Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center:
Leading legal education in the digital age
Dear Friends,

At OU Law, we are passionate about our unique opportunity to educate the next great generation of lawyers and leaders. In this issue of Sooner Lawyer, you will read about our continued success as an innovator in legal education and the national leadership role we are assuming. The two feature stories capture OU Law’s commitment to educating the mind and the heart, resulting in prepared and thoughtful graduates, ready to lead strategically and with compassion.

Nearly eight years ago, Inasmuch Foundation provided funding for four multimedia study rooms in our Donald E. Pray Law Library. These rooms quickly became invaluable spaces for our students and faculty. Equipped with the latest technology, these rooms are used for a variety of purposes from small-group study sessions to employer interviews and even moot court competitions. The use of these study rooms grew exponentially, proving that technology used thoughtfully can help our students learn better and collaborate together. Simply put, technology properly employed does not divide us in our efforts to learn; it brings us together.

Last year, OU Law became the first law school in the country to launch a college-wide Digital Initiative. Our students are now learning how to utilize the latest digital tools to understand, interpret and present the law more fully and effectively. Because of the Digital Initiative’s successes and the graciousness of Inasmuch Foundation, we are now creating a Collaborative Learning Center in our law library. What was formally shelves of books will now be an 8,000-square-foot, first-class, state-of-the-art 21st-century law library. Inasmuch Foundation’s remarkable donation of $1.5 million makes our vision of collaborative learning in legal education a reality. I hope you enjoy reading more about the Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center on page 2.

Our second feature (page 6), profiles Ellen O’Neill-Stephens (‘83), a former senior deputy prosecutor with a heartfelt concern for justice and compassion. Her unique organization, Courthouse Dogs Foundation, integrates specially trained service dogs into the criminal justice system as a way to provide emotional support throughout legal proceedings. Ellen’s work adds a new layer of care and comfort to advocacy in the court.

Members of the OU Law family around the world, like you, are using their talents for dedicated service and leadership. Thank you for being part of this important work and for continuing to make OU Law proud.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz Jr.
Dean and Professor
Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law

From the Dean
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Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center:
Leading legal education in the digital age

BY JONELLA FRANK
The mission of the OU College of Law to integrate technology into all aspects of each student’s legal education soared to a new level with a $1.5 million grant from Inasmuch Foundation. The generous gift provides the genesis for the new Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center, to be created through the renovation and transformation of the 8,000-square-foot entrance of the Donald E. Pray Law Library. With informal and creative learning spaces designed to enhance student-to-student and faculty-to-student interaction, and increase active learning and immediate feedback, the new space will become an intellectual activity center.

With an earlier gift in 2008, Inasmuch Foundation provided critical funding for four multimedia study rooms in the law library. Warmly received by law students and faculty, these rooms and their state-of-the-art technology are utilized for a myriad of purposes, including small-group classes, moot court competitions, group study sessions, collaborative staff meetings, employer interviews and video-conferencing. The four rooms logged nearly 4,000 individual uses by two-thirds of the student body in one academic year.

The remarkable success of the study rooms and the enthusiastic acceptance of the Digital Initiative initiated in fall 2014 demonstrate that OU Law’s immersive use of technology in educating students is hitting the mark. The new collaborative learning space represents the next decisive step in ensuring OU Law students have the technology and facilities necessary to become technologically proficient practitioners in the 21st century legal profession.

“Our students are arriving prepared as ‘digital natives,’ and they will graduate into a world that will assume they learned how to leverage those skills as lawyers,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “It is inescapable that technology is now central to the practice of law. We must teach our students to operate in a digital environment from the first day of classes, and we must use technology to reach students of all different learning styles.”

Reliance on technology permeates all areas of modern life, the legal profession included, and the trend shows no sign of slowing. Tomorrow’s lawyers must be proficient with technology. They will research, annotate, organize and present in the digital medium. From the office to the boardroom to the courtroom, they must be skillful in employing software applications to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

As the legal profession changes and becomes more technologically reliant,
legal education must adapt. Law libraries have felt the impact.

