when he fell into a hole and broke his hip. He died a few weeks later in an Oklahoma City hospital, on April 7, 1951.

In a tribute to The Dean in the Oklahoma Law Review, his colleague and friend, Professor John B. Cheadle, wrote: One trait of Dean Monnet’s stands out as an explanation of his success: it was that singleness of purpose that dominated each phase of his career. As a youth his dream was of a college education. Years later a new desire came to the fore: to crown a successful practice of the law with a notable career as a teacher of the law. But he did more than dream. His dreams took form in practical and purposeful efforts to realize each objective. With such persistent determination an ambition may be an irresistible force. The story of Dean Monnet’s life points the way to success for all youth and stamps him as a great man in the truest sense.
JOHN GAINES HERVEY  
(1941-1945)

John Gaines Hervey was born in Texas but moved with his family to Marlow, Oklahoma, in his childhood. He earned his B.A. degree in combined Arts and Sciences and Law from OU in 1923 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He achieved the Order of the Coif when he received his LL.B. from OU in 1925. He earned a Ph.D. in International Law at the University of Pennsylvania and taught the subject at that school before moving to Temple University Law School.

At Temple, Hervey moved up the ranks from professor to associate dean and served as dean of the Temple Law School from 1939 to 1941 when he replaced the retiring Dean Monnet at OU Law. His goal was to advance the high standards of excellence propounded by Monnet.

Hervey became dean a short time before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and America entered World War II. Faced with students leaving to join the military, Hervey battled to keep the law school alive. Hervey’s continued service to the bar in Oklahoma is legendary. He was secretary of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1946 and 1947 and president of the Phi Delta Phi International legal fraternity. He authored several books, including volumes on international law, constitutional law and public utilities. He was dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law from 1957 to 1968.

For two decades Hervey was an advisor to the Legal Education Section of the American Bar Association. In that role, he personally inspected many law schools and spent considerable time seeking the elimination of law schools not affiliated with universities and the merger of other law schools. His inspections carried great weight. When he called the University of Utah’s physical plant the worst of any law school in the nation, the state legislature took immediate action.

Hervey was editor of the Oklahoma Bar Journal and was known as a preeminent expert in legal education. He was instrumental in the change of law schools awarding juris doctor degrees, rather than bachelor of law degrees. He died in 1975.
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EARL SNEED, JR. (1950-1965)

Receiving his B.A. and LL.B. degrees from OU, Earl Sneed, Jr., earned his LL.M. and Doctor of Laws degree from Columbia University. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif. He practiced law in Tulsa from 1937 to 1940 and served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II. He earned a bronze star and retired at the rank of colonel.

Sneed joined the OU faculty in 1945 and became dean in 1950. He served as faculty representative to the Big Eight Conference for 10 years. He served two terms as mayor of Norman and was president of the Oklahoma Municipal League. In the announcement of his resignation as dean in 1965, Sneed pledged to spend the remainder of his days in supporting the College of Law. He said, “It is your school, and my school, and to that school we must all pledge our never-ending devotion and loyalty.”

After his tenure at OU Law, Sneed became president of one of the state’s largest banks, Liberty National Bank and Trust Company. He was a leader in cultural advancement in Oklahoma. He was president of the Oklahoma Symphony Society and served on the boards of the Oklahoma City Art Center, the Oklahoma Theater Center, and the Science and Arts Foundation of Oklahoma.

When scandal rocked the Oklahoma Supreme Court in the 1960s, Sneed was the leader of the movement for judicial reform. The heart of the reform was judicial selection and tenure, the establishment of a judicial nominating commission, and retention votes for judges of the state’s highest courts. The proposal became known as the “Sneed Plan.”

When Sneed died unexpectedly in 1979, Professor Maurice Merrill lauded his accomplishments, “Truly, Earl Sneed has left a great record of achievement and of benefit to the state and to the nation. We are deeply in his debt.”

W. PAGE KEETON (1946-1950)

W. Page Keeton was professor of law at the University of Texas when OU Regents hired him as dean of OU Law in 1946. He had served as assistant dean of the Texas law school from 1940 to 1942. During World War II, he was chief counsel of the petroleum branch of the Office of Price Administration. He assumed his dean’s responsibility at OU on September 1, 1946.

Keeton received his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Texas where he earned Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif honors. He was active in the state bar of Texas and served on the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools.

Under Keeton’s guidance, the large law classes made up primarily of returning veterans were accommodated at the law school. He interviewed and hired several additional faculty members. Under his direction, the Oklahoma Law Review was established in 1948. Keeton resigned as dean in June, 1949, when he was hired as dean of the University of Texas Law School.

Under Keeton’s guidance, the large law classes made up primarily of returning veterans were accommodated at the law school.

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One of history's foremost authorities on oil and gas law, Eugene O. Kuntz joined the OU faculty in 1952. Beginning in 1958, he taught half-time and was a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of McAfee, Dudley, Taft, Cates, Kuntz and Mark.

Widely known for his lectures and writings on oil and gas law, his *Kuntz on Oil and Gas* became the standard reference work in the field. He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, and earned a B.A. and LL.B. from Baylor University and a LL.M. from Harvard University in 1947.

He practiced law in Texas, served in the United States Navy during World War II, and was a member of the law faculty at the University of Wyoming before coming to OU. He served as dean of OU Law from 1965 to 1970. He was a gentleman and a scholar.

When Kuntz died in 1995, he was honored as the man who perhaps influenced oil and gas law more than any other person in history. His writings have been cited in more than 250 reported cases by courts in all major oil and gas producing states.

Kuntz ... was honored as the man who perhaps influenced oil and gas law more than any other person in history. His writings have been cited in more than 250 reported cases by courts in all major oil and gas producing states.

