Accolades

NO. 1
IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Highest ranking ever achieved by an Oklahoma law school
in U.S. News & World Report rankings

NO. 4
“BEST QUALITY OF LIFE”
By The Princeton Review

NO. 11
MOOT COURT PROGRAM
By The Blakely Advocacy Institute

6
SIX CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS OKLAHOMA’S
“BEST VALUE” LAW SCHOOL
By National Jurist
Dear Friends,

Thanks to our alumni and friends, the University of Oklahoma College of Law is flourishing. While our alumni and friends know how special the College of Law is, it is heartening to see how many others are recognizing it. Our cover features a few, recent national accolades. While outside recognition is appreciated, our measure of success is ultimately and always the success of our students.

This issue of Sooner Lawyer celebrates people and programs that impact the College of Law. Our feature story includes a visit by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on February 6. She delivered her address in the stunning surroundings of the Dick Bell Courtroom, and engaged in a question and answer session with our students. She completed the day by serving as the featured guest at President David Boren’s President’s Associates Dinner in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. It was a thrill to host a living legend – a person who has been frequently referred to as “the most influential woman in America.”

A cornerstone of the legal profession is service – not only at home, but around the world. Multiple programs provide students the opportunity to gain global perspective, increase understanding of the rule of law, obtain a deeper appreciation of the ability to serve others, and enhance understanding of the human condition. I am certain you will enjoy this piece on international programs offered at OU Law and highlighted on page 8.

The College of Law’s most established study abroad program reached a major milestone this summer. The Oxford Summer program celebrated its 40th anniversary this July and continues as the oldest American summer legal program in Oxford. In celebration of this milestone, OU Law alumni joined the students for the opening week of the program. We celebrated at a high table dinner, took a Thames River Boat Cruise, participated in engaging CLE programs, and enjoyed a “Legal London” tour that concluded with the viewing of a session of the House of Lords with Baroness Nicholson. We look forward to sharing the memories with you on page 24.

OU Law deeply appreciates the role each of you play in making it one of the nation’s premier public law schools. We hope you will continue to be a part of our success.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz Jr.
Dean and Professor
Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law
Sandra Day O’Connor spends the day at OU

Global experiences and learning: A cornerstone to a complete legal education

Legal education opens door to international careers

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The Oxford Experience 40th Anniversary Celebration

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Sandra Day O’Connor spends the day at OU

BY JONELLA FRANK

Former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman appointed to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, shared an intriguing glimpse of character-molding life experiences during two special events on the University of Oklahoma campus on February 6.

In the morning, O’Connor delivered the 12th annual Henry Lecture at the OU College of Law during a large, yet intimate gathering in the Dick Bell Courtroom. Often described as the most influential woman in America, O’Connor participated in a “fireside chat” with OU Law Dean Joe Harroz and 1977 OU Law alumnus and Oklahoma City University President Robert Henry.

O’Connor, who served on the nation’s highest court from 1981 to 2006, and came to be known for her pragmatic, common sense approach to deciding cases, entertained the audience with her responses to questions posed by Harroz and Henry. Students, faculty, staff and guests packed the courtroom and overflowed into the viewing room and Kerr Student Lounge to witness the event.
That evening, O’Connor was featured at an OU President’s Associates Dinner in Oklahoma Memorial Union. Again, her appearance drew a great crowd. The Norman Transcript reported her appearance on campus marked one of the largest audiences ever at an OU President’s Associates Dinner.

This was not O’Connor’s first appearance at OU. She previously visited the College of Law in 1988 as a speaker in the Enrichment Series, in April 2002 for the dedication of the renovated building, and then again in January 2008, during the activities surrounding Henry’s investiture ceremony as chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

“This was an incredible occasion for OU Law students to hear from the first female Supreme Court justice and one of the greatest jurists of our time. Students had the unique opportunity to ask questions directly to Justice O’Connor, and she responded with remarkable candor, insight and personality,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Students called her their ‘hero,’ ‘role model’ and ‘inspiration.’ We are honored that she chose to spend time with us and reaffirm to our students the benefits of their legal education.”

In addition to hundreds of Supreme Court opinions, O’Connor has authored five books. She collaborated with her brother H. Alan Day to write Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest in 2002. The following year brought O’Connor’s The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice. Next, she turned to writing children’s books and published Chico in 2005 and Finding Susie in 2009. Her most recent book, Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court, was released in 2013.
Some of the questions Harroz and Henry asked were based on her writings. The students, faculty, staff and guests in the audience were not disappointed. The story of the first woman on the highest court of the United States slowly unfolded as the question-and-answer session proceeded.

Sandra Day O’Connor was born March 26, 1930, in El Paso, Texas, 200 miles east of her family’s home, the Lazy B Ranch, founded by her grandfather in 1880. The sprawling 250-square-mile cattle ranch was situated in arid, windswept high desert country, bisected by the Arizona-New Mexico border. With the capability of sustaining about 2,000 cows, calves, bulls and horses, the Lazy B was the largest and most successful ranch in the region.

O’Connor was the first of three children born to Ada Mae and Harry Day. For the first nine years of her life, she was the only child among the adults who lived and worked on the ranch. O’Connor was a voracious reader who kept many pets, including a bobcat named “Bob.” She befriended many of the Lazy B’s cowboys, and at an early age became skilled at many of the ranch activities, including riding a horse and firing a rifle.

In speaking of those years and the bond between father and daughter in Lazy B, O’Connor said, “The relationship we built was extremely strong and lasted through the years in a manner that both of us appreciated. I developed a love for the land and for the way of life on the ranch that has stayed with me. Spending hours each day at the dinner table discussing ranching, politics, or economics is a treat that many young people don’t experience.”

Her relationship with her mother, who she described as even-tempered, kind, patient and loving, was just as strong. “She read endlessly to all three of her children. She taught me to read by age 4,” recounted O’Connor in the book. “When we were small she would walk with us for hours and look for interesting things to see - a wildflower, a pretty rock, an unusual plant or insect.”

O’Connor was home-schooled for a year, but because her parents believed social interaction with other children her age was important, the difficult decision was made to send her to El Paso to live with her maternal grandparents and attend school. At the end of every school year, she returned to the Lazy B. “I was always homesick when away from the ranch,” she said. “My grandmother was loving and caring, but the ranch was where I wanted to be.”

After graduating from high school at the age of 16, O’Connor enrolled at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. As a junior, she took a business law course taught by a law school professor. Inspired by that class, O’Connor decided to apply for early admission to law school in order to begin her legal studies in her fourth year as an undergraduate. “Stanford Law School accepted me, and I began the studies that would shape my life,” O’Connor wrote in Lazy B.

While working on the Stanford Law Review during her second year of law school, O’Connor met her future husband, John Jay O’Connor III, a young man who had grown up in San Francisco, a world away from life on the Lazy B Ranch. The couple was married at the ranch in December 1952.

Upon graduating from law school, the young woman, whose appointment to the Supreme Court would make history 29 years later, could not find employment at a law firm – except as a secretary. O’Connor turned instead, to public service, and began her legal career serving as a deputy county attorney for San Mateo, California. When her husband graduated from Stanford Law School and entered the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps,
she accompanied him to Frankfurt, Germany, and worked as a civilian lawyer in the Quartermaster Corps from 1954 to 1957.

The couple returned to the United States in 1957 and settled in Phoenix, Arizona, where John O’Connor joined an established law firm. Unfortunately, his wife once again found it difficult to find a job with a law firm, so she started her own with a partner.

Between 1957 and 1962, O’Connor gave birth to three sons, and much of her time was devoted to caring for them. She also became involved in a number of Phoenix-area organizations, volunteering her time to benefit her community and taking an active role in local politics.

In 1965, she returned to public service, accepting a position as an Arizona assistant attorney general. She served in this position until 1969, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Arizona state senate. O’Connor was twice re-elected to the senate and became the first woman to serve as a majority leader in the United States, serving in that capacity for two years.

She next set her sights on the bench, running for a position on the Maricopa County Superior Court in 1974. O’Connor was elected and continued as a trial judge until being appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 1979.

In The Majesty of the Law, O’Connor wrote, “I had anticipated that I would live the balance of my life in our adobe house in the desert, where John and I had many friends and a pleasant way of life, and where we expected our sons to settle.” But that was not to be.

On June 25, 1981, then-U.S. Attorney General William French Smith called her at home and said he wanted to discuss a vacancy on the Supreme Court. He asked her to travel to Washington, D.C., to visit with him, as well as with President Ronald Reagan and some of his advisers.

She made the trip to D.C. and 12 days after Smith’s call, her telephone rang once again. This time it was President Reagan, asking if he could announce his intention to nominate her to fill the vacancy. She agreed, and once again Sandra Day O’Connor made history. Only this time, it was on a much bigger stage – the Supreme Court of the United States.

O’Connor freely admits the events of the summer of 1981 were life-altering for her and her family. “It did not seem possible that a ranch girl would grow up to serve on our nation’s highest court,” she said.

In Out of Order, O’Connor recalled September 25, 1981, the day she took the oath of office to serve on the Supreme Court. As she walked the steps of the iconic Supreme Court building where she would now work, she remembered the only other time she had been there.

Decades before, she and her husband had visited as tourists. “I snapped a picture of John as he stood on the
“Be involved as a citizen. Make a difference. Make something happen.”

Sandra Day O’Connor
marble steps,” she said. “I remember thinking that was the closest I would ever get to the Supreme Court. I could not have fathomed that, years later, I would walk down those marble steps as a member of the Supreme Court and serve for nearly 25 years.”

The circumstance, which was unimaginable to her at the time, became a reality, and opened the eyes of many people. O’Connor’s appointment to and service on the Supreme Court encouraged many young women to aspire to legal careers. At the time of her appointment in 1981, 36 percent of law school students were women. By 2006, when O’Connor retired, the percentage had increased to 48 percent.

During O’Connor’s visit to OU Law, Dean Harroz asked if she was aware, at the time, of the significance of her first session as the first woman on the Supreme Court. In her matter-of-fact, down-to-earth manner, she responded, “Nope. My only concern was not to louse it up. It was fine to be the first, but I didn’t want to be the last.”

After serving as a justice for 24 sessions of the U.S. Supreme Court, O’Connor retired on January 31, 2006. Following retirement, she still maintains a very active schedule.

O’Connor has continued her judicial service hearing cases in the United States Courts of Appeals. She also has served as chancellor of the College of William and Mary and as a member on the board of trustees of the National Constitution Center. In addition, O’Connor was chosen to serve on the 2006 Iran Study Group, a 10-member panel created at the direction of a bipartisan group of members of the U.S. Congress to assess the situation in Iraq and submit a report.

Over the years, O’Connor became increasingly concerned by American students’ lack of knowledge about the workings of their government. “Civics isn’t taught in schools like it was,” she stated during the Henry Lecture. After retiring from the Supreme Court, O’Connor decided to do something about it.

Noting that research showed some young people spend up to 40 hours each week in front of a computer screen, O’Connor pulled together a team to tap into some of that screen time by developing a program to teach students about civics. The resulting web-based education project, iCivics, offers an array of free interactive games and activities for students and educators.

In August 2009, O’Connor was honored by President Barack Obama with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In presenting the award, the president described O’Connor as a “pilgrim who has forged a new trail and built a bridge behind her for all young women to follow.”