According to the 2015 American Bar Association Legal Technology Survey Report, 83.5 percent of attorneys begin their legal research online today. The library collection is changing to reflect this reality in the practice and study of law. More access to technology will be provided to facilitate the use of online resources in the digital age.

Since 2008, in addition to the increased use of technology, another component of modern legal education has continued to grow in importance – student interaction. The law library, formerly a place utilized for collecting books and quiet reading, is evolving in response to changing needs.

Libraries are no longer used solely for quiet individual study, explained Darin Fox, ’92, associate dean and director of the law library. Students also need flexible, collaborative spaces that support peer-to-peer learning and provide places in which students can hone practice skills and create group projects. Progressive law schools are revitalizing libraries to invite increased collaboration and cooperative learning to support current and future learning practices.

"The law library is the law student’s office," said Fox. "As the study of law changes, the law library will modernize to support the needs of students, faculty and the law school curriculum. From the first day of classes to the bar exam, students are using technology to study the law and prepare for practice in the digital age. Case briefs, class notes and exams are prepared and taken on laptops and iPads. Class materials and e-textbooks are accessed from course websites, and research for papers is conducted online.”

The renovation and modernization of the Donald E. Pray Law Library entrance is set to begin in spring 2016. The new collaborative learning center will include five new multimedia study rooms equipped with the latest technology. This technology will enable group study, collaboration, law practice skills training, moot court competitions and other events. One of the five study rooms will facilitate large group collaboration, workshops and seminars.

Additionally, the new space will feature 16 dual monitor workstations; whiteboard desks, stands and walls; a centralized reference desk for library and IT; comfortable, relaxed seating areas; and a small self-service café. By encouraging interaction and active
“The law library is the law student’s office. As the study of law changes, the law library will modernize to support the needs of students, faculty and the law school curriculum.”

DARIN FOX, associate dean and director of the law library

learning, the Collaborative Learning Center will become an intellectual magnet for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary exchange.

The significance of the Donald E. Pray Law Library to the educational experience at the College of Law is evidenced by its high rate of usage. During the 2013-2014 academic year, nearly 100,000 individual uses were recorded. With this transformational gift of $1.5 million, Inasmuch Foundation demonstrated its commitment to the previously forged partnership with the OU College of Law and its purpose of enhancing the law library and improving legal education.

With the advancements to be found in the new Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center, the library will remain the heart of the law school – a place where knowledge is accessed and new ideas are formed. Utilizing innovation and cutting-edge technology, OU Law remains focused on providing a top-notch legal education, producing professionals who thrive in the digital world, and maximizing its graduates’ marketability in the 21st century.

Through the generosity of organizations such as Inasmuch Foundation, as well as many alumni and friends, OU Law continues to flourish. The efforts, financial and otherwise, made by faculty, staff, students, alumni and other partners do not go unnoticed, but instead enhance the value of a degree earned from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.
ELLEN O’NEILL-STEPHENS:
Advocating for justice with compassion

BY JONELLA FRANK
Ellen O’Neill-Stephens (‘83) is devoting herself to making the justice system more humane. Her work with Courthouse Dogs Foundation — inspired by a boy and his dog — focuses on an innovative approach of pursuing justice with compassion. O’Neill-Stephens and the internationally recognized program, promoted by the foundation, are making a difference in countless lives.
Ellen O’Neill-Stephens is a former senior deputy prosecutor in the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in Seattle. She retired in 2011 after 26 years to pursue a cause close to her heart. She now works full time to advance Courthouse Dogs Foundation’s mission of promoting the use of professionally trained facility dogs to provide emotional support to everyone in the justice system. By zealously and effectively advocating for that mission, O’Neill-Stephens has garnered much attention. And, after people see one of the dogs in action, they are true believers in the program.

“This dogs are neutral; they help everybody in the criminal justice system, and bring positive energy to an adversarial environment.”