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EUGENE O. KUNTZ
(1965-1970)

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Kuntz scripted and orchestrated a triennial rotation of “pageants” for the faculty’s contributions. The pageant of water, in which water represented knowledge and was poured from one scholar’s cup to another through the ages until it reached the current student who inately spilled it and most of it was lost. The pageant of fire depicted the flame of knowledge passing from candle to candle, but the current student had no idea what it was for and blew it out.

The third pageant was the dramatization of Prosser’s *Lighthouse Him No Good for Fog*, a short reading reporting the observations of a coastal Native American. The lighthouse represented the teacher guiding the student. The fog represented the ignorance of students. Kuntz always read Prosser’s work with great vigor, a line at a time:

*Lighthouse, him no good for fog.*
*Lighthouse, him whistle,*
*him ring bell,*
*him flash light,*
*him raise hell;*
*but fog come in just the same.*
ROBERT R. WRIGHT, III
(1970-1976)

The OU Board of Regents named Robert R. Wright, III, dean of OU Law in April, 1970. A Texas native, Wright grew up in Arkansas and earned his B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of Arkansas, an M.A. from Duke University, and a doctor of judicial science degree from the University of Wisconsin.

After practicing law in Arkansas and serving as general counsel for large companies, he became a professor of law at the University of Arkansas in 1963. Wright authored several books, including law textbooks on land use, airspace and probate practice.

Before he came to OU, Wright directed a highway laws research project that resulted in the drafting of a new highway code for Arkansas.

Wright served as dean of OU Law until 1976 when he returned to a fulltime faculty position.

Wright authored several books, including law textbooks on land use, airspace and probate practice.

JAMES E. WESTBROOK
(1976-1980)

James E. Westbrook became dean of OU Law in August, 1976, just a month after the new OU Law Center was dedicated. He received his LL.B. from Duke University where he was editor of the Duke Law Journal. He was a member of the Order of the Coif and the Duke National Moot Court Team.

Westbrook practiced law at a major Little Rock, Arkansas, firm before becoming administrative assistant to United States Senator John L. McClellan. While in Washington, D.C., he earned an LL.M. in 1965 from Georgetown University. That same year, he joined the faculty of the University of Missouri. He was assistant dean of the Missouri Law School under the watchful eye of Joe Covington, one of the nation’s premier law school deans.

Osborne Reynolds was a professor who believed the Westbrook years at OU Law were a peaceful time in which new facilities were occupied and the faculty was given latitude to expand into research and writing. Reynolds said, “He recognized that professors like me needed some time to write. He gave me my big chance by suggesting that I write a textbook on local government law.”

Westbrook served as dean until 1980. In his resignation announcement, he said, “I have decided I would rather teach and write than serve as an administrator.”
Wayne E. Alley was a brigadier general in charge of 200 United States Army and civilian attorneys when he was appointed dean of OU Law in 1981. Alley earned his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Stanford University and was a member of Order of the Coif. After law school graduation, he was a judicial law clerk for the Supreme Court of Oregon. Before beginning his 29-year career in the Army, he practiced law in Oregon.

Alley had some contact with Oklahoma before he was named dean. He was stationed at Fort Sill for five years. During that time, he became acquainted with several OU Law faculty and wrote an article which was published in the Oklahoma Law Review.

Alley was the top ranking Army attorney in Europe when he applied for the dean’s job. He was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, and had served as a member of the faculty of the Judge Advocate General’s School and sat as a judge in the military court system. When Alley was appointed dean, OU President William S. Banowsky said, “We are confident General Alley is the person best qualified to lead our law school towards its goals of greater academic excellence and improved service to Oklahoma.”

Alley was dean of OU Law until 1985, when he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan as the fifth United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. He was nominated for a new position created when Congress added 61 federal judgeships across the country. At the time, the Western District had the highest case load per judge of any district in the nation.

David Swank was dean of OU Law from 1986 to 1993, except for a brief stint as interim OU President. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University in 1953, was an officer in the United States Army from 1953 to 1956, and received his J.D. from OU in 1959.

After private practice in Stillwater and serving as county attorney in Payne County, Swank joined the OU Law faculty in 1963 as assistant professor and OU legal counsel. He founded the law school’s Cleveland County Legal Aid Office in 1971 and was director of OU Clinical Education from 1971 to 1975. For 11 years, he was the faculty representative to the Big Eight Conference. He was vice president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association for seven years.

Swank drafted the Oklahoma Discovery Code which was approved by the Oklahoma legislature in 1982. He chaired Oklahoma Bar Association committees on legal internship, informative advertising and professional responsibility.

Swank was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1959 and is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the Oklahoma Bar Association and the American Inns of Court XXIII. He is a fellow of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation and a life member of the fellows of the American Bar Foundation. In 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 he was named by the students as the College of Law’s Outstanding Professor.
Peter Goplerud, III, a law professor at Southern Illinois University was chosen as OU Law’s tenth dean in 1993. At Southern Illinois, he taught environment law, land use law, energy development and sports law.

Goplerud earned his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Kansas. After law school, he served as law clerk to Justice David Prager of the Kansas Supreme Court. While a member of the Southern Illinois faculty, Goplerud wrote five books, including works on sports law and water rights.

He was an associate dean at Southern Illinois from 1985 to 1988 and interim dean of the law school from 1988 to 1990. When his appointment was announced by OU Regents in June, 1993, OU President Richard Van Horn said, “Dean Goplerud has demonstrated the vision and leadership to further OU Law’s standing as one of the finest colleges of law in the Southwest.” President Van Horn believed Goplerud was right for the job because his background in environmental law was significant for a university with such a vital involvement in energy development.