In her closing remarks of the Henry Lecture, O’Connor spoke directly to the students in the courtroom about the importance of having a meaningful, satisfying career. She encouraged them to work on something they care about and to volunteer. “You are privileged to be in law school,” she said. “Be involved as a citizen. Make a difference. Make something happen.” Words she has lived by.
GLOBAL EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING:
A CORNERSTONE TO A COMPLETE LEGAL EDUCATION

BY JESSICA JONES AND JONELLA FRANK
with contributions from Evelyn Aswad

Third-year students Erin Ernhardt and Amanda Lee visit the Forbidden City in Beijing while in China for the 2013 Chinese Law Summer Program. The program is one of many global learning opportunities for OU Law students.
With developing communication technology comes an increase in the interconnectedness of nations. The world is getting smaller. To maintain pace with this globalization, a legal education must provide learning opportunities and experiences from around the world.

While physically located near the geographical center of the continental United States, the University of Oklahoma College of Law has continued to expand the global reach of its educational and experiential offerings. New programs and events have been added to complement existing programs, broadening the scope of OU Law’s legal education. Students are enthusiastically embracing worldwide educational opportunities through a variety of programs, included those highlighted below.

**OXFORD SUMMER PROGRAM**

For 40 years, OU Law has conducted the Oxford Summer Program for American law students at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. For five weeks, students live, attend classes and take meals in the stimulating and beautiful surroundings of the ancient university. In addition, students are able to visit and observe English legal institutions, as well as travel and sightsee on long weekends.

Students in the 2014 program were able to choose from six courses taught by American and English legal educators and complete four to six credit hours. Four of the offered courses featured international components: Family Law, English Legal History, European Union Law and The English Legal System.

An added bonus for students this summer was participation in the Oxford Summer Program 40th Anniversary Celebration. See page 24 for more about the event.

**CHINESE LAW SUMMER PROGRAM**

Global learning opportunities for OU Law students expanded in 2012 when the College of Law joined the longest-standing American law school study abroad program in China. Based at Renmin University of China Law School in Beijing, the program provides law students the opportunity to study Chinese and international law under the guidance of American and Chinese legal educators. Participants experience Chinese culture and history, and have the option for a two-week internship with a Chinese law firm.

The Chinese Law Summer Program is offered in affiliation with the law schools at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, University of Minnesota, Boston College and University of Tennessee. The program provides an overview of the Chinese legal system and focuses on Chinese law relating to the country’s emerging market economy.

Students take either a two-week course for two credit hours or a four-week course for five credit hours. The courses, taught in English by faculty members of Renmin University Law School, cover topics including Chinese lawyering systems, criminal procedure, constitutional law, intellectual property law, environmental law, contract law, labor law, company law, foreign investment and joint ventures in China, and arbitrating disputes with Chinese entities.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC**

An opportunity to be involved in the work of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations draws OU Law students to the International Human Rights Clinic. The Human Rights Council systematically assesses human rights conditions in all 193 member nations of the U.N., through a process called Universal Periodic Review. OU Law’s International Human Rights Clinic researches and investigates specific issues affecting an indigenous population of a selected country scheduled for review, and submits its findings to the council’s UPR process.
Issues include property rights and regulation of natural resource development; environmental protection; access to education opportunities and medical care; and protection of civil and political rights. Using international law obligations and commitments as a foundation, students work collaboratively in conducting the research, utilizing a variety of resources.

Their work culminates in the submission of a written report to the Human Rights Council at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Every report submitted by the OU Law students has been quoted in the official United Nations UPR summary report, and many of the recommendations for reform have been adopted by the council.

In the five years since the establishment of the International Human Rights Clinic, students have submitted reports on Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Uganda, Venezuela and Zambia. With the exception of Papua New Guinea, clinic students traveled to the countries during the research phase of their work.

**INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AFFAIRS EXTERNSHIPS**

Students at OU Law also have several opportunities for hands-on experience through externships. As a result of an agreement with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, clinic students have worked in Washington, D.C., primarily in the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica, provides OU Law students the chance to work with the autonomous judicial institution of the inter-American system. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is one of four international human rights courts in the world.

A third agreement of externship with UPR Info, a nongovernmental organization based in Geneva, established an externship in international human rights.

The position allows a student to be deeply involved in the UPR process of the U.N. Human Rights Council and gain first-hand experience with a small nongovernmental organization.

In addition, OU Law students have served as externs working on international matters in the federal government. For example, over the past few years, several students have externed at the U.S. Department of State’s Office of the Legal Adviser in Washington, D.C. Last spring, a student also served as OU Law’s first extern in the Office of the Senior Adviser for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies at the State Department.

**U.S. UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW CONSULTATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

On April 24, the OU College of Law hosted consultations among U.S. government officials, federally recognized tribes, and members of civil society to discuss implementation of U.S. human rights obligations and commitments. The consultations were held in anticipation of the second UPR review of the U.S. human rights record at the United Nations in Geneva in 2015. The consultations included 12 U.S. government officials representing a variety of federal agencies, including the assistant secretary for Indian affairs at the Department of the Interior, as well as tribal representatives and members of civil society groups that promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

While many OU Law students had the opportunity to observe these consultations, two students also participated in the official consultations. Roy Brown gave a presentation on behalf of his tribe, the Northern Arapaho, and Kelbie Kennedy, president of the OU Native American Law Students Association, made remarks during the consultations. Students in the International Law Society and NALSA also were able to meet and discuss the issues with the consultation participants in casual, small-group settings for lunch and dinner.

As a leading proponent for the domestic and international rights of indigenous peoples and an academic trailblazer in participating in the United Nations

Consultation participants meet in the Dick Bell Courtroom during the April 24 sessions.

Pictured at the U.S. Department of State are Cassandra Kolenda, Alex Duncan, Mitchell Craft, Professor Evelyn Aswad, Caroline Lewis and Veronica Jacob. Kolenda, Duncan, Lewis and Jacob were invited to the meeting as a result of their participation in Aswad’s class. Craft was at the U.S. Department of State completing an externship during the spring 2014 semester.
UPR process, OU Law was proud to host these important consultations to help the U.S. government, tribal leaders and civil society prepare for the upcoming review of the United States with respect to its record on the treatment of indigenous peoples.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIPLOMACY LAB

The University of Oklahoma is one of only four universities to participate in the pilot launch of a new U.S. Department of State program called Diplomacy Lab. In addition, OU serves as the secretariat, or lead coordinator, for this nationwide program. Diplomacy Lab allows the Department to “course-source” research and innovation relating to foreign policy by submitting pressing questions to universities to research. Participating faculty members and students explore real-world challenges facing U.S. officials and engage directly with policymakers at the Department about their research and findings.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced the launch of the program on March 18 at a town hall meeting for university students at the State Department. Four College of Law students and Professor Evelyn Aswad attended the event because of their participation in an Arab Spring and Legal Reform seminar, which was structured to answer the Department’s Diplomacy Lab question about what factors have facilitated or undermined positive legal reforms in the Middle East. The students engaged in interdisciplinary research, interviewed experts in the United States and abroad, briefed Department officials twice in digital video conferences, and submitted a final report of their findings at the end of the semester. Professor Lindsay Robertson and students in his Comparative Indigenous Peoples Law course also participated in Diplomacy Lab by answering Department questions about how tribal courts function in the United States.

The secretariat at OU is staffed at the College of Law by Aswad and Anna Inhofe (’13), former State Department intern. More information on the program can be found at OU’s Diplomacy Lab website: http://www.ou.edu/diplomacylab.html

Stephen Mathias, U.N. assistant secretary-general for legal affairs (first row, fourth from the left), is pictured before the March 28 breakfast reception with Dean Joe Harroz, Professor Evelyn Aswad and OILS members.
VISIT BY UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

OU Law’s Oklahoma International Law Society hosted U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Stephen Mathias for a breakfast reception March 28. Mathias, one of the highest-level officials to speak at the College of Law this year, opened the breakfast with remarks relating to hot international law topics before responding to questions from OILS members.

Prior to joining the U.N. in 2010, Mathias served at the U.S. Department of State for 20 years. During his time there, he became acquainted with Evelyn Aswad, former head of the State Department’s Legal Office of Human Rights and Refugees, and current OU Law professor of international law and human rights.

For Aswad, OILS faculty adviser, it was a pleasure visiting with an old friend. “We used to teach an international peacekeeping course together at Georgetown’s law school, and it was really fun to be with him in an academic setting again,” Aswad commented. Mathias also met with students in each of Aswad’s international law classes, responding to their questions about pressing international law issues and providing advice on careers in international law.

“It was refreshing to see someone with so many credentials appear so approachable and humble,” OILS President Jennifer Lawmaster reflected after the event. “He was very conversational and seemed to genuinely enjoy the discussion with the students.” Taking note of the positive student feedback, Lawmaster indicated next year’s OILS agenda will be planned with the success of the Mathias visit in mind.

UGANDA AS A SPRING BREAK DESTINATION

While many students spent their spring break hitting the slopes or relaxing on the beach, a group of students from the University of Oklahoma College of Law went to Gulu, Uganda, to work with law students in the third world country.

Starting on the students’ first day, OU Law emphasizes the impact their career will have on both individuals and society. Service is both an honor and an obligation that comes with being a lawyer. Providing students the opportunity to participate in alternative spring break trips allows them to serve not only locally but globally as well.

OU Law alumnus Reggie Whitten (‘80) was instrumental in getting this alternative spring break trip started. He is co-founder of Pros for Africa, an Oklahoma City nonprofit that brings together professionals from all fields to volunteer in Africa and more specifically, Uganda.

For years, Whitten and Pros for Africa have worked with Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and her school in Gulu, Saint Monica’s Vocational School. The school provides vocational training to young women victimized and abused by Joseph Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army during his 25-year reign of terror in northern Uganda.

In 2011, Pros for Africa made a $100,000 donation to OU Law to benefit its international programs. As a result, several OU Law students comprised the first group to travel with Pros for Africa to Gulu, Uganda, to work with Sister Rosemary.

March 2014 marked the fourth consecutive year for that trip. Ally Simon, Luke Miles and Alexa Kern, members of the student organization Law Students for Africa, made the 8,000-mile journey to Gulu and worked with students studying law at Gulu University.

The Ugandan law students will be among the first to complete the bachelor of laws degree program of the Department of Law within the Faculty of Business and Development Studies at Gulu University. With an eye towards eventually developing the program into a law school, university representatives welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with OU Law.

The OU Law students were accompanied by Professor Michael Scaperlanda, who lent his years of experience and knowledge of the U.S. legal system and law school administration to explore the development of a collaborative program between the two law schools.
Legal education opens door to international careers

BY JONELLA FRANK

As the world becomes progressively more interconnected, living and working outside the United States may become a reality for an increasing number of graduates of the OU College of Law. With the expansion of its global learning opportunities, OU Law is able to provide more students with new perspectives to awaken realizations of job possibilities not previously considered. Highlighted here are three alumni who are taking advantage of international career opportunities.

Michael Meade (’12), a native Oklahoman born and raised in Oklahoma City, is working more than 9,000 miles away from his home state. Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Meade works for Murphy Oil Corporation, an international oil and gas exploration and production company with headquarters in El Dorado, Arkansas.

His first job with the company was an internship he held while working on his dual J.D./M.B.A. degree. Based in the company’s Houston office, Meade worked in the land department. Following graduation, he accepted a job with Murphy Oil and returned to Houston, working as a landman in the international business development group.

After almost two years in that post, he was approached about his current position in Kuala Lumpur. The job was offered to him on a Friday, and on the following Monday, he accepted and began preparations to move to the other side of the globe. For Meade, it was an easy decision. “I was excited and couldn’t wait to make the move,” he said.

His quick decision on the life-altering job offer may be understood by taking a look at some of his life experiences. Meade attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, where he majored in economics and international relations, with a minor in Asian studies.

During his college career, he studied abroad for a year in the Japanese Language Program at Keio University in Tokyo. To further develop his language skills, Meade worked part-time as a bartender in the upscale Ginza district, where most patrons were Japanese. After graduating from college, Meade returned to Japan and taught English as a second language in a high school.