— ELLEN O’NEILL-STEPHENS

O’Neill-Stephens was born in Enid, Oklahoma, into an Air Force family. She moved from the state when she was only 6 months old, not to return until 1980, when she entered the OU College of Law as a first-year student. Prior to law school, she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and worked as a probation officer in the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. As a result of observing court proceedings in that job, she decided to become a lawyer, and more specifically, a prosecutor.

After completing law school, O’Neill-Stephens moved with her family to Seattle, where her husband accepted a pediatric residency. She landed a job as an intern in the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. After passing the Washington Bar Exam, she accepted a job as a deputy prosecutor and began her career, working as assigned, in various divisions within the office. Almost 20 years later, while working in the juvenile drug court program, the idea for what ultimately developed into Courthouse Dogs Foundation began to develop, and experiences from her personal life helped shape the course of the remaining years of her prosecutorial career and the years beyond.

In 1982, during her second year of law school, the first of her three children was born. Sean Stephens was diagnosed at birth with cerebral palsy. He is unable to walk, use his hands or speak. Sean is totally dependent on others and has spent his life in a wheelchair.

Even while facing a multitude of challenges, Sean possesses a positive attitude, a wonderful smile and an uncanny ability to connect with people.
He was popular in high school, attended the prom with a date and received a standing ovation at graduation. But after high school, Sean’s social opportunities dramatically decreased.

In 2003, Sean and his parents traveled to Santa Rosa, California, to Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization that provides trained assistance dogs, at no cost, to people with disabilities. There they met and trained with a new member of their family – a Labrador-golden retriever mix named Jeeter. Jeeter was Sean’s service dog, best friend and people-magnet for eight years.

Sean, Jeeter and O’Neill-Stephens made numerous appearances in the Seattle community, providing information about people with disabilities, and demonstrating how service dogs can help. Jeeter would draw people to Sean. The dog’s presence and his calm, friendly manner encouraged individuals, who might otherwise have been reluctant to approach Sean and interact with him. In speaking of the impact of the Sean-Jeeter duo, O’Neill-Stephens said, “One of the most important things people learned from their partnership is that disabled people can make the world a better place too.”

One day each week when Sean was with a caregiver, Jeeter accompanied O’Neill-Stephens to work at the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, where she was the juvenile drug court prosecutor. Jeeter became the young drug court participants’ unofficial mascot. The dog’s soothing effect and unconditional support helped them through stressful times in court.

Word of Jeeter’s tension-reducing capabilities spread quickly. One day, a fellow deputy prosecutor asked to introduce Jeeter to a young boy who was unwilling to talk about abuse he had suffered at the hands of his mother. After playing with Jeeter for about 30 minutes, the child opened up and was able to provide the prosecutor with enough information to file charges against the woman.

Later, another prosecutor asked for Jeeter’s assistance on a case involving the sexual abuse of 7-year-old twin sisters who were very shy and terrified about testifying in court against their father. The girls were instantly drawn to Jeeter and a strong bond developed.

When the trial judge allowed Jeeter to sit with each girl on the witness stand, they both were able to testify about the actions of their father. During their testimony, Jeeter sat next to them and occasionally put his head on their laps while they petted him.

The seed of a concept was now firmly planted. Jeeter, the sweet, intelligent dog that assisted Sean, had not only provided a calming influence for the teenagers in drug court, but had given the emotional support two young girls needed in order to confront and testify against their abusive father. O’Neill-Stephens saw the possibilities for using dogs to help make the criminal justice system more humane.

With O’Neill-Stephens’ encouragement and guidance, the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office got a dog of its own in 2004. Ellie and handler Paige Ulrey, a senior deputy prosecutor, were the first facility dog team placed in a court setting in the United States by Canine Companions for Independence, establishing the first courthouse facility dog program. About two years later, Stilson and his handler, the victims’ advocate in the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, became the second facility dog team in a courthouse venue.