Dean Goplerud served as dean until July, 1996. He announced his resignation several months before the date to give OU Regents time to find a successor.
The OU Board of Regents looked no further than Oklahoma City to appoint Andrew M. “Andy” Coats dean of OU Law in 1996. An Oklahoma native and 1963 graduate of the law school, Coats was well known in the state. He was district attorney of Oklahoma County from 1976 to 1980 and mayor of Oklahoma City from 1983 to 1987. Over a span of 30 years, he was a principal of the state’s largest law firm, Crowe & Dunlevy.

Coats received his B.A. from OU in 1957, then served three years in the United States Navy as communications officer on the USS Princeton and naval advisor to the Republic of China. Discharged as a lieutenant, he returned to OU Law. He was president of Phi Delta Phi, executive secretary of the College of Law Association, president of the Student Bar Association, and an editor of the Oklahoma Law Review. He was selected by the Oklahoma Bar Association as the Outstanding Law Student in 1962.

Coats argued for OU before the United States Supreme Court in the landmark case that broke the NCAA’s exclusive control of televising and marketing collegiate sporting events. He also served as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He received Oklahoma’s highest honor, induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, in 2005.

When Coats became dean of OU Law, he became its advocate and identified three major challenges. He believed it was necessary to maintain adequate funding for the law school in the face of enrollment cutbacks, increase the school’s involvement with the Oklahoma bar and increase the amount of individual attention students receive in the classroom.

An announced goal of the Coat’s deanship was to increase the pride and good feelings that alumni had for their alma mater. He pledged to bring back class reunions, reunite alumni for law school socials in conjunction with major OU events such as home football games and “touch” alumni through personal contact.

In Coats’ first 13 years as dean, alumni involvement at OU Law is at an all-time high. The law school is on solid ground financially, the faculty is an impressive group of scholars and teachers, and the public is kept informed of the contributions and accomplishments of the faculty, students and alumni.

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Coats argued for OU before the United States Supreme Court in the landmark case that broke the NCAA’s exclusive control of televising and marketing collegiate sporting events.
RICHARD G. Mcgee, ’88, practices law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His practice focuses on tribal employment, gaming regulation and litigation. He has represented parties in numerous tribal, state and federal courts. As an engaging trainer in the tribal employment arena, McGee works with tribal governments and enterprises. He is also called upon to serve as hearing officer and investigator of employment-related matters. As assistant general counsel, he served the Prairie Island Indian Community which owns and operates Treasure Island Resort & Casino in southeast Minnesota, employing more than two thousand workers. Before joining the Prairie Island Indian Community, McGee spent a decade litigating business and employment cases as a lawyer at Arnold, Anderson & Dove in Minneapolis.

A Guide to Tribal Employment is a practical analysis of the law, policies and practices used by tribal government and tribal enterprise employers. This book focuses on the application of tribal, state and federal employment laws and applies tribal self-determination, sovereignty and immunity to the employment process. It addresses employment disputes, unique employment issues in tribal gaming and the unique policies used by tribal employers. The Guide’s question-answer format will help tribal administrators, human resources personnel and tribal leadership better understand the interesting and important questions relating to tribal employment.

“Richard McGee has taken a complex area of the law and turned it into an easy-to-read guide to tribal employment law that will be of value to attorneys, businesspersons, contractors, laborers and others who engage in business with Indian tribes and their many economic enterprises. Because Indian tribes are sovereign nations with the authority to enact and enforce their own laws, an examination of tribal employment law requires a broader examination than merely learning the rules that govern the employer-employee relationship in federal and state statutes. Mr. McGee writes a book, striking the appropriate balances between the various interests at stake while ensuring the sovereign status of Indian tribes as distinct governments, that is a must read for anyone interested in this complex and ever-changing area of the law.”—Honorable B. J. Jones, Director, Tribal Judicial Institute and Adjunct Professor, University of North Dakota School of Law
1930s
Frank O. Hamilton, ’39, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 70-Year Award.

1940s
Judge Don Barnes, ’49, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.
William N. Christian, ’49, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.
Val Ray Miller, ’49, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.
Judge William R. Saied, ’49, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.

1950s
William R. Burkett, ’50, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.
Tom P. Hamill, ’50, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 60-Year Award.
William G. Paul, ’56, was recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.
Harry E. Brown, Jr., ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
F. Page Dobson, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Marjorie P. Downing, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Gary F. Fuller, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Barry D. Mock, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Homer Paul, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Grey W. Satterfield, Jr., ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.
Barry R. Simms, ’59, received the Oklahoma County Bar Association 2009 50-Year Award.

1960s
Henry P. Rheinberger, ’61, has been recognized by Best Lawyers.
Dean Andrew M. Coats, ’63, announced his retirement as dean of the OU College of Law effective June, 2010. He will continue teaching at the College of Law.
John D. Hastie, ’64, has been named one of the “Best Lawyers in America” by Best Lawyers.
D. Kent Meyers, ’64, has been recognized by Best Lawyers.
James M. Sturdivant, ’64, of Gable-Gotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.
Sheppard F. Miers, Jr., ’66, of Gable-Gotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.
Robert M. Johnson, ’67, has been recognized by Best Lawyers.
E. Elaine Schuster, ’68, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.
James H. Hollohan, Jr., ’69, has been recognized by Best Lawyers.
John Pinkerton, ’69, has joined the Dallas law firm of Rose-Walker as a partner.