In addition to living in Japan for three years, Meade traveled extensively before he was offered the job in Kuala Lumpur. “My parents took me on a few trips abroad growing up, and
I guess I caught the travel bug at an early age,” said Meade. Prior to relocating to Malaysia, he had visited more than 25 countries.

Since the move, Meade has acquired four more stamps on his passport. He considers the travel opportunities as one of the greatest benefits of living and working abroad. “All the Southeast Asia countries are a quick plane flight away,” he explained. “I am close to a lot of great Southeast Asia beaches. For example, Thailand is an hour away by plane.”

Meade enjoys learning about the history and culture of the region, and he believes the course International Human Rights Law helped him in that regard. His knowledge of issues in foreign countries has helped spark conversations with people from other countries. “Kuala Lumpur is a very international city – a melting pot of Hindu, Malay, Muslim and Chinese cultures,” Meade explained. “Being able to connect with people from different cultures has been important for my networking skills and building relationships with Asian joint venture partners.”

Meade’s job as senior international negotiator for Murphy Oil requires him to interact with many people from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds. He provides legal support for the regional business development team for the Southeast Asia/Australia region. Kuala Lumpur has served as the base office for the region since the mid-2000s when Murphy Oil made the first deep-water oil discovery off the coast of Malaysia.

As the company looks for new business opportunities in Southeast Asia and Australia, Meade helps analyze, draft and negotiate a variety of contracts, including joint venture agreements, farmout agreements, non-disclosure/confidentiality agreements, and joint study and bid agreements. In addition, he helps prepare the company for new country entry, answers contractual and regulatory issue questions asked by geologists, management and
other Murphy employees, and interacts with lawyers and commercial people from other oil and gas companies. Meade credits his work on the Oklahoma Law Review for helping develop his teamwork skills, which are essential in his job.

Meade readily recommends law students seek international internships. “A lot of the big international law firms are opening up offices in developing countries that are starting to see a lot of foreign investment – Vietnam and Myanmar are good examples,” he said.

Meade told of a conversation with an attorney working in the Ho Chi Minh City office of a major international law firm. She mentioned having a summer intern who was one of four law students to email her their resumés. “Only four resumés!” Meade exclaimed. “If you’re willing to live and work in Southeast Asia for a summer, don’t be scared to email these attorneys out of the blue with your resumé, or even cold call them one night. What do you have to lose?”

John M. Benson (’01) is an “old pro” when it comes to living and working abroad. He currently is serving in his second international legal assignment with Schlumberger, the world’s leading supplier of technology, integrated project management, and information solutions to customers working in the oil and gas industry worldwide. A political science class taught by OU President David L. Boren may have started Benson down the career path that eventually led him to work first, in Rio de Janeiro, and currently, in Paris.

Benson left his hometown of Duncan, Oklahoma, in 1994 to attend the University of Oklahoma. His father, grandfather, uncle and brother had all studied law, but Benson did not plan to follow in their footsteps. He was going to medical school.
However, Boren’s introductory political science class sparked an interest, and more classes in the political science department followed. “I became very interested in government and politics, and particularly, international politics and relations,” Benson said. “The faculty did a great job of opening my eyes to the impact of foreign policy and administration.” His revised career plan was to enter into some type of Foreign Service.

During his final semester as an undergraduate, Benson decided he needed to distinguish himself from others seeking Foreign Service positions. A law degree and a political science degree seemed like a winning combination. His brother Jim Benson (’97), a new OU Law grad at the time, helped him prepare for the LSAT. Benson successfully completed the admissions process and began law school in fall 1998.

While a law student, Benson interned with law firms in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Dallas. “I met so many talented people with such a breadth of professional experience,” he said. “I owe a lot of gratitude to these firms and the legal professionals – first, for their patience, and, more importantly, for giving me a chance to learn from some of the brightest and hardest working lawyers in Oklahoma and Texas.”

His positive internship experiences led him to accept a position as an associate at GableGotwals in Oklahoma City. Benson enjoyed the work and the people. “Working in general practice in Oklahoma is the perfect training ground for corporate positions, and really for an international position,” said Benson. “From day one, you must be flexible and adaptable to adversity. My time in private practice taught me how to spot key issues and communicate with clients in a very general and practical manner.”

Benson enjoyed his job so much, he imagined himself living and working in Oklahoma City throughout his career. However, after his brother Andy moved to Beijing as the country manager of an oilfield service company, and his brother Jim died at age 32, his life perspective changed. He wanted a new challenge.

Benson learned Schlumberger was searching for a legal counsel to be based in Oklahoma City. Because the company had offices on six continents, he knew a career with Schlumberger would have great potential for international career opportunities. He accepted a position as regional legal counsel in Oklahoma City. Two years later, Benson made the move to Houston and took over a larger geographical area.

In 2010, Schlumberger asked Benson to move to Rio de Janeiro as the assistant general counsel for compliance for Latin America. Along with his wife and daughter, Benson relocated to Brazil to take on the job, which focused on the implementation, management, monitoring and investigation of the company’s internal compliance issues and programs throughout Latin America.

After working three years in Brazil, Benson was offered his current position – senior legal counsel, corporate – at the company’s headquarters in Paris. “In this job, I primarily assist our corporate treasury function with internal and external corporate financing projects, and also provide general corporate legal support to our global operations, including employment, labor, corporate structures and contracts,” Benson explained.

Benson and his family fully embrace their lives as expats. “We spend time serving our local church, and on Sunday afternoons, we try to do something cultural, like going to a museum or gallery,” he said. “We also like to ride our bikes in the parks, and we love to cook. We have attempted to learn about and appreciate local wines and cheeses as well. We have a long way to go, but that is not necessarily a bad thing!”

Experiencing new people and cultures is a thrill for the family. “It is a joy to see my daughter grow up in such a diverse community,” said Benson. “On the other
side of the coin, we really miss our families and friends, although modern technology has made it much easier.”

Benson attributes his career opportunities to the experiences and education he received at OU Law and GableGotwals. “Problem solving, issue spotting, professional courtesy, responsiveness, communication, advocacy, and offering practical solutions are not skills unique to an international practice,” said Benson. “Sure, there are days when I feel incredibly humbled and awed by my surroundings and experiences, but really it comes down to being a competent lawyer – efficiently serving your client by advocating practical solutions and mitigating risks.”

Devan Patrick (’12) is still settling in at his new job in Zurich, Switzerland. He started in May as an associate at Baker & McKenzie, one of the world’s largest law firms with 76 offices in more than 50 countries. Patrick is one of 75 attorneys working in the firm’s Zurich office, where he is part of the international tax and wealth management practice group.

This Texas native grew up in Lindale, Texas, which, he will tell you, is the home of country music artist Miranda Lambert. Patrick graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor’s degree in history. Both of his parents were attorneys, and he attributes his decision to pursue a legal education as “family tradition.”

Patrick ventured across the Red River into Sooner territory to attend the OU College of Law in 2009. During law school, he served as executive assistant editor of the Oklahoma Law Review. He also was an officer of the Board of Advocates, the student organization that promotes oral and written advocacy through competitions. In addition, he was a member of the OU Law team in the 2011 Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition, where he was named the third-best speaker in the competition.

During his second year, Patrick interned at the Oklahoma Supreme Court, working for Justice Tom Colbert, the current chief justice. But it was a course on Employee Benefits and two summer internships in the tax practice group of Conner & Winters LLP that kindled Patrick’s interest in tax law. He first worked in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office and the following summer, in the Dallas office. Courses in Individual Income Tax, Tax Procedure and Corporate Income Tax helped further develop his knowledge in the area of law he focused on during his internships.

After graduating from OU Law, Patrick attended the Graduate Tax Program at New York University School of Law, where he earned an LL.M. in taxation. He later clerked at the United States Tax Court in Washington, D.C., before joining Baker & McKenzie in Zurich.

Working internationally had not been a longtime goal of Patrick’s. “Had you had asked me if I saw myself living anywhere other than Texas, I would have laughed you out of the room,” he said. “But then I lived for a short time in New York City, a truly world-class international city, while attending NYU. My classmates, who hailed from all corners of the globe, were some of the most diverse, interesting people I’ve ever been around.”

That experience, coupled with insights he gained into the intricacies of international tax law while clerking at the Tax Court, caused him to consider new possibilities. “As a law clerk, I was exposed in several instances to just how multifaceted and complex international tax law could be. After my clerkship, I started exploring the possibility of working abroad, though I didn’t give it much thought until beginning the recruitment process with my current firm,” said Patrick.

He applied for the job through the NYU career services website. “A phone interview, an in-person interview in the United States, a crazy, four-day, fly-back interview to Zurich, and here I sit,” exclaimed Patrick. “The only wrinkle was how to handle my wife’s career. Megan was working as a health care attorney for a large firm in Washington, D.C. Once we ironed out her job prospects here in Switzerland, it was smooth sailing.”

Before moving to Switzerland, Patrick’s international travel experience was limited to family vacations to predominately English-speaking countries. In addition to the hectic pace of life and long hours that come with being a young associate, he admits there have been challenges while adjusting to living abroad. “Most people, myself included, who move to another country, learn
how to do literally everything again for the first time,” he commented. “Paying a telephone bill, opening a bank account, navigating an automated phone menu in a foreign language—all of these have been first-time experiences for me.”

For the Patricks, other challenges have come in adapting to the higher cost of living and the rules and practices of their new home. For example, the rules of their apartment complex prohibit tenants from doing laundry or vacuuming on Sunday. In addition, all the stores close at 6 p.m. “Living in a city like Zurich has definitely forced us to become more disciplined and use our resources, both time and money, more efficiently. But in the end, it’s a great sense of accomplishment when you start to get the hang of it,” Patrick said.

“It has been an incredible experience living in a city as old and storied as Zurich.”

However, he points out the benefits of living in a foreign country outweigh the challenges. “It has been an incredible experience living in a city as old and storied as Zurich. Our flat is in a ‘new’ building by Zurich standards—it was built almost 200 years ago and has survived two World Wars,” said Patrick. “Not owning a car is fantastic. Everything is so incredibly convenient, from the location of the grocery stores to the great public transit that takes you anywhere in Europe without setting foot in an airport. And, of course, having a balcony with a view of the Swiss Alps never gets old.”
A national spotlight recently fell on OU Law’s moot court program when it was ranked among the top programs in the country. The Blakely Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center named OU’s program to the 11th spot on its 2014 list of top moot court programs in the United States.
The institute tracked the performance records of almost 200 law school moot court programs, and ranked them based on points accumulated through successful performances at major competitions. The top 16 teams were invited to the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship at the University of Houston Law Center. A team from the OU College of Law will travel to Houston in January 2015 to participate in the invitational tournament.

In addition to moot court competitions, the OU Law Competitions Program also includes trial competitions and skill competitions. The majority of the competitions are held out of state, but there are also in-house competitions.

Connie Smothermon, assistant professor and assistant director of the Legal Research and Writing Program, has served as director of competitions since 2004. Working with the students who serve on the Board of Advocates, Smothermon oversees the program, which, during the 2013-2014 academic year, saw 86 students on 17 teams travel across the United States to competition sites including San Francisco; Chicago; Pittsburgh; Dallas; Columbia, Missouri; and Wilmington, Delaware.