As word spread of the benefits of these dogs, and more inquiries about their use were made, O’Neill-Stephens realized there needed to be a formal organization to promote the concept. In 2008, she and veterinarian Celeste Walsen formed Courthouse Dogs LLC, which in 2012 became Courthouse Dogs Foundation.

As executive director of the foundation, Walsen works to develop nationally recognized guidelines utilizing scientific research to equip victims’ advocates, forensic interviewers, prosecuting attorneys and other legal professionals to effectively use facility dogs to provide support for vulnerable people of all ages. Since her retirement as a prosecutor, O’Neill-Stephens, as founder of the nonprofit, focuses on program expansion.

Through their efforts in educating and guiding interested agencies, facility dog programs have been established in prosecutor’s offices, law enforcement agencies, child advocacy centers and family courts. There are currently 94 facility dogs working in 29 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, O’Neill-Stephens and Walsen have assisted...
with the implementation of facility dog programs in Canada and Chile.

O’Neill-Stephens and Courthouse Dogs Foundation have received international recognition. In 2014, the organization was the recipient of the Victims’ Rights Partnership Award presented by the National Crime Victim Law Institute. The Hague Institute for the Internationalization of the Law acknowledged O’Neill-Stephens’ work in the international competition for its 2013 Innovating Justice Award. In the same year, *O, The Oprah Magazine* named her a “Local Hero” for her work educating legal professionals about the impact a dog can have in court. In addition, she was included as one of the “100 Best and Brightest” for amazing advancements in the dog world over the past 25 years in a list compiled by *The Bark* magazine in 2010.

One of the 94 courthouse facility dogs is Tulah, based in Oklahoma’s Kay County Courthouse in the office of District Attorney Brian Hermanson (’78). After learning about Courthouse Dogs in 2013 at a national conference, Hermanson talked to Sara Palmer, the victims’ advocate in his office, who contacted O’Neill-Stephens through the foundation’s website. Because of her previous contacts with the state of Oklahoma, when O’Neill-Stephens saw the inquiry from Palmer, she quickly responded.

“Ellen was integral to getting our program off the ground,” said Palmer, who is Tulah’s handler. “She helped me identify persons who needed to be on board and anticipate issues that might arise.”

Palmer told of a case involving a 12-year-old girl who had been sexually abused four years prior. The first time the case was set for preliminary hearing, she was unable to testify and the case was continued. Before the date of the next hearing, Tulah began working in the DA’s Victim Witness Center. The young girl visited with the dog several times and they developed a relationship.

When it came time for the girl to testify and she struggled, the judge told her she could give her answers to Tulah instead of the attorneys. Drawing on the silent, comforting support of her new friend

“Sean and Jeeter were the inspiration for this effort to make the legal system more humane. This is my way of leaving the system better than I found it.”

—ELLEN O’NEILL-STEPHENS
Tulah, the young victim was able to answer questions and finish the hearing. Referring to this case and numerous others, Palmer said, “The Courthouse Dog program has made a measurable difference in the experiences of people coming through the justice system in Kay County.”

Almost 900 miles across the country in Akron, Ohio, Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh returned from a 2011 National District Attorneys Association conference inspired to apply for a facility dog for her office. Two years later, after extensive training at Canine Companions for Independence, Avery and his handler, Melanie Hart, Walsh’s administrative assistant, became an important part of the office, working to put victims and witnesses at ease so they are able to confidently and accurately testify.

“Avery’s primary job is to provide emotional support to crime victims and witnesses, specifically children and adults with developmental disabilities,” explained Walsh. “Because of the serious nature of the crimes we prosecute, the victims and witnesses who come to our office are typically severely traumatized. Avery calms these adults and children, helping to reduce the likelihood of them becoming traumatized again.”