1970s
Robert D. Nelson, ’71, received the Oklahoma County Association 2009 Bobby G. Knapp Bar Leadership Award.
Terry W. Tippens, ’71, has been named “Oklahoma County Best Lawyers, Bet-The-Company Litigator of the Year” for 2009 by Best Lawyers.
Stephen R. Johnson, ’72, has become a partner in the firm of Holladay and Chilton, PLLC.
Ronald L. Ripley, ’72, has joined the firm of Hartzog, Conger, Cason and Neville.
Reuben Davis, ’73, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.
Curtis S. Fallgatter, ’73, has been selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America in the last two years, for criminal defense.
John F. McCormick, Jr., ’74, became an associate of Sherwood and Associates.
Larry Ottaway, ’74, has been elected to the Judicial Nominating Commission.
Steven W. Taylor, ’74, received a Regents’ Alumni Award, presented by the OU Board of Regents and the OU Alumni Association.
Judge David Barnett ’76, has retired after 21 years as associate district judge in Tillman County.
Eric R. King, ’76, of GableGotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.

Michael C. Wofford, ’77, joined the firm of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel and Andersen, L.L.P.

Don Work, ’78, has been appointed as associate district judge for Woodward County.

Graydon Dean Luthey, Jr., ’79, has been has been ranked Band 1 in Native American Law by the 2009 edition of Chambers USA.

1980s

Paul Boudreaux, ’80, has joined the Richardson Law Firm.

John R. Morris, ’80, has joined the firm of Gungoll, Jackson, Collins, Box, and Devoll, P.C.

Stephen Beam, ’82, became an associate of Sherwood and Associates and was elected to the Judicial Nominating Committee, OBA.

Chris Ross, ’82, received the David Moss Memorial Award for Outstanding Oklahoma District Attorney of 2009 from the Oklahoma District Attorney’s Association.

N. Dean Hawkins, ’83, has published Texas Trusts & Clauses with James Publishing, Inc.

Kieran D. Maye, ’85, received the Oklahoma City Bar Association 2009 Professional Service Award.

J. Ray Oujesky, ’85, has joined Chesapeake Energy Corporation as Senior Attorney in its Fort Worth, TX office.

John E. Miley, ’86, received the Oklahoma City Bar Association 2009 Pro Bono Award.

John D. Robertson, ’86, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.

Mark VanLandingham, ’86, has joined the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce as vice president of government relations.

Dennis C. Cameron, ’87, of GableGotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.

Jeffrey D. Hassell, ’87, of GableGotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.

Rob F. Robertson, ’87, of GableGotwals has been named to the 2010 edition of Best Lawyers.

Scott A. Law, ’88, as been named as civil litigator by Conner & Winters in its Oklahoma City office.

Marchi C. McCartney, ’88, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.

Sarah E. Hansel, ’89, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.

Timothy S. Posey, ’89, has been ranked Band 2 in Native American Law by the 2009 edition of Chambers USA.

1990s

Jill Weedon, ’92, has been appointed Custer County associate district judge.

D. Mike McBride III, ’93, was presented the Award for Distinguished Service by the Federal Bar Association at the 34th Annual Indian Law Conference.

Tracy Speck Neisent, ’93 completed the requirements for recertification as a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation.

Andrew Ingrum, ’96, has been named to the Texas Rising Stars 2009 list.

Ryan Adams, ’97, has joined Southeastern Oklahoma State University as director of development.
Robert J. “Bob” Ross, ’99, received a Regents’ Alumni Award, presented by the OU Board of Regents and the OU Alumni Association.

2000s

Lee Peoples, ’00, was appointed director of the Oklahoma City University Law Library.

Geren Steiner, ’00, has joined the law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy.

J. Craig Buchan, ’02, has become a partner in the firm of Atkinson, Haskins, Nellis, Brittingham, Gladd and Carwile.

Jodi Jayne, ’02, has received the Golden Rule Award from the Tulsa County Bar Association.

Celeste T. Johnson, ’02, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.

Joni Paul Kleinschmidt, ’02, has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Shiela D. Stinson, ’02, is a 2009 “Achievers under 40” honoree, awarded by the Journal Record.

Michael D. Tupper, ’02, has been named special judge for Cleveland County.

Stanley L. Evans, ’03, has been selected to receive the Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership Award for 2009.

Courtney M. Wolin, ’03, has joined the law firm of Glass-Wilkin P.C. in their Tulsa office.


Courtney M. Wolin, ’03, has joined the law firm of Glass-Wilkin P.C. in their Tulsa office.

John J. Griffin III, ’05, has joined Hartzog, Conger, Cason and Neville.

John Veazey, ’05, has been elected vice president of the Carter County Bar Association.

Marie E. Gonzalez, ’06, has been recognized for Leadership in Law by the Journal Record.

Johnathan L. Rogers, ’06, has joined the law firm of Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, P.C. in their Tulsa office.


Elizabeth Prykryl, ’07 was honored by the Journal Record as an Achiever Under 40.


Claudia Kovan, ’08, has joined Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. in the Enid office.

Michael Martin, ’08, has joined the law firm of Martin, Jean and Jackson.

Micah T. Zomer, ’08, has joined the law firm of Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold.

Ashleigh Leiann Bogg, ’09, and Anthony Grant Everett, ’09, were married in August, 2009.

Jenna Estes, ’09, married Gary Owens, August 8, 2009.

Elizabeth Frame, ’09, and Christopher Ellison, ’09, were married May 30, 2009.

Matt Gile, ’09, married Julianna Gutierrez, July 18, 2009


Kristin Taylor, ’09, married Brett Munson, September 6, 2009
1960s
Mary Bailey Romaine, ’64, died April 17, 2009 in Tulsa. Romaine became the first female county/associate district judge in Okmulgee County and was also the first female Okmulgee city attorney.

Max Allan Martin, ’69, died May 14, 2009 in Comanche. Martin was an oil and gas attorney at Kerr-McGee Oil Company in Oklahoma City and subsequently served as a law clerk for Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice William A. Berry before pursuing his dream of opening a small town law practice.

1970s
Sally Rae Merkle Mock, ’73, passed away on February 14, 2009. While at McAfee and Taft, Mock was the first female member and chairperson of the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners and was a cofounder of the Oklahoma Committee to Promote Women's Health.