**Appellate advocacy/moot court competitions**

- Burton D. Wechsler First Amendment Moot Court Competition sponsored by American University Washington College of Law
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association
- National Health Law Moot Court Competition sponsored by Southern Illinois University School of Law
- Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Student Division of the Hispanic National Bar Association
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition sponsored by the International Law Students Association
- William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition sponsored by the University of Minnesota Law School
- American Bar Association Law Student Division National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- National Moot Court Competition sponsored by the New York City Bar Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers
- National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Competition
- Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition sponsored by the International Trademark Association
- Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition sponsored by American University Washington College of Law
- National Transactional LawMeet® sponsored by Drexel University School of Law
- Albert R. Mugel National Tax Law Moot Court Competition sponsored by the SUNY Buffalo Law School
- Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court Competition sponsored by Widener University School of Law
**Trial team competitions**

American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition

National Trial Competition sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association

Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association

**Skills competitions**

American Bar Association Law Student Division Arbitration Competition

American Bar Association Law Student Division Client Counseling Competition

American Bar Association Law Student Division Negotiation Competition

American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Representation in Mediation Competition

Nelson Mandela International Negotiation Competition sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association

In addition to these traveling team competitions, the Competitions Program includes multiple events held in Coats Hall. The Board of Advocates was busier than usual during 2013-2014 with an increase in the number of events hosted by OU Law. Three intra-school competitions and three regional or national inter-school competitions required much planning and coordination for the group.

They organized the annual intra-school Calvert Moot Court Competition for second- and third-year students in October. The following month, the group coordinated the University of Oklahoma Board of Advocates Intercollegiate Mock Trial Competition, which was open to all undergraduate students from any Oklahoma college.

The BOA oversaw two more intra-school competitions in the spring – the annual 1L Moot Court Competition and the All-School Negotiation Competition, sponsored by The West Law Firm and Ryan Whaley Coldiron & Shandy PLLC.

In January, OU Law hosted a regional tournament of the National Trial Competition, one of the top trial competitions in the country. Teams from six states participated in the competition that involved the coordination of 117 judges and 156 witnesses. Preliminary and semi-final rounds were held at the Cleveland County Courthouse and in the City of Norman Municipal Courtroom. The final round was held in the Dick Bell Courtroom.
The College of Law hosted the National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition February 26-March 1. Almost 200 competitors and coaches from 19 states attended the competition, and more than 200 local attorneys and judges served on judging panels.

Later in March, OU Law was the site of the national rounds of the American Bar Association Law Student Division Client Counseling Competition. For this unique competition, teams of law students from 12 states conducted initial client interviews before a panel of judges.

Two judges in each round were attorneys, while one judge was a professional counselor. The teams were not told the client’s specific problem beforehand, and had to spot legal issues while using communication skills to build confidence and rapport with clients. As the competition host, OU Law was responsible for providing all the judges and the “clients,” in addition to the fact pattern and instructions.

The Board of Advocates wrapped up a busy year with the annual 1L Moot Court Competition. Preliminary rounds began March 24. Elimination rounds commenced April 7 and were followed by the final round on April 11.

“This was a busy year for the Competitions Program,” said Director of Competitions Connie Smothermon. “Whether it was hosting and coordinating a competition at OU Law, or researching and practicing for a traveling competition, our students devoted many hours to the program. I am proud of the professionalism of our students as they represent OU here and across the United States.”

The experiential learning opportunities afforded students who participate in the OU Law Competitions Program are many. From developing oral and written advocacy abilities, to cultivating skills necessary to effectively relate to clients, to learning how to interact with adversaries, the lessons learned can be put to use in a legal career or life in general.

The benefits can be numerous and diverse for students in the program. Some, perhaps, not fully appreciated until years after law school graduation.

Receiving national recognition for its Competitions Program is a gratifying experience, but not an end point. OU Law will continue to look to the future, fine-tuning existing programs and developing new opportunities for students in its mission as Oklahoma’s premier law school.
The Oxford Experience
40th Anniversary Celebration
July 6 – 10
Alumni and friends of the OU College of Law traveled to Oxford, England, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the partnership of OU Law and the University of Oxford. Since 1974, the College of Law has conducted a summer session for American law students taught by American and English legal educators at the oldest university in the English-speaking world.
News briefs

1950s

Charles A. Johnson ('55) retired from the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals after 25 years of service. Prior to his appointment to the court in 1989, he practiced law in Pawhuska and Ponca City. He will be of counsel to the Johnson Law Firm in Norman.

1960s

James C.T. Hardwick ('63) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory in the energy and natural resources practice area. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill and practices in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office with a focus on oil and gas law.

James F. Howell ('63) received the Journal Record Award at the Oklahoma County Bar Association’s Law Day Luncheon. The former state senator practices in Midwest City, Oklahoma, and serves as a regent at Rose State College.

Glenn J. Sharpe ('63), of Wewoka, Oklahoma, was reappointed as a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission.

D. Kent Meyers ('64), a director of Crowe & Dunlevy based in the Oklahoma City office, was named chair of the firm’s alternative dispute resolution business and litigation practice group. In addition, he was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of antitrust litigation and received an Outstanding Mentor Award from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and the David and Molly Boren Mentoring Initiative for his work with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children.

John H. Trudgeon ('64) was recognized by the Oklahoma County Bar Association for 50 years of service. He is of counsel with Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville with a practice focused on estate planning, employee benefits and retirement planning and nonprofit organizations.

Class of 1964 Reunion

Members of the Class of 1964 gather for a photo in the Boren Atrium.
Don R. Nicholson II ('65), of Norman, Oklahoma, was presented an Outstanding Mentor Award by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and the David and Molly Boren Mentoring Initiative. He co-founded Oklahoma Lawyers for Children and is a member of the executive board of the organization.

Robert M. Johnson ('67) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of real estate. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City, where he focuses on real estate law.

Clyde A. Muchmore ('67) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of appellate practice. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in the Oklahoma City office, where he specializes in civil litigation, appellate law, communications and media law and Constitutional law.

James H. Holloman Jr. ('69) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of tax. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director, based in the Oklahoma City office, where he chairs the taxation practice group and the nonprofit/charitable foundations practice group, and co-chairs the employee benefits and ERISA practice group.

Michael S. Geigerman ('71) was named St. Louis Lawyer of the Year in alternative dispute resolution by Best Lawyers in America 2014. He has been recognized by this publication since 2007, and listed in Missouri Super Lawyers since 2010. He is managing director of United States Arbitration & Mediation in St. Louis.

Robert D. Nelson ('71) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for general commercial litigation. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office, with a practice focused on media and first amendment law.

Bruce W. Day ('72) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of securities litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, practicing in the Oklahoma City office, where he chairs the securities litigation practice group.

D. Michael Hisey ('72) was presented the Golden Eagle Award by the Arbuckle Area Council of Boy Scouts for his years of service to scouting. He lives in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he has been in private practice since 1984.

April 11-12

Dean Joe Harroz speaks as class members and their guests enjoy lunch in the Sneed Lounge.

David Petty, Jerry Tubb and Jim Cunningham visit before lunch.
Gary R. McSpadden (‘72) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of *Super Lawyers* 2013 in the area of banking. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, practicing in Tulsa, Oklahoma, focused on commercial lending matters.

Phillip E. Norvell (‘73) was named the 2014 Arkansas Bar Foundation Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law. He teaches in the areas of property and natural resources and antitrust law.

Rodney L. Cook (‘74) became of counsel with Phillips Murrah PC in Oklahoma City. Previously, he was a director in Jennings Cook & Teague PC, where his practice focused on tort litigation, with an emphasis on product liability, warranty, insurance and fraternity law.

Richard C. Ford (‘74) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of *Super Lawyers* 2013 in the area of appellate practice. A director in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy, his work focuses on the areas of appellate, insurance, telecommunications and litigation.

Thomas S. Walker (‘74) was presented the 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award by the Miami Public Schools Enrichment Foundation. He lives in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he previously served as Carter County district judge.

Michael E. Joseph (‘75) received the 2014 Leadership in Law Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He is a shareholder and director of McAfee & Taft. He practices in the firm’s Oklahoma City office focusing on corporate and securities, business law and health care law.

Mark A. Robertson (‘75) wrote *Alternative Fees for Business Lawyers and their Clients*, recently published by the ABA Law Practice Division. He is a partner at Robertson & Williams in Oklahoma City, where his practice includes corporate law, mergers, acquisitions, trusts and estates.

Michael E. Smith (‘75) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory in the energy and natural resources practice area. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office, where his practice includes litigation, energy and natural resources law and environmental law.

Katherine Winfree (‘75) joined the Federal Communications Commission Enforcement Bureau as chief of staff. She previously served as the chief deputy attorney general for the State of Maryland.

Silas C. Wolf Jr. (‘75), of Norman, Oklahoma, was inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame in May. He was recognized for his work with young Native Americans in the Indian Education Program of the Norman Public Schools.

Jim Drummond (‘76) was named a regional public defender for capital cases in Texas. He is based in Burnet, Texas, where he represents indigent defendants charged with capital offenses.

J. Kevin Poorman (‘77) is on the board of directors of The Barack Obama Foundation, charged with planning the future presidential library. He is the president and chief executive officer of PSP Capital Partners in Chicago.

Ben Loring (‘78), of Miami, Oklahoma, was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He previously served Ottawa County as first assistant district attorney for 12 years and as district attorney for eight years.

Cynda C. Ottaway (‘78) was listed in Oklahoma *Super Lawyers* 2013 for estate planning and probate. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.
Edgar ("Jed") C. Morrison Jr. (’79) was included in the 2014 edition of *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business* guide and in the S.A. Scene magazine’s 2014 list of “Best San Antonio Lawyers” in the category of health care. He is a partner in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker LLP.

**1980s**

Charles B. Ammann (’80) was named executive vice president, general counsel and secretary by Semtech Corporation in Camarillo, California. He has more than 30 years of corporate and legal experience, including 10 years of practice with a Tulsa, Oklahoma, law firm.

Bill Burgess Jr. (’80), of Lawton, Oklahoma, was appointed to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents. He is chairman of the board of Vortex; owner/publisher of *The Lawton Constitution*; and senior partner of Burgess & Hightower Law Firm.

Shirley A. Cox (’81) received the 2014 Leadership in Law Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. She is the legal services developer for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Karen S. Rieger (’81) was elected president of the board of directors for the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. She is a director at Crowe & Dunlevy, based in Oklahoma City, with a practice focused on health care transaction and litigation.

Malcolm E. Rosser IV (’81), a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was listed in the Oklahoma edition of *Super Lawyers* 2013 in the area of real estate. He also was selected by *Tulsa Business & Legal News* as one of the “Power Attorneys & Legal Professionals” for 2014.

Doug Shelton (’81) was named a fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation. He recently formed a new partnership, Shelton Maxted Walkley in Oklahoma City. His practice includes general civil litigation, nursing home negligence and real estate law.

Harvey D. Ellis Jr. (’82) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of *Super Lawyers* 2013 in the area of appellate practice. He is a director in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy. His practice concentrates on appellate work and litigation and trial practice.

Robert M. Peregrin (’82) was named to *The International Who’s Who of Aviation Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America* 2014 for equipment finance law. He is a shareholder in the Oklahoma City firm of Daugherty, Fowler, Peregrin, Haught & Jenson with a practice in aviation title and finance.

Vincent G. Logan (’83) was sworn in as special trustee for American Indians within the U.S. Department of the Interior. He previously served as president of The Nations Group LLC, an investment consulting firm in New York, working with tribal nations on asset management and investment strategies.

Debra Ramirez (’83), of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was appointed as a district judge in Bernalillo County, New Mexico. She previously served as a domestic violence commissioner for the court.

Emmit Tayloe (’83), of Lawton, Oklahoma, has been named district judge for Comanche County. He previously served four years as assistant district attorney in Comanche County, and has been in private practice since 1986.

L. Mark Walker (’83) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of *Super Lawyers* 2013 in the area energy and natural resources. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in Oklahoma City, where his areas of practice are energy and natural resources and environmental law.