In addition to working in criminal cases, Avery also participates in two specialty courts in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas – The Turning Point, a drug court, and Valor Court, a court handling cases involving military veterans. His presence helps alleviate stress for participants, as well as their

Sean Stephens and his service dog Jeeter provided the inspiration for the courthouse facility dog programs.
family and friends. Upon graduation from the court program, Avery rewards each successful participant with a candy-filled congratulatory mug from Walsh.

One of the courthouse facility dog programs operating outside the United States is found in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, based at the Zebra Child Protection Centre, the first Canadian child advocacy center utilizing a multidisciplinary team approach in responding to allegations of child abuse. Facility dogs Wren and Fossey, a mother-daughter team, work with their handlers to help provide a sense of compassion, support and protection for the young abuse victims and their families who find themselves in the stress-filled environment of the criminal justice system.

Samantha Dover, director of community education and engagement, explained the dogs play different roles as the child moves through the process. A child’s first contact with one of the dogs will be during the meet-and-greet period at the initial interview. Later, a dog will be present during the forensic interview with the child “to offer that unconditional support during a time in which they might need it the most.”

Wren and Fossey also make courthouse visits, where they sit with the families in one of the Zebra Centre’s waiting rooms prior to the child’s testimony. In addition, since March 2015, the dogs have been going on the witness stand with the children while they testify.

Dover told of a 7-year-old girl who had come in for her interview, but because
Then, they were just dogs having fun running, chasing, barking and playing. When it was time for the vests to go back on, it was all business again. This amazing transformation underscored how well-trained facility dogs must be.

It takes approximately two years of professional training at an accredited service dog organization for a dog to become a facility dog in the Courthouse Dog program. During the final two weeks of the training, the person who will be the dog’s primary handler travels to the training facility and the two work together, becoming a team.

When on the job, a facility dog may work in a public area of a courthouse or in a courtroom. In addition, child advocacy centers and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children programs use facility dogs during forensic interviews and in other situations to provide comfort and support for a child during a stress-filled event.

The case for using facility dogs in the courtroom continues to develop. Legislation authorizing the practice has been passed in Arkansas and Illinois. Appellate courts in multiple jurisdictions have upheld the use of a facility dog at trial. In 2014, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington held that a defendant’s right to fair trial was not violated when the King County trial court allowed facility dog Ellie to sit next to the developmentally disabled adult victim as he testified. Then in October 2015, Ohio’s Ninth District Court of Appeals affirmed the Summit County Prosecutor’s use of a facility dog during trial.

“These dogs are neutral, they help everybody in the criminal justice system, and bring positive energy to an adversarial environment,” said O’Neill-Stephens.

Overwhelming scientific evidence exists about the physical and mental calming effects of purposely bred, appropriately trained dogs. Petting a dog can result in a decreased blood pressure or heart rate. In some instances, these changes can be brought about just by an individual seeing a dog.

O’Neill-Stephens’ vision, bolstered by law and science, is flourishing. As more people learn about the work of Courthouse Dog Foundation, the number of working facility dog teams increases. The dogs continue to work their magic and by doing so, fulfill a vision first conceived 12 years ago.

“Sean and Jeeter were the inspiration for this effort to make the legal system more humane,” she said. “This is my way of leaving the system better than I found it. Something we are not taught in law school is how stressful it is for witnesses – complaining witnesses in particular. It is possible to dial down the stress in an adversarial process.”

A boy and his dog, and the bond between the two, still inspire Ellen O’Neill-Stephens’ work. After years of educating and tens of thousands of miles on the road, she continues to advocate for justice with compassion.
News briefs

1950s

**William J. Ross** (*'52*) was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in November. He has served as chairman of Inasmuch Foundation and Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation since 1982.

**William G. Paul** (*'56*) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 for arbitration and mediation. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

**John E. Green** (*'57*) was the sole recipient of the Oklahoma Bar Association President’s Award at the OBA Annual Meeting in November. He has served as interim U.S. attorney on six different occasions, first assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, and assistant county attorney for Oklahoma County.