Mary Martha Bruehl, ’79, passed away on March 16, 2009 in Norman. A former Junior Miss Oklahoma, she earned a Masters in Speech Pathology in addition to her juris doctorate.

1980s
Robert O. DuPriest, ’85, died April 26, 2009 in Tulsa. A former city attorney in Muskogee and former city attorney of both Sapulpa and Mounds, Oklahoma, DuPriest practiced with the law firm of Holloway and Montgomery in Tulsa.

2000s
Anastasia (Anna) Louise Cesario, ’05, died July 12, 2009 in Norman. Cesario was a member and former vice-president of the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law. She was the top online fundraiser for Norman Relay for Life and was an active member of HOPE of Oklahoma.

Thomas D. Haines, Jr., ’82, who passed away in 2008, was posthumously honored by the State Bar of New Mexico for exceptional service to the public and the legal professional. Haines received the Justice Pamela B. Minner Professionalism Award, the most prestigious award given by the State Bar, at their annual meeting in July. The award recognizes attorneys or judges who, over long and distinguished legal careers, have, by their ethical and personal conduct, exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism. The State Bar honored Haines’ memory with this special award in recognition of his exemplary career and dedication to the New Mexico Chaves County Bar Association, his community, and the legal profession.
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We are always interested in hearing from you. If you have news of career advancement or change, professional accomplishments or activities, marriages, births, changes in address, or any other news, please share it with us.

Alumni News and Address Changes

www.law.ou.edu/alumni
e-mail: Alumni@law.ou.edu Call: (405) 325-0501

Andrew M. Coats Hall, 2002-present
Rick Tepker has been a member of the OU Law faculty since 1981. He teaches courses in the areas of Constitutional Law and Equal Employment Opportunity. He currently serves as Associate Dean for Research.

In 1987, the United States Supreme Court appointed Tepker as counsel for petitioner, an indigent juvenile sentenced to death, in Thompson v. Oklahoma, 487 U.S. 815 (1988). It was the first case in which an American court overturned a death sentence on constitutional grounds because the condemned was too young at the time of the crime.

In 1988-89, he served as professor-in-residence for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which he represented in litigation before the Supreme Court concerning university academic freedom and pension plans under the federal age discrimination statute. Prior to joining the OU Law faculty, he practiced law for five years with the Los Angeles firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher. In 1998-99, Professor Tepker served as secretary for the ABA Section on Labor and Employment Law.

In 2004, Professor Tepker became the historian for the newly-organized Tenth Circuit Historical Society. In 1994, he had published biographical essays on the appellate court judges in a history funded by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. In 1993, Professor Tepker won the University of Oklahoma Regents Award for Superior Teaching. In academic year 1996-97, Professor Tepker served as the Chair of the University of Oklahoma Faculty Senate. Professor Tepker is a 1973 graduate of Claremont Men’s College. He earned his law degree in 1976 from Duke University.

Professor Steve Knippenberg joined the Law Faculty in 1990, and was named Floyd and Martha Norris Chair in Law in 2005. At the College of Law, Professor Knippenberg teaches Commercial Law, Bankruptcy, and Contracts. In addition, he has taught in those substantive areas as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of Illinois College of Law.

Professor Knippenberg is an active Bankruptcy and Commercial Law scholar. He has published scholarly articles on those subjects in some of the country’s leading journals, including NYU, University of Michigan, the University of Virginia, and Northwestern law reviews. Prior to joining the University of Oklahoma law faculty, Professor Knippenberg was an Associate Professor at the University of Toledo College of Law. Before entering the academic community, he was an attorney for Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas.

Professor Mark R. Gillett, who joined the OU law faculty in 1987, teaches Wealth Transfer Taxation, Wills and Trusts, Estate Planning, and Fiduciary Income Tax.

Gillett was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1978 and practiced law and was a partner in Stanley, Lande and Hunter, a firm in Muscatine, Iowa, prior to joining the faculty.

For years, he was the author of estate practice software which was originally published by Shepard’s/McGraw-Hill in 1985 and subsequently published by the West Group. He recently released the Gillett Estate Management Suite which prepares federal estate and gift tax returns and fiduciary accountings.

He also has also written articles relating to the federal estate tax and the administration of estates and trusts.
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OKLAHOMA LAW REVIEW

Centennial Issue

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Vice-Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, with Bob Burke member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame

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Robert Henry
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Julian C. Monnet
Former Dean of the OU College of Law

Rick Tepker
Professor, OU College of Law

Cheryl Wattley
Professor, OU College of Law

with a forward and introduction by Andrew M. Coats
Dean of the OU College of Law

Even if you do not currently receive the Oklahoma Law Review, you have the opportunity to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime issue.

The Centennial Issue will feature articles by a wide range of scholars and prominent OU Law alumni celebrating the law school's rich history and its impact on the state and nation.

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OKLAHOMA
A History
By W. David Baird and Danney Goble
University of Oklahoma Press

The product of two of Oklahoma’s foremost authorities on the history of the 46th state, Oklahoma: A History is the first comprehensive narrative to bring the story of the Sooner State to the threshold of its centennial.

From the tectonic formation of Oklahoma’s varied landscape to the recovery and renewal following the Oklahoma City bombing, this readable book includes both the well-known and the not-so-familiar of the state’s people, events and places. W. David Baird and Danney Goble offer fresh perspectives on such widely recognized history makers as Sequoyah, the 1889 Land Run and the Glenn Pool oil strike. But they also give due attention to Black Seminole John Horse, Tulsa’s Greenwood District, Coach Bertha Frank Teague’s 40-year winning streak with the Byng Lady Pirates and other lesser-known but equally important milestones. The result is a rousing, often surprising, and ever-fascinating story.