Bart Fite (’84) was reappointed as municipal judge for Muskogee, Oklahoma, and as district judge for the Cherokee Nation. He practices law with the Fite Law Firm in Muskogee.

Brad Miller (’84) co-founded Miller & Johnson PLLC, a civil litigation and trial practice firm in Oklahoma City.

Kenneth H. Blakley (’85) joined McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City, where his practice focuses on energy and oil and gas litigation. He also serves as chair of the firm’s alternative fee practice group and committee.
Joe C. Lewallen Jr. (‘85) joined McAfee & Taft as an of counsel attorney, working in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. His practice areas include real estate and business law.

Kimberly Korando (‘86) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for labor and employment law in North Carolina. She is a partner at Raleigh-based Smith Anderson and the head of the firm’s employment, labor and human resources practice group.

Kenneth G.M. Mather (‘86) became of counsel to Gunster, a Florida business law firm. He is based in the firm’s Tampa office, where his practice will focus on bankruptcy law.

Laura McConnell-Corbyn (‘87) received the Bobby G. Knapp Leadership Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. She is a partner at Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City, where her practice areas include litigation, family law and employment law.

Victor E. Morgan (‘87) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of business litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where his practice focuses primarily on litigation and trial matters.

Mark J. Peregrin (‘87) was named a partner of Daugherty, Fowler, Peregrin, Haught & Jenson in Oklahoma City. His practice is focused on aviation title and finance matters.

Rob F. Robertson (‘87) was named to the 2014 board of directors of GableGotwals. He practices in Oklahoma City, focusing on complex litigation.

J. Logan Johnson (‘88) co-founded Miller & Johnson PLLC, a civil litigation and trial practice firm in Oklahoma City. He is a trial lawyer who handles a variety of civil matters.

Shelly Youree (‘88) was recognized in the 2014 U.S. edition of The Legal 500 directory for labor and employment law. She is a partner of Thompson & Knight LLP, practicing in the Los Angeles office, where she is the office leader. She also practices in the firm’s Dallas and San Francisco offices.

LeAnne Burnett (‘89) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of environmental litigation. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy and practices in Oklahoma City, focusing on natural resources law, environmental law and litigation.

Patricia High (‘89) was appointed to the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board. She was a prosecutor for almost 20 years in the Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office, where she was special prosecutor on death penalty cases and chief of the child abuse and sexual assault division.

Richard C. Ogden (‘89) was elected chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma for 2013-2014. He practices in Oklahoma City with Mulinix Ogden Hall & Ludlam PLLC, where his areas of concentration include business and corporate litigation, real estate law and estate planning.

Timothy S. Posey (‘89) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for Native American law. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office, and is co-chair of the firm’s Indian law practice group.

Sherry Abbott Todd (‘89) was sworn in for a second term as special judge of the district court of the Chickasaw Nation. She formerly served as assistant attorney general of the state of Oklahoma and assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County.

Melody Brannon Evans (‘90) was appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit as the federal public defender for the district of Kansas, based in Topeka. She has served her entire career providing indigent defense, starting as an assistant public defender in Oklahoma County.

Jan Taylor Garrett (‘90) was reappointed to the California Volunteers Commission, where she has served since 2008. She is the program manager at the Pacific ADA Center in Oakland, California.
Don Herring (‘90) co-founded Herring Simmons in Edmond, Oklahoma. His practice will continue in criminal law, personal injury, family law, and oil and gas.

Michael L. Mullins (‘90) co-founded Mullins Martinez Sexton & Reaves PC in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on family law and domestic relations.

Kea Riggs (‘90) was appointed district judge in the 5th Judicial District of New Mexico in Roswell. She formerly served as a prosecutor, federal magistrate judge and private practice attorney.

Timila S. Rother (‘90) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of insurance coverage. She is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in Oklahoma City, where her practice areas include class action, insurance, business and health care litigation cases, as well as appellate work.

M. Carter Crow (‘91) was elected president of the Houston Bar Association. He is partner-in-charge of the Houston office of Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, where his practice includes a wide range of litigation and arbitration matters, with a focus on employment litigation.

Steven P. Logan (‘92) was nominated and confirmed to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, based in Phoenix. He previously served as a U.S. magistrate judge, an immigration judge and an assistant in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Arizona.

Jerry J. Sanger (‘92) was named chief of the public utilities unit of the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. He has worked as an assistant attorney general since 2013, and previously served 15 years an environmental attorney at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Michael Shanbour (‘92), of Edmond, Oklahoma, became an associate in the Oklahoma City office of Gungoll, Jackson, Box & Devoll PC. His practice concentrates on real estate and oil and gas law. Previously, he has worked in private practice, for title insurance companies, and most recently, for Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

Donal Stevens (‘92) was named director of the Oklahoma area office of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission. He previously served there as an enforcement supervisor.

David A. Trissell (‘92) was named general counsel for the Postal Regulatory Commission, an independent federal agency that provides regulatory oversight of the U.S. Postal Service. He previously worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency for 18 years, including seven years as chief counsel.

Ted Blodgett (‘93) was inducted into the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame. He is the partner in charge of marketing and the valuation practice with Gray, Blodgett & Company PLLC in Norman, Oklahoma.

Philip L. Free Jr. (‘93) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for intellectual property. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, where he practices in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, focusing on intellectual property litigation and counseling.

Brad R. Carson (‘94) was confirmed and sworn in as the undersecretary of the Army in the Department of Defense. He previously served as general counsel to the Department of the Army.
Jon K. Parsley ('94), of Guymon, Oklahoma, was appointed district judge for Texas County. He has been in private practice since 2003, and served as president of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 2009.

Amy Sherry Fischer ('95) was elected president of the Foundation of the International Association of Defense Counsel. She is a member of Foliart Huff Ottaway & Bottom, of Oklahoma City, where her practice includes products liability, personal injury and medical liability matters.

Matthew W. McCann ('95), of Dallas, was named general counsel and corporate secretary for TransAtlantic Petroleum Ltd. He previously served as counsel for Riata Corporate Group and business development specialist for Longfellow Energy LP.

Eric S. Fisher ('96) was listed in Oklahoma Super Lawyers 2013 for closely held business. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, based in the Oklahoma City office, focusing on business, administrative and tax matters.

Andrew Ingrum ('96) was recognized in the 2014 U.S. edition of The Legal 500 directory for real estate law. He is the real estate practice leader in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP.

Rickey J. Knighton II ('96) was appointed to the Oklahoma Bar Association Board of Governors. He is an assistant city attorney in Norman, Oklahoma, and serves as a municipal court judge in Moore, Oklahoma.

Susanna Gattoni ('97) received the Courageous Lawyer Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association for her pro bono work on behalf of two death row inmates. She is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Thad Balkman ('98), of Norman, Oklahoma, participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. He serves as a district judge for Cleveland County.

Robert R. Redwine ('98) joined The Bethany Law Center LLP in Bethany, Oklahoma. His practice focuses on civil litigation, construction law and business transactions.

John M. Thompson ('98) was listed in Oklahoma Super Lawyers 2013 for business litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City. His practice concentrates on the litigation of complex business and commercial transactions.

Bonnie N. Hackler ('99) was listed as a “Rising Star” in bankruptcy in Oklahoma Super Lawyers 2013. She is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her practice focuses on litigation, with an emphasis in bankruptcy litigation and creditor’s rights.

Tina L. Izadi ('99) joined Employers Legal Resource Center in Oklahoma City. Her areas of practice include labor and employment law, business and corporate law, and government compliance.

Katie Blaik James ('99) joined Keesee and Company Inc., of Oklahoma City. She previously practiced law and served as the development director for the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Foundation.

Blaine Peterson ('99) joined Parman & Easterday in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on estate planning and tax law.

Amy M. Stipe ('99) was named 2014 secretary of the board of directors of GableGotwals. Based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, her practice is concentrated on civil litigation.
2000s

Adam W. Childers ('00) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of employment litigation defense. Additionally, he was named chairman of the Oklahoma City Metro Employer Council. He is a director in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy, where he co-chairs the labor and employment practice group.

Julie D. Stanley ('00) was elected to serve on the board of directors of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. She is counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City, where her practice focuses on estate planning and estate administration.

Geren T. Steiner ('00) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of business litigation. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in the firm's Oklahoma City office, where he focuses his practice on commercial disputes, ranging from overseas construction projects to local breach of contract actions.

David M. Sullivan ('00) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of intellectual property. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in Oklahoma City. He is a registered patent attorney and co-chair of the firm's intellectual property and technology group.

Christopher B. Woods ('00) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of business litigation. He practices in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with Crowe & Dunlevy, where he is a director and a member of the 2014 executive committee. His practice focuses on the litigation of complex business and commercial transactions.

J. Todd Woolery ('00) became counsel with McAfee & Taft, based in the Oklahoma City office. His areas of practice include litigation, energy and oil and gas.

Bill Baze ('01), of Hugo, Oklahoma, was named associate district judge in Choctaw County. He previously served as assistant district attorney in Choctaw County, and as an appellate attorney for the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System.

Michael H. Smith ('01) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for intellectual property. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office, where his intellectual property practice includes patent, trademark, trade secret and copyright.

Matt Ballard ('02), of Claremore, Oklahoma, was elected District 12 District Attorney. He served four years as an assistant district attorney before going into private practice. Since 2008, he has worked at Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Tracey D. Martinez ('02) co-founded the Oklahoma City law firm of Mullins Martinez Sexton & Reaves PC. Her practice focuses on family and domestic law.

Jamie K. Sexton ('02) co-founded Mullins Martinez Sexton & Reaves PC in Oklahoma City. Her practice emphasizes the area of family and domestic law.

Sheila D. Stinson ('02) received the 2014 Leadership in Law Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. She practices at Stinson Law Group in Edmond, Oklahoma, where her focus is on estate planning and litigation, probate, and business development and consultation.

Brian Bush ('03) was appointed chief executive officer of the Altus Chamber of Commerce. He previously served as executive vice president of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs.

Julianna P. Deligans ('03) was included in the 2014 Chambers USA legal directory for intellectual property. She is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office, where she practices exclusively in the area of intellectual property.

Stephen M. Hetrick ('03) was elected to the board of directors of McAfee & Taft. Based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he concentrates his practice on corporate and business law, as well as real estate.

Bryan A. Fuller ('04) was elected as a shareholder of Hall Estill. Based in the firm's Oklahoma City office, he practices in all areas of intellectual property law.
Trevor Furlong ('04) was named partner at The Edwards Law Firm in McAlester, Oklahoma. His areas of practice include personal injury and medical malpractice.

Andrea Slater Gulley ('04) was named a “Texas Rising Star” in the Texas edition of Super Lawyers 2014. She is a shareholder in the Amarillo, Texas, office of The Underwood Law Firm PC. Her practice includes employment law, education law and governmental entity law.

John S. Veazey ('04) was promoted to senior vice president and general counsel for First National Bank and Trust Company of Ardmore, Oklahoma. He has been with the bank since 2010.

Jami Rhoades Antonisse ('05) co-founded Miller & Johnson PLLC, a civil litigation and trial practice firm in Oklahoma City. She previously was in private practice after serving as a federal law clerk.

Seth Day ('05) received the Courageous Lawyer Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association for his pro bono work on behalf of two death row inmates. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Stephanie Jackson ('05) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. She practices at Jackson Law Firm PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Daniel P. Johnson ('05) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of employment litigation defense. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City and focuses his practice on employment litigation.

Jeremiah M. Mayfield ('05) was elected partner at Thompson & Knight LLP. He is a member of the corporate and securities practice group in the firm’s Dallas office. He also was listed in “Texas Rising Stars” for business/corporate practice in Texas Super Lawyers 2014.

Jennifer Prilliman ('05) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. She serves as professor and associate director of the law library at Oklahoma City University School of Law.

Trey Tipton ('05) became an associate at Blaney and Tweedy PLLC in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on business, commercial and real estate law.

Brandon L. Bloom ('06) was listed as a “Rising Star” for the tax practice area in the Texas edition of Super Lawyers 2014. He is an associate in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP.

Ryan Brannan ('06), of Austin, Texas, was appointed as commissioner of Workers’ Compensation at the Texas Department of Insurance. He previously advised the Texas governor on budget, planning and policy, focusing on insurance matters.

Katie Eidson Griffin ('06) was reappointed to the board of governors for the American Association for Justice. She practices with Sill Law Group in Edmond, Oklahoma, where her litigation practice includes complex products liability and consumer class actions. She previously served as the director of the Office of Career Development at OU Law.

Mark B. Houts ('06) joined Munson & Ritter PC of Edmond, Oklahoma, where he will lead the litigation practice. He previously worked with the Edmonds Cole Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

Drew T. Palmer ('06) was listed as a “Rising Star” in intellectual property litigation in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013. An associate with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City, he is a patent attorney specializing in litigation and conflict resolution in the software, Internet and other high-technology industries.

Trisha A. Wald ('06) was been named the 2014 Outstanding Accounting Educator by the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is an assistant professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where she teaches accounting and legal classes. She previously practiced law in Oklahoma City.

Michael A. Betts ('07) joined Evans & Davis as an associate attorney in the firm’s office in Edmond, Oklahoma. He previously practiced with Lytle, Soulé & Curlee PC in Oklahoma City.
Brian Boerner (’07), of Oklahoma City, became an associate at Gungoll, Jackson, Box & Devoll PC, where his practice focuses on oil and gas title examination. He previously worked at Chesapeake Energy Corporation as an in-house title attorney.

Joshua L. Edwards (’07) was elected to the board of directors of Phillips Murrah PC in Oklahoma City. He is a corporate attorney and represents clients in a variety of commercial transactions.

Heather Lehman Fagan (’07) became a shareholder of Fellers Snider, where she works in the Oklahoma City office. Her practice areas include workers’ compensation, personal injury and appellate matters.

Lauren Barghols Hanna (’07) was named 2014 Oklahoma CASA Attorney of the Year. She is an associate with McAfee & Taft, based in the Oklahoma City office. Her litigation practice includes labor and employment law, environmental law and intellectual property law.

Matthew B. Hickey (’07) was listed as a “Rising Star” in tax in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013. He is an associate with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on taxation, trusts and estates, and corporation and securities law.

Ward Hobson (’07) joined the Oklahoma City law firm of Blaney and Tweedy PLLC. His practice includes intellectual property, business law and civil litigation.

C. Dayne Mayes (’07) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Pignato, Cooper, Kolker & Roberson PC. He will practice in the area of general insurance defense.

Lori B. Smith (’07) joined Bass Law and is based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. Her areas of practice include oil and gas law, estate planning and business law.

Katie Templeton (’07), of Edmond, Oklahoma, was appointed to the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners. She practices with Sweet Law, focusing on medical malpractice defense.

Weston H. White (’07) co-founded Miller & Johnson PLLC, a civil litigation and trial practice firm in Oklahoma City. His practice is focused on construction litigation, insurance defense and nursing home litigation.

Clayton Hasbrook (’08) was named to the “Top 40 Under 40” by The National Trial Lawyers. He practices in Oklahoma City with Hasbrook & Hasbrook, where his practice concentrates on general litigation with an emphasis on personal injury law.

Ryan J. Reaves (’08) co-founded the Oklahoma City law firm of Mullins Martinez Sexton & Reaves PC. He maintains a practice with a focus on domestic relations and family law.

Jennifer Tupps (’08) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. She is a staff attorney for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Evan G.E. Vincent (’08) was listed as a “Rising Star” in business litigation in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013. He practices in Oklahoma City, where he is an associate with Crowe & Dunlevy focusing on litigation of complex legal matters at both the trial and appellate levels.

Leon Douglas Bragg (’09) joined Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc. as a staff attorney in the Oklahoma City office, where he will work with The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM). He previously worked at the Hunsucker Legal Group in Oklahoma City.

Brandee Bruening (’09) was listed in the Oklahoma edition of Super Lawyers 2013 in the area of bankruptcy. She is assistant general counsel at MidFirst Bank in Oklahoma City.

Blake Lynch (’09) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. He practices with Wagner and Lynch in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Michelle Millben (’09) joined the staff of the White House as the outreach and recruitment director in the Office of Presidential Personnel. She previously served on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

Rebecca R. Seidl (’09) was included in Oil and Gas Investor magazine’s inaugural list of “20 Under 40 in A&D Advisers.” She is an associate in the oil and gas practice group in the Houston office of Thompson & Knight LLP.
Young Alumni Board provides support

Members of the Young Alumni Board met April 30 and were brought up to date on activities and achievements from the spring semester, as well as future plans for the OU College of Law. Members of the group provide valuable guidance and assistance to OU Law in the areas of fundraising and employment opportunities for new graduates.

2010s

Michael L. Brooks (’10) was named to the 10th Circuit Appellate Criminal Justice Act Attorney Panel. He is an associate with the Oklahoma City firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, where he focuses on appellate practice, litigation and employment law.

Miguel García (’10) received the 2014 Leadership in Law Award from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He is an attorney at Michael Brooks-Jiménez in Oklahoma City. His primary area of focus is criminal law with immigration consequences.

Andrew Ralph Harroz (’10) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Mulinix Ogden Hall & Ludlam PLLC as an associate. His practice focuses on business litigation, real estate transactions and commercial contracts.

Nicole D. Herron (’10) joined Richards & Connor PLLP in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as an associate. Her practice focuses on insurance defense. She previously served as an assistant public defender in Oklahoma County.

Kimberly McCullough (’10) was elected to the board of directors for the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners. She works in Oklahoma City with J. Michael Entz Inc.

Brandi Nowakowski (’10) was named Director of the Year for the Young Lawyers Division of the Oklahoma Bar Association. She is an associate at the West Law Firm in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Matt Von Tungeln (’10) returned to Bass Law in Oklahoma City after doing land and title work for an independent energy company for two years. His practice at Bass Law will include oil and gas law, estate planning and real estate law.

Adam L. Wilson (’10) joined the Tulsa, Oklahoma, law firm of Richards & Connor PLLP as an associate. He practices primarily in the fields of insurance coverage, employment law and business transactions.

Bevan Graybill (’11) was honored by the Oklahoma City RedHawks and Chesapeake Energy Corporation as a Chesapeake Energy Community All-Star for her work with Oklahoma City ReMerge, a diversion program for pregnant women and mothers facing incarceration. Graybill is a staff attorney at the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals in Oklahoma City.

Carly Griffith Hotvedt (’11) joined Best & Sharp in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her practice areas will include general insurance defense, municipal liability and civil rights issues.
Brittini L. Jagers ('11) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. She practices with Jagers & Johnson PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Colby C. Pearce ('11) became an associate of Richards & Connor PLLP in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice primarily focuses on insurance defense and civil litigation.

Ashley Rahill ('11) participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association 2014 Leadership Academy. She practices in Oklahoma City with Cathy Christensen & Associates PC.

Clayton W. Cotton ('12) joined Fenton, Fenton, Smith, Reneau & Moon PC, of Oklahoma City, as an associate. He practices in the firm’s litigation division.

Alyson T. Gildner ('12, LL.M. '13) became as associate at Mulinix Ogden Hall & Ludlam PLLC in Oklahoma City. Her areas of practice include natural resources and agricultural law, American Indian law and civil litigation.

Anne S. Maguire ('12) became an associate of Barrow & Grimm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her practice includes business law, real estate and civil litigation. She previously worked with Latham, Wagner, Steele & Lehman PC.

Shivan V. Mehta ('12) joined Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate in the intellectual property practice group of the firm’s Dallas office. He previously practiced at Alston & Bird LLP and was an IT consultant at Accenture.

Alex C. Wilson ('12) became an associate at Brennan, Smith & Cherbini PLLC in Muskogee, Oklahoma. His practice areas include estate planning, personal injury and insurance disputes, as well as general civil litigation.

John David Brown ('13) joined McAfee & Taft as an associate, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. He represents clients in transactional matters involving the buying, selling, leasing, financing and registration of aircraft.

Patrick G. Colvin ('13) became an associate at Jones, Gotcher & Bogin PC in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice includes civil litigation, labor law and general business representation.

Matthew Jensen ('13) became an associate at Sprouse Shadrer Smith PC in Amarillo, Texas. His practice focuses primarily on oil and gas transactions, real estate transactions, and business transactions.

Benjamin L. Munda ('13) joined McAfee & Taft as an associate in the Oklahoma City office. His practice includes patent, trademark, copyright, licensing and trade secret law.

Joy Tate ('13) joined Pignato, Cooper, Kolker & Roberson PC in Oklahoma City. Her practice will focus on general insurance defense.

We remember

Tracy Lee Allen ('84)
Charles Perry Ames ('52)
Laura Marble Arledge ('94)
Charles Temple Bixler ('56)
Walter Murray Bower ('61)
John P. Caporal ('50)
David M. Cook ('42)
Allen Craig Cowdery ('68)
Kevin Driskill ('82)
Forrest Lee Frueh ('64)
Harold T. Garvin ('43)
Robert Neil Gee ('81)
Robert “Bob” Lee Gregory ('51)
Tina Marie Crow Halcomb ('92)
Rudolph Hargrave ('49)
Brandolyn Cheyenne Henderson ('05)
Henry N. Herbst ('84)
George B. Higgins ('49)
Joseph Henry Humphrey ('64)
Larry G. Hurst ('84)
James Jeffrey “J.J.” Jackson ('87)
John Benjamin Jenkins ('06)
Donald Dean Laudick ('74)
James Laughlin ('53)
John David Maley ('59)
Barton C. McSpadden ('93)
Robert C. Montgomery ('67)
Wilbur P. Patton ('48)
Robert L. “Buddy” Pendarvis ('57)
Ellen Tallant Phillips ('93)
Frank Michael "Mike" Ringer ('70)
Charles W. Royer ('55)
Arthur E. Rubin ('50)
Vester V. Songer ('48)
Michael E. Utter ('76)
Robert C. Van Laanen ('55)
James L. Zahorsky ('63)
Staff changes

New faces and titles

Sara Mongold, a graduate of the OU Law Legal Assistant Education Program, began in March as an assistant for the Office of Career Development. She previously worked at the law firms of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP in Kansas City, Missouri, and Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy PLLC in Oklahoma City. Just prior to joining the OU Law staff, she was employed as a legal secretary at Continental Resources Inc.

Retirements

Dawn Tomlins retired July 1 as supervisor in the Faculty Support Office, where she began working in 1992 as a staff assistant and was promoted five years later to supervisor. As supervisor, she oversaw the administrative services of the support staff, coordinating and monitoring the office work environment to meet the faculty’s needs. Dawn considers assisting professors in editing their books and articles for publication to be among her greatest accomplishments. She looks forward to traveling with her husband, Jim, and spending time with their grandchildren.

OU Law staff members recognized by university

OU Law’s Misti Box received the Distinguished Performance Award during OU’s 2014 Staff Awards Ceremony held April 22 in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom in Oklahoma Memorial Union. Box is a faculty assistant who goes above and beyond her daily job duties to help everyone around her. In addition to sorting all the mail, ordering supplies and making copies, she regularly runs to get supplies that are needed immediately by faculty or staff.