Oklahoma history is an intricate tapestry of themes, stories and perspectives, including those of the state’s diverse population of American Indians, the land’s original human occupants. An appendix provides suggestions for trips to Oklahoma’s historic places and for further reading. Enhanced by more than 40 illustrations, including 11 maps, this definitive history of the state ensures that experiences shared by Oklahomans of the past will be passed on to future generations.

“The best history of Oklahoma available. Written by two preeminent scholars in the history of the American West, it combines deathless scholarship with an engaging, highly entertaining style of writing.”—L. G. Moses, author of Wild West Show and the Images of American Indians, 1883-1933

THE FBI
A History
By Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones
Yale University Press

This fast-paced history of the FBI presents the first balanced and complete portrait of the vast, powerful, and sometimes bitterly criticized American institution. Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, a well-known expert on U.S. intelligence agencies, tells the bureau’s story in the context of American history. Along the way he challenges conventional understandings of that story and assesses the FBI’s strengths and weaknesses as an institution.

Jeffreys-Jones traces the origin of the bureau to the 1870s, when Congress acted in response to the Ku Klux Klan campaign of terror against black American voters. The character and significance of the FBI derive from this original mission, the author contends.

The book makes a number of surprising observations: that the role of J. Edgar Hoover has been exaggerated and the importance of attorneys general underestimated, that splitting counterintelligence between the FBI and the CIA in 1947 was a mistake, and that xenophobia impaired the bureau’s preemptive anti-terrorist powers before and after 9/11. The author concludes with a fresh consideration of today’s FBI and the increasingly controversial nature of its responsibilities.

“This new book takes its place proudly on the small shelf of outstanding studies of America’s top agency for domestic law enforcement, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism. With this insightful, lucidly written, and exhaustively researched examination of the Bureau, the author has managed to match his highly regarded earlier books on the Central Intelligence Agency.”—Loch Johnson, author of Seven Sins of American Foreign Policy (Loch Johnson)
ALONG THE TEXAS FORTS TRAIL
By B.W. Aston & Donathan Taylor

This is a historical account, adventure story and travel guide all in one. With driving directions, places to eat and sleep, and points of interest along the way, this book is a resource for anyone planning to tour the forts along this historic trail. Established to defend against the Comanches, Kiowas, Apahes and Lipans, the forts provide a glimpse into U.S. history. Stretching from Fort Richardson near Jacksboro in the north to Fort McKavett near Menard in the middle of the state, anyone interested in this slice of Texas’s past will find this book an essential guide.

University of North Texas Press

MURDER ON THE WHITE SANDS
The Disappearance of Albert and Henry Fountain
By Corey Recko

This is the ‘ultimate’ Pat Garrett/A.J. Fountain, West Texas/Southern New Mexico book. I have never seen such a beautifully researched piece. This is the kind of book I wish I had written.”—Leon Metz, author of Pat Garrett and John Wesley Hardin

This is the most comprehensive examination of all the evidence I’ve ever seen.”—Frederick Nolan, author of The Lincoln County War and The West of Billy the Kid

University of North Texas Press

FORTY YEARS A LEGISLATOR
By Elmer Thomas

Elmer Thomas (1876-1965) became one of Oklahoma’s first state senators in 1907. This memoir chronicles his long career and offers a wealth of information on people and events that helped shape the development of the state and the course of American history. Thomas was involved with financing the construction of public works. As a member of the U.S. Congress, he made it his business to understand the Federal Reserve System, and as the farm crisis of the 1920s worsened during the Great Depression, he consistently argued for inflating the currency to stimulate the economy—a struggle that became central to his career and that he eventually won.

University of Oklahoma Press

CHOCTAWS IN OKLAHOMA
From Tribe to Nation, 1855-1970
By Clara Sue Kidwell

This book traces the history of the Choctaw’s efforts to retain and expand their rights and to reassert tribal sovereignty in the late twentieth century. Tribal politicians quickly learned to use the rhetoric of dependency on the government, but they also demanded justice in the form of fulfillment of their treaty rights, and as a nation they confronted the government as a legal adversary to achieve their goals. The Choctaws have adroitly negotiated with the United States and created the Choctaw Nation that exists today.

University of Oklahoma Press

INSURGENCY, TERRORISM, AND CRIME
Shadows from the Past and Portents for the Future
By Max G. Manwaring

The power to make war no longer rests solely in the hands of traditional governments. Manwaring analyzes the context, conduct and outcome of today’s irregular wars and applies proven methods of effective response to seven case studies. This book translates the cogent lessons of recent events into workable strategies for tomorrow’s leaders. It is required reading for students of national security policy and foreign-policy analysis.

University of Oklahoma Press

HARPSONG
By Rilla Askew

“Set in Depression-era Oklahoma, Askew’s novel presents the best and worst of humanity in its depiction of hardscrabble lives lived during the Dust Bowl. Sharon Thompson is only 14 when cocksure wanderer Harlan Singer steals her heart. The pair hop freight trains all around the heartland, earning pennies with Harlan’s miraculous and captivating harmonica skills. They encounter greedy authorities and kind strangers, including a run-in with some railroad police that almost kills Harlan, changing their lives forever. Askew’s command of language is a pleasure, bringing out the pain and wonder of her story with a bittersweet immediacy.”—Publisher’s Weekly

University of Oklahoma Press
BOOKS

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE GREAT PLAINS INDIANS
By David J. Wishart (Editor)

“The entries in the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains Indians are well written and informative. . . . [They] succeed in the editor’s quest to show what the Native peoples of that region have endured, what they have accomplished and how they have remained central to life on the Great Plains. This is a quality publication that scholars and aficionados of American Indian history and cultures and Great Plains and Oklahoma histories will want to read and own.”—John D. May, Chronicles of Oklahoma
University of Nebraska Press