Box also goes out of her way to make the work environment more pleasant for everyone. For example, one of the OU Law custodians is deaf and very few people can communicate with him. Box decided to learn sign language and teach it to those around her. On her desk, she displays an image of a word or phrase used in American Sign Language and changes it regularly.

Several other OU Law staff members also were honored for their service to the University of Oklahoma. Dale Pollard was recognized for 30 years of service. Lisa Bowles and Bobbie Foster received their 20-year recognition and Cindy Garrett was recognized for 15 years of service to the university.
Career Development Night highlights varied career paths

To provide first-year students with information about different types of legal careers, the Office of Career Development hosted Career Development Night on January 16. Sponsored by Devon Energy Corporation and Crowe and Dunlevy, the evening consisted of presentations providing information about practicing law with corporations, law firms and government agencies.

Students rotated through three presentations and capped off the evening with a networking reception in the Boren Atrium.

Admissions office hosts events

Admissions Open House — January 30

Emily Dutcher and her parents, Blake and Ruth Dutcher, visit with Professor Stephen Henderson (second from left) in the Kerr Student Lounge at the Admissions Open House. At the evening event, prospective and admitted students, and their families visited with faculty, staff, alumni and current students.

Admitted Students Day — March 7

Assistant Dean Scott Palk and a panel of current students speak in the Dick Bell Courtroom with students admitted to the Class of 2017. Students began the day with breakfast in the Amicus Café and spent the morning learning about various aspects of student life at OU Law. Following lunch in the Kerr Student Lounge, they attended a mock class session, toured the Law Center and concluded with a reception at a downtown restaurant.
CDO event stresses importance of professionalism

First-year law students were instructed on various aspects of professionalism at an event coordinated by the Office of Career Development held February 11 at the First National Center in Oklahoma City. Sponsored by McAfee & Taft, the evening featured firm members speaking on topics ranging from business etiquette to dressing like a professional.

As part of the CDO’s comprehensive programing to prepare OU Law students for the job market, Professionalism Night also included a networking reception to allow law students an opportunity to meet McAfee & Taft attorneys.

BLSA chapter receives recognition

The OU chapter of the Black Law Students Association was recognized as Chapter of the Year for medium-size chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region of the national organization. This was the second year in a row for OU’s Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chapter to receive this award.

The BLSA coordinates a variety of activities during the academic year. On February 25, Melvin Hall ('81) was the featured speaker at the organization’s Remembering Our History Program. He focused on the strides the African-American community has made in the legal profession and credited Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher for many of those changes. He told the students of the impact she made on his life and how they will also have the power to change someone’s life.

OU Law’s BLSA also participated in the national organization’s Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition. The team of Jonathan Brewer and Marcus Barahona won the regional competition in February and placed third in the national competition in Milwaukee in March.

Public Interest Career Fair marks 10th year

The Kerr Student Lounge was lined with employers representing 15 different public interest organizations from across the country on February 25. They were at the OU College of Law for the 10th annual Public Interest Career Fair, co-sponsored by the Public Interest Law Students Association and the Office of Career Development.

Employers from nonprofit, government and military organizations were able to market themselves and their internship programs to students. In addition, students seeking public interest positions had the chance to interact with and distribute resumés to potential employers.

PILSA is a student-driven organization dedicated to developing and sustaining a culture of public service at OU Law. The Public Interest Career Fair is an important element in this commitment to public service.
Students enjoy an evening with energy industry professionals

The University of Oklahoma College of Law, as a leader in energy and natural resources law, continues to produce top talent for the energy industry. As part of its career development program, OU Law hosts an annual Meet the Energy Industry event where its students have the opportunity to network with top energy attorneys and landmen in the oil and gas industry.

The 2014 event was held at the IAO Gallery in downtown Oklahoma City. Law students networked with over 50 oil and gas lawyers and landmen from numerous energy companies and law firms. Sponsors of the event included Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Continental Resources Inc., Devon Energy Corporation, Mahaffey & Gore PC and SandRidge Energy Inc.

With more energy-related courses than any other law school in the country, OU Law is known for producing students specifically trained for careers in the oil and gas industry. These students are rising through the ranks to hold key leadership positions in the top energy companies around the globe. Students are offered the opportunity to specialize in energy through a J.D. Certificate Program. The energy law certificate enhances the student’s law school experience by providing a solid grounding in energy law through a unique blend of substantive legal knowledge, practical application and exposure to the energy industry in a dynamic inter-disciplinary learning environment.

In addition to the J.D. Certificate Program, OU Law offers the John B. Turner LL.M. Program, in which students can earn a master of laws degree in energy and natural resources. Just this year, the College of Law implemented a new Master of Legal Studies Program. In this program, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, are able to earn the M.L.S. in energy and natural resources.

“As the state’s flagship law school in a top energy state, it is our mission to provide an unsurpassed oil and gas legal education at an affordable price,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “We are developing new and dynamic classes, academic specializations and providing industry networking opportunities to ensure our students are equipped for successful careers in this vital industry.”
Students who worked on OU Law’s three scholarly publications came together March 31 to celebrate their successes at an end-of-year banquet sponsored by Fellers Snider, GableGotwals, Hall Estill and McAfee & Taft. At the event, held in the Kerr Student Lounge, faculty, staff and attorneys joined the students who worked on the Oklahoma Law Review, the American Indian Law Review and the Oklahoma Journal of Law and Technology.

Opening remarks by Dean Joe Harroz were followed by a presentation of awards and recognition of the outgoing and incoming editorial boards and faculty advisers. The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the three publications and acknowledge the contributions they make to the legal community.

Chesapeake Scholars Kim Ikegbunam, Brette Gollihare and Cameron Johnston, accompanied by Chesapeake employee Amanda L. Clark (*10), watch a home game of the Oklahoma City Thunder as guests of Chesapeake Energy Corporation.
NALSA wins Chapter of the Year

The OU Native American Law Student Association brought home several honors in April from the Federal Bar Association’s 38th Annual Indian Law Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

NALSA was named Chapter of the Year in recognition of its contributions in increasing knowledge of Native American law. The group hosted an ongoing speaker series, raised over $2,000 for a fellowship to assist a student in working with native communities and hosted this year’s National NALSA Moot Court Competition.

Roy Brown, the National NALSA vice president, was named 3L Member of the Year for his outstanding work at the national level. Additionally, current OU NALSA President Kelbie Kennedy was elected to serve as the Area 3 Representative on the 2014-15 board of directors for the national organization.

BOV meets as academic year winds down

Dean Joe Harroz reports to the Board of Visitors on the state of the College during a May 7 meeting in the Dick Bell Courtroom. The board advises the OU Law leadership as they work to advance the quality of academic programs and research, and further enhance OU Law’s standing as a nationally respected law school.
The Public Interest Law Student Association honored almost 100 students, faculty and staff at its annual pro bono awards reception April 14. In addition, 26 students were awarded summer public interest fellowships. The evening featured Gary Pierson ('84), president and chief executive officer of The Oklahoma Publishing Company, who spoke about the importance of volunteer work.

Ally Simon received the Class of 2014 Pro Bono Award. During her law school career, she volunteered nearly 1,000 hours while working for Pros for Africa and the American Civil Liberties Union.

A student from each class also was recognized: 1L Grace Garcia, 69 hours with the Victim Protection Order Program and Legal Aid of Oklahoma; 2L Cathleen Brantley, 520 hours with the Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women, the U.S. Department of State End Sex Trafficking Day, and the American Civil Liberties Union; and 3L David Jenkins, 554 hours for the Cleveland County District Attorney’s Office.

Harrison Kosmider, 3L PILSA coordinator, presents the Class of 2014 Pro Bono Award to Ally Simon.
Class of 2014 celebrates at May 9 open house
Judge Robert E. Bacharach addresses 173 graduates
Coats Hall south oval named in honor of Professor Frank and Edna Asper Elkouri

For almost 60 years, Professor Emeritus Frank Elkouri and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri, were an important part of the fabric of OU Law. Sadly, both recently passed away – Frank on January 18, 2013, and Edna on February 17, 2014. Their professional, personal and financial contributions to the OU College of Law were profound and will continue to have a lasting impact on generations of students.

An Oklahoman, Professor Elkouri graduated from the OU College of Law in 1947, and then went on to earn LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Among his publications is *How Arbitration Works*, regarded as the authoritative treatise on the law and practice of labor arbitration. It was published in 1952 as his doctoral thesis.

Professor Elkouri, a nationally noted authority on labor arbitration, joined the OU law faculty in 1952, teaching labor law, property, trade regulation, torts and workers’ compensation. He was honored with a distinguished George Lynn Cross Research Professorship in 1975. Though he retired in 1985, he continued his leadership at the law school through 2010 as an inspirational mentor and accomplished scholar.

Edna Asper Elkouri studied dress design at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, operated a ladies’ and children’s ready-to-wear store, and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with highest honors. She then attended George Washington University and earned her juris doctor degree. While a first year law student, Edna met Frank Elkouri, who was then working for the National Wage Stabilization Board in Washington, D.C. Edna graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School in 1953, and maintained a private law practice before joining the staff of the chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., where she worked for three years.


In 2011, after 58 years of service to the University of Oklahoma College of Law, the Elkouris made the largest one-time contribution in the history of the law school – a $6 million gift to support student scholarship programs in the OU College of Law. The gift was made even more significant due to the spirit in which it was given. “We wanted to do for the students what we couldn’t do for those who helped us,” Frank said. It was truly a gift of the heart.

Nine years earlier, in 2002, the Elkouris made another major gift to endow the Frank Elkouri and Edna Asper Elkouri Professorship of Law.

The Elkouris and their legacy will forever be an important part of OU law. Due to the innumerable scholarly, instructional and financial contributions this amazing couple made to the College of Law, President Boren proposed, and the OU Board of Regents approved, the naming of the south oval at Coats Hall as the Professor Frank and Edna Asper Elkouri Oval.

On March 31, the family and friends of Frank and Edna Asper Elkouri joined faculty, staff and students in the Kerr Student Lounge for a school-wide celebration of the Elkouri’s indelible mark on the College of Law.
Faculty changes

New faces and titles

Monika Ehrman began teaching at OU Law in January. Her scholarly interests lie in the area of oil, gas and energy law, including perspectives on environmental impacts and energy policy.

She previously served as general counsel of CERES Resource Partners LP, a privately held oil and gas company in Dallas; senior counsel with Pioneer Natural Resources, in Irving, Texas; and associate attorney in the Dallas office of Locke Lord LLP. Her practice included oil and gas litigation and transactions in such areas as the Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale and Permian Basin.

Before entering law school, Ehrman worked as a petroleum engineer in the upstream, midstream and pipeline sectors of the energy industry. In addition to her experience with the technical aspects of the industry, she also has worked as an analyst in the areas of commodity risk management and energy trading.

Ehrman received a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering from University of Alberta, a juris doctor degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and a master of laws degree from Yale Law School.

She is currently a trustee-at-large for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and performs pro bono work for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.

Brian McCall began service on June 1 as associate dean for academic affairs, associate director of the Law Center, and director of the Legal Assistant Education Program. McCall joined the OU Law faculty in 2006 after nine years in private practice with the international law firm Dechert LLP. He holds the Orpha and Maurice Merrill Professorship in Law and teaches Contracts, Payment Systems and Secured Transactions.

Mary Sue Backus was named chair of the newly created Committee on Experiential Learning. She will serve, on an ad hoc basis, as director of experiential learning and academic support to provide cohesive strategic leadership of the clinics, externships, and legal research and writing program while the committee completes its work. Backus, a Presidential Professor, has been at OU Law since 2004 and currently teaches Criminal Law, Education Law and Evidence.

Retirements

Judith Maute, a member of the OU Law faculty since 1982, retired in June. She has taught Professional Responsibility, Lawyering in the 21st Century, Legal Malpractice, Gender-Based Discrimination, Feminist Jurisprudence and Emotional Intelligence for Lawyers. Maute founded and served for six years as the director of OU Law’s student pro bono program, Students for Access to Justice, now called the Public Interest Law Students Association.

Maute has written and lectured extensively, with special focus on legal ethics, legal history, contracts and dispute resolution. She has authored more than 20 publications. Her recent ethics scholarship concentrates on the evolution of lawyers’ pro bono responsibilities, system design for the delivery of legal services to under-served communities, and selection of state court judges.

Active in national academic and professional organizations, Maute has chaired the Section on Professional Responsibility and the Section on Women in Legal Education of the Association of American Law Schools and has served on the Multi-State Professional Responsibility Test-Drafting Committee and on law school accreditation site inspection teams for AALS and the American Bar Association. She also has served on the Oklahoma Bar Association Rules of Professional Conduct Committee, the Access to Justice Committee, and the Standing Committee on Women in Law.
Faculty honors

Inaugural Boren Award goes to Robertson

Lindsay Robertson was selected as the first recipient of the David L. Boren Award for Outstanding Global Engagement. This award was designed to recognize University of Oklahoma faculty who have exhibited outstanding commitment to and support for the university’s international mission.

Robertson has had a profound impact on the College of Law’s efforts to promote greater global engagement. “His work to broaden the world of his students to comprehend the global community, to enhance their sense of participation in and capacity to contribute to global dialogue, is driven by his commitment to the vision, and not to his job description,” Dean Joe Harroz said.

Robertson has been instrumental in developing exciting new classes that directly link OU Law students with people around the world. In 2000, he and Professor Brad Morse (then of the University of Ottawa) launched a videoconference seminar on Comparative Indigenous Peoples Law. It was the first-ever law school course allowing students from different countries to participate in real-time, and now includes students from four countries. In 2009, Robertson started the International Human Rights Law Clinic at OU Law to participate in the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review process.

Robertson also has been one of OU Law’s most active and visible international public servants. He has been the private-sector adviser to the U.S. Department of State on a number of delegations and served as a member of the prestigious U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Law from 2010 to 2012. He went to Damascus and Ankara in 2004 to chair international meetings on water rights and monitoring. In 2011, the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, invited Robertson to speak at law schools in La Paz and Sucre about indigenous law in the United States. Also in 2011, he testified before the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on “Domestic Policy Implications of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” In April, he co-hosted U.S. government officials and tribal organizations at OU Law for the only U.S. consultation with tribes prior to the next U.S. UPR appearance in Geneva.

Robertson started at the OU College of Law in 1997 as a visiting associate professor. He is now a tenured professor, the director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic, associate director of the Inter-American Center for Law and Culture, and the faculty director for the Center of the Study of American Indian Law and Policy. Robertson teaches courses in Federal Indian Law, Comparative Indigenous Peoples Law, Constitutional Law and Legal History. He also has written numerous books, essays and law review articles covering virtually every aspect of Native American law and indigenous peoples law.

European Law Institute selects Kutner

Hugh Roff Professor of Law Peter Kutner has been selected as a fellow of the European Law Institute. The European Law Institute is an independent organization concerned with the improvement and integration of law in Europe. Its fellows and other members are primarily distinguished jurists from across Europe, not only academics but also legal practitioners, judges, government officials and leaders of legal organizations. A small number of scholars from outside Europe, including Kutner, are also fellows and will contribute to the projects of the institute.
University honors professors

The University of Oklahoma honored faculty of the Norman campus at “A Tribute to the Faculty” on April 10. Three professors from the College of Law received recognition at the event.

Stephen Henderson received the Vice President for Research Award for Outstanding Research Impact. The award acknowledges and celebrates exceptional faculty research, scholarship and creative activity. Henderson was recognized for his research on law enforcement access to information in the hands of third parties, and his developments in educational technology.

Steven Cleveland was presented the Merrick Teaching Award. This award honors the faculty member who is considered most outstanding in bringing to students a better understanding and appreciation of the economic and political basis of American society. Henderson was acknowledged for not only understanding the free enterprise system, but also for having a gift for making it accessible and exciting to law students.

Donald Bogan received the Thomas P. Hester Presidential Professorship, awarded to honor, reward and retain top faculty members who excel at teaching and mentoring students. Bogan was recognized as embodying a rare combination of practical legal experience, passion for teaching and mentoring students, and a record of sustained, penetrating scholarship in the arcane and highly complex area of ERISA law.
Burstein chairs ABA committee

The American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law named OU Law Professor Sarah Burstein chair of its Design Committee. She spearheaded the effort to change the committee’s name from the Industrial Design Committee to the Design Committee.

“The basic goal was to change the name to better reflect the products and processes that are the key subjects of design protection in the 21st century,” said Burstein.

The term “industrial design” suggests a focus on the products and processes of 20th-century mass production. And while this remains an important area of great interest to the committee, individuals and companies now seek intellectual property protection for subject matter that does not neatly fit into the “industrial design” box — things like computer interface design and user experience design. At the same time, formerly discrete areas of design are converging. For example, Google just hired a fashion designer to head up its Google Glass division and Apple has hired fashion industry executives to head its retail division and to work on special projects.

All of these changes present significant challenges and opportunities with respect to intellectual property law. Indeed, despite its formal name and description, the committee has been interested in a broader swath of “design” for years.

Burstein also would like to get students more involved with the ABA/IPL. Students can join the ABA for a nominal fee.

Guzman receives Oklahoma Medal for Excellence

Katheleen Guzman was honored by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence with the 2014 Medal for Excellence in Teaching at a Research University.

Guzman joined OU Law in 1993 and has taught Property, Wills and Trusts, Advanced Trusts, Indian Land Titles, Land Use, and Real Estate Transactions. She has been a capstone adviser to more than 100 students and serves as faculty adviser for several student organizations. Guzman has received more than 15 teaching awards at OU, including being named outstanding law professor by the student body. “The energy she gives to students is significant and radiates in all that she does,” said Dean Joe Harroz.

Guzman said she sets high expectations for her students, with the ultimate goal of teaching students how to teach themselves. “I demand daily written briefs and lower grades for inadequate preparation,” she said.

“Students commend this approach, noting that my belief in them helps them believe in themselves.”

Former student Cullen Sweeney (’10), now a law clerk for a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals judge, called Guzman his “hero” with a gift for making complex matters seem accessible and daunting issues seem surmountable. He said the first time he began to feel like a lawyer was in Guzman’s property class when he and a classmate were assigned to argue dueling sides of a difficult case in front of the class.

Dean Emeritus Andy Coats (’63) said Guzman “makes a potentially tedious topic – wills and trusts – interesting by injecting humor and creativity into her lectures and assignments. She relates to students by making the law real to them.” For example, in one class Guzman explained how mortgages worked by giving students a copy of her own mortgage.

Founded in 1985 by OU President David L. Boren, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence recognizes and encourages academic excellence in Oklahoma’s public schools.

Katheleen Guzman wears the medal she was awarded by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence at the May 17 Academic Awards Banquet. She is pictured with OU President David L. Boren and Harvard Professor Robert D. Putnam, keynote speaker for the event.
Beyond the classroom

- Anderson selected as AIPN professor in residence
  The Association of International Petroleum Negotiators selected Owen Anderson as its 2014 professor in residence. AIPN is an independent nonprofit association supporting international energy negotiators around the world. It created the professor in residence appointment to encourage greater participation by members of its Education Advisory Board. Anderson was selected from a pool of professors from the United States, Brazil and Nigeria.

  Anderson will act as an ambassador for AIPN, and serve as a liaison between its membership and the student community. He will attend three AIPN events around the world over the next year. At the conclusion of his year of service, Anderson will publish an article in the AIPN online newsletter reporting on the events he attended and offering suggestions for improving or expanding AIPN’s role in the international oil and gas industry.

- Anderson teaches class to Mexican agency
  Owen Anderson spent half a day with employees of Comision Nacional de Hidrocarburos, the Mexican oil and gas regulatory agency, teaching a class on the new petroleum investment reforms in Mexico. Lawyers, geologists, engineers and economists from CNH attended the class held at the agency’s office in Mexico City. Anderson taught the class with two other attorneys – one from Canada and another from Mexico.

- AILR symposium boasts world-renowned speakers
  Hundreds of people from across the United States filled the Dick Bell Courtroom on February 27 for the symposium, “Tribal Sovereignty: A Global Perspective,” presented by the OU College of Law, the American Indian Law Review and the OU Native American Studies Department.

  The keynote speaker for the event was Jose Francisco Cali Tzay (Maya Kaqchikel), chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Cali currently is serving his third term as an expert member of the committee, and with his election as chairperson, became the first indigenous person in history to chair a U.N. treaty-monitoring body. Cali discussed the international legal system and the different roles indigenous representatives can play in international organizations.

  Other featured speakers included George Tiger, principal chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; James Collard, director of planning and economic development, Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Dinah Shelton, professor at George Washington University Law School, and former member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Armstrong Wiggins (Miskito), director, Indian Law Resource Center, Washington, D.C.; Neha Sheth, attorney-adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State; and Dieter Dörr, professor at Johannes-Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.

  This was the third year OU has hosted the symposium, one of the largest in the United States. In addition to the international and regional issues faced by indigenous people, speakers also focused on the ability of indigenous peoples to assert their rights at the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and the capacity of tribes to engage economically on an international level.
Alumna endows energy scholarship

Deborah Hubbs (‘06) donated $50,000 to the College of Law to endow a scholarship in honor of her boss and personal mentor, Margaret “Meg” Woodward Molleston. Molleston is the current vice president of GeoSouthern Energy Corporation, an independent oil and gas producer based in The Woodlands, Texas.

Hubbs served as general counsel and business development manager of GeoSouthern, where she oversaw the legal, land and human relations functions of the company.

Prior to working at GeoSouthern, Hubbs served as team lead for the Appalachian Basin at Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. Hubbs and Molleston were both instrumental in GeoSouthern’s recent $6 billion Eagle Ford asset sale to Devon Energy Corporation. Hubbs named the scholarship for Molleston to honor the role she played in Hubbs’ career achievements.

“This new scholarship will make a tremendous impact,” stated Dean Joe Harroz. “It will be given to a second-year law student with a demonstrated interest in the oil and gas industry. The scholarship will enable the recipient to receive a first-class, affordable legal education at one of the premier law schools for the study of oil and gas law.”

Gift provides stunning new conference room at OU Law

As construction is completed, the University of Oklahoma College of Law is proud to announce a $100,000 gift from Howard K. Berry Jr. (‘58) to help build a new collaborative conference room space. The conference room, located directly across from the Student Services Office, will serve as a key space for student groups and faculty to meet.

“We are very grateful to Mr. Berry for this generous gift,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “This conference room will be a spectacular space that anchors multidisciplinary purposes, including student organization meetings, employer interviews, and faculty-led discussions. Mr. Berry understood the need of a dynamic space for students to work and study together in large groups. Because of his generosity, OU Law now has a beautiful 12-seat interactive conference room.”

Berry, a personal injury attorney in Oklahoma City, has made an incredible impact on the Oklahoma legal community, including his establishment of the Howard K. Berry Sr. Award with the Oklahoma County Bar Foundation. The Berrys have maintained a personal injury practice continuously since the 1930s, with offices, for the last 25 years, housed in a National Register of Historic Places building.

If you are interested in making a gift to the College of Law, please contact Dean Casey Delaney at cdelaney@ou.edu.
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