AMERICAN INDIANS AND STATE LAW
Sovereignty, Race, and Citizenship, 1790-1880
By Deborah A. Rosen

This book examines the history of state and territorial policies, laws and judicial decisions pertaining to Native Americans from 1790 to 1880. Belying the common assumption that Indian policy and regulation in the United States were exclusively within the federal government’s domain, Rosen reveals how states and territories extended their legislative and judicial authority over American Indians during this period.
University of Nebraska Press

POLICE INTERROGATION AND AMERICAN JUSTICE
By Richard A. Leo

Crime units have developed sophisticated interrogation methods that rely on persuasion, manipulation and deception to move a subject from denial to admission, serving to shore up the case against him. Ostensibly aimed at uncovering truth, the structure of interrogation requires that officers act as an arm of the prosecution. An important study of the criminal justice system, this book raises unsettling questions. How should police be permitted to interrogate when society needs both crime control and due process? How can order be maintained yet justice served?
Harvard University Press

THE MIRACLE CASE
Film Censorship and the Supreme Court
By Laura Wittern-Keller and Raymond J. Haberski Jr.

“An important milestone in the history of America’s ‘cultural wars,’ the Supreme Court’s 1951 decision in Burstyn v. Wilson deserves to be told in greater detail than previously provided by general histories of film censorship. Thanks to Wittern-Keller and Haberski that has now been accomplished.”—Gregory D. Black, author of Hollywood Censored: Morality Codes, Catholics, and the Movies
University Press of Kansas

GENERAL ASHCROFT
Attorney at War
By Nancy V. Baker

“Baker’s nuanced study significantly expands our understanding of the career of this controversial attorney general and of the Bush administration’s conception of executive powers. . . . Offers invaluable insights into the politics and priorities of the post-9/11 Justice Department.”—Athan Theoharis, author of The FBI and American Democracy: A Brief Critical History
University Press of Kansas

THE MICHIGAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CASES
By Barbara A. Perry

Perry’s compelling study helps us understand why affirmative action remains one of our most hotly contested issues. “An excellent book and a high-quality addition to the literature on affirmative action and higher education. Easy to read and comprehend, it will be required reading in my class—Legal Issues in Higher Education—and could well become a common addition to law school coursework and education and/or policy graduate programs across the nation.”—M. Christopher Brown II, author of The Quest to Define College Desegregation
University Press of Kansas
GRAPPLING WITH DEMON RUM
The Cultural Struggle over Liquor in Early Oklahoma
By James E. Klein

Well before Prohibition in 1919, Oklahoma was dry. Oklahomans banned liquor at their state’s inception in 1907 and maintained the ban even after the repeal of national prohibition. A cultural and social history of liquor in early Oklahoma, Grappling with Demon Rum provides a fresh look at crusaders against vice at the regional level. In portraying this conflict between middle- and working-class definitions of social propriety, Klein provides new insight into forces at work throughout America during the Progressive Era.
University of Oklahoma Press

THE ZONING OF AMERICA
Euclid v. Ambler
By Michael Allan Wolf

When the Cleveland suburb of Euclid first zoned its land in 1922, the Ambler Realty Company sued. What emerged was the seminal zoning case in American history, pitting private property advocates in the Supreme Court and raising the question of whether a municipality could deny property owners the right to use their land however they chose.

"After 80 years, Euclid v. Ambler is still the case that defines American land use jurisprudence. Wolf tells a great story, brilliantly showing the intersection of law, politics, and culture."—Lance Liebman, William S. Beinecke Professor of Law, Columbia University

University Press of Kansas

THE SODOMY CASES
Bowers v. Hardwick and Lawrence v. Texas
By David A. J. Richards

These cases show a Supreme Court ready to take seriously the idea that homosexuals have human rights—and that these rights are the basis of judicially enforceable constitutional rights. Richards’s book offers students and general readers new insight into the practice and theory of constitutional law.

“No Supreme Court decision has had greater impact on gay men and lesbians than Lawrence. Richards manages to explain not only Lawrence but also the longer history of jurisprudence on privacy and sexuality.”—John D’Emilio, coauthor of Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America

University Press of Kansas

BLACK GUN, SILVER STAR
The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves
By Art T. Burton

“The African-American presence in Wild West history has been severely underrepresented. This book is a painstaking account of U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves. Rigorous and impartial, Burton is less concerned with entertainment than faithful research—no small task given the Old West’s diverse and troubled racial climate, in which black accomplishment often went overlooked. Readers will become acquainted with a brave, resourceful lawman and the patchwork of homesteaders, murderers, horse thieves and bootleggers he governed.”—Publishers Weekly

University of Nebraska Press

AMERICAN INDIAN LAW DESKBOOK
Fourth Edition
Conference of Western Attorneys General

Recently revised in 2004, this book is a comprehensive treatise providing readers with the necessary historical, factual and legal framework to understand the complexities of dealing with Indian lands. The Deskbook remains the most current and useful reference work in American Indian law.

The 2005 Supplement reviews all decisions issued prior to July 2005, updates federal statutes and administrative regulations through July 2005, and updates law review articles through spring 2005.

University of Colorado Press

THE CHIRICAHUA APACHE PRISONERS OF WAR
Fort Sill 1894-1914
By John Anthony, Jr. Turcheneske

A significant but often forgotten chapter in U.S. history is the period of captivity endured by the Chiricahua Apaches following Geronimo’s final surrender. Nearly 400 Chiricahuas were uprooted and exiled, held hostage by the conflicting interests of the War Department and the Interior Department, as well as southwestern economic and political expediency. This is the first book of its kind to explore in depth this segment of the Chiricahuas’ history. It will be of great interest to scholars in Native American studies, military studies and western history.

University of Nebraska Press
Take a rest stop in Clinton and visit the Cherokee Trading Post with its painted plywood Indian chief out front and the live buffalo in the field outside. While you are in town you might want to check out the “Elvis Stayed Here” Motel. Weatherford is home to the first of two Route 66 Museums. It features lots of 1950s nostalgia including a retro neon sign, a bright red ’57 Chevy in the window and a restored vintage diner.

The final stop on this trip is the National Route 66 Museum in Elk City. It has memorabilia from by-gone days, and the outside has been built to resemble stores that graced the main streets of America in decades gone by. Visitors engage in a virtual journey through all eight states along Route 66 which is sometimes called “The Mother Road.” Beginning in Chicago and ending in California, murals and vignettes depict various sights and interesting stops that made Route 66 famous. All this is narrated by recordings of historical accounts and personal memories from overhead kiosks. The Route 66 Museum is part of a complex that also houses Old Town Museum and the Farm and Ranch Museum.

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**Cherokee Nation**

_Tahlequah to Sallisaw via OK 82 and I-40_

Tahlequah is in the heart of Cherokee Nation in the Cookson Hills on the edge of the Ozarks and Sallisaw is in the Arkansas River valley. Along the way the drive passes through the Arkoma Basin which is rich farm and cattle land. Also the trial passes through rolling hills covered here and there with oak and hickory forests. It’s easy to imagine the bison that once grazed the savannahs hunted by the Osage and Caddo Indians who once lived there before being pushed out by European descendants. Today you can visit the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, fish in Robert S. Kerr Lake and Lake Tenkiller and visit historically interesting attractions like Sequoyah’s Home Site, the Cherokee Courthouse Historic Site, the Murrell Home, the Cherokee National Museum and Cherokee Capitol Building. There are many beautiful scenic views and if you plan to stay a little while there are hiking trails, camp sites, swimming holes and plenty of good fishing spots.

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**Heavener Runestone**

_Heavener north to Poteau on U.S. 59_

This byway takes you south from Heavener with its mysterious rune stone and then snakes through the 26,445-acre Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area ending with the Black Fork Wilderness Area. There are many side roads and places to explore the mountain forests. Especially beautiful for an autumn foliage tour, it is also not to be missed when the spring wildflowers are in bloom. Keep an eye out for white tailed deer, wild turkeys, rabbits, squirrels—even black bears!

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**Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge**

_Guthrie to Great Salt Plains_

This trip begins in Guthrie. You can spend a lot of time in Guthrie because there is so much to see there. Beautiful Victorian architecture transports you to the Territorial past. A professional theatre, carriage rides, trolley cars, and delightful bed and breakfasts await you. There also are plenty of antique dealers, art galleries and museums.

Follow I-35 north to Perry and the Cherokee Strip Museum, which focuses on the history of the Cherokee Outlet with many artifacts and programs. It also has an extensive archive of photographs, providing a glimpse of life in 19th century Oklahoma.

Continue north and turn west onto OK 11 and then turn north onto OK 11A to Wakita to visit the Twister Museum. The movie _Twister_ was filmed in and around town. The museum has one of the Dorothy machines, some props, many pictures of the filming, as well as a Twister pinball machine donated by Bill Paxton.

Travel back south to OK 11 and then west to OK 38 and south to Great Salt Plains which was constructed in the 1930s to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. This wildlife refuge covers 32,000 acres and features open water, wetlands, prairies, woodlands and farm fields. Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge Selenite Crystal Dig Area was reopened in April, 2009 and digging for these beauties is worth the trip. Great Salt Plains is the only spot in the world where visitors can dig for the hourglass shaped crystals, a rare and fragile form of selenite, which is a form of gypsum.
**Dry Cimarron Byway**  
**Western Oklahoma from Keyes to Black Mesa State Park**

The Dry Cimarron Byway is in Cimarron County out in the Panhandle. Begin east of Keyes at U.S. 56 traveling west through Boise City, then on OK 325 through Kenton to the Oklahoma/New Mexico state line and Black Mesa State Park.

The Panhandle region of Oklahoma is a testimony to the state's geological diversity. The region provides many opportunities for individuals or families to enjoy the great outdoors and take advantage of recreational activities that will bring them closer to wild nature. Throughout the drive the Cimarron Byway is a kaleidoscope of habitats, geology, and history. So whether you're just looking to reflect and take a break from the fast-paced world or looking for your next great adventure, the Cimarron Byway is a fascinating destination.

**Spiro Mounds**  
**OK 9, Spiro**

The mounds at Spiro, Oklahoma, are among the most important archaeological remains in the United States. A remarkable collection of artifacts from the mounds shows that prehistoric Spiro people created a sophisticated culture which influenced the entire Southeast. There was an extensive trade network, a highly developed religious center and a political system which controlled the region. Located on a bend of the Arkansas River, the site was a natural gateway between societies to the east and the west, a gateway at which Spiro people exerted their influence. Yet much of the Spiro culture is still a mystery, including the reasons for the decline and abandonment of the site.

**Quartz Mountain Scenic Route**  
**Elk City to Quartz Mountain via U.S. 283**

Begin in Elk City. Before you leave town take time to visit the historic Carnegie Library downtown which was built by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation in 1915. Then head south on OK 6 through the lonesome arid badlands with rolling hills and stunning vistas. Take time to jog west to Mangum and visit the Old Greer County Museum which is filled with photos and memorabilia of the early pioneers and the communities where they lived. The museum houses artifacts that commemorate people, places and things from before Statehood. Then travel east on U.S. 283 to Quartz Mountain where you can enjoy hiking trails, horseback riding, rock climbing, camping, fishing and bird watching.
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