**Homer Paul** (*'59*) was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame as a member of the 2015 class of honorees. He is a retired banker and civic and community leader in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1960s

**Henry P. Rheinberger** (*'61*) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in three categories, including real estate law. He is a director in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy.

**Andrew M. Coats** (*'63*) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in 10 practice areas, including bet-the-company litigation. He is a director at Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City, and serves as dean emeritus and professor at OU Law.

**Richard L. McKnight** (*'63*), of Enid, Oklahoma, was honored by the Cimarron Council of the Boy Scouts of America with the North Star Award in recognition of his support of scouting and other organizations. He practices with Gungoll, Jackson, Box & Devoll PC.

**D. Kent Meyers** (*'64*) received the Journal Record Award in recognition of his efforts in co-founding and volunteering with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children. He also was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in six categories, including bet-the-company litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

**James M. Sturdivant** (*'64*) was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in six categories, including antitrust litigation. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**John H. Trudgeon** (*'64*) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in three practice areas, including employee benefits law. He is of counsel with Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.

**James Richard Cox** (*'65*) was honored by the Garfield County Bar Association for 50 years of membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association. He maintains a private practice in Enid, Oklahoma, and serves as of counsel with Ewbank, Hennigh & McVay Law Firm.

**Arlen E. Fielden** (*'65*) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in four practice areas, including insurance law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, based in the Oklahoma City office.

**David L. Russell** (*'65*) received the Award of Judicial Excellence from the Oklahoma Bar Association. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1982, and has served as judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma since that time.

**Sheppard F. Miers Jr.** (*'66*) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 for three categories, including tax law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Glenn Floyd** (*'67*), of Norman, Oklahoma, was honored at the 20th anniversary meeting of the American College of Bond Counsel for his contributions to the organization as a founding fellow and former president. He is the senior founding partner of Floyd Law Firm PC, which focuses on municipal bond and public finance law.
Robert M. Johnson (‘67) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for real estate law and construction law. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

Clyde A. Muchmore (‘67) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in five categories, including bet-the-company litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Reid E. Robison (‘68) received the Oklahoma County Bar Association Bobby G. Knapp Leadership Award for leadership, stewardship and professionalism. He is a shareholder of McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City.

Martin P. Moltz (‘69) was appointed to the executive committee of the Illinois Judges Association and will continue as the chairman of the public affairs committee. He is associate judge of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago.

Robert A. Reece (‘69) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in the categories of closely held companies and family businesses law. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

1970s

Robert D. Looney Jr. (‘70) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for personal injury defense, general. He is of counsel with Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Robert D. Nelon (‘71) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for media/advertising. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Michael P. Atkinson (‘72) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for personal injury, products (plaintiff) and was named to “The Top 50” list. He also was a presenter at the American College of Trial Lawyers Advanced Trial Advocacy Symposium in Palau. He is senior partner of Atkinson, Haskins, Nellis, Brittingham, Gladd & Fiasco PC in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

William J. Baker (‘72) received the John Shipp Award for Ethics from the Oklahoma Bar Association. He practices in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with Baker, Ihrig & Corley PC.
Len Cason ('72) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in three practice areas, including corporate law. He is a partner of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.

Bruce W. Day ('72) was appointed to the Oklahoma Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. He also was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in three categories, including securities litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Terry R. Hanna ('72) was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for nonprofit/charities law and tax law. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Joe B. Harrison ('72), of Fort Worth, Texas, was listed in 2015 Texas *Super Lawyers* for business litigation. Now retired, he is a former partner of Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

Gary R. McSpadden ('72) was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 for seven categories, including banking and finance law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Drew Neville Jr. ('72) was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for white collar criminal defense and four categories of litigation. He is a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville.

Earl A. Skarky ('72), a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 for municipal law and public finance law.

Larry A. Tawwater ('72) was sworn in as president of the American Association for Justice at the organization’s annual convention. He practices in Oklahoma City with the Tawwater Law Firm.
Craig W. Hoster (‘73) was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for commercial litigation. He is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

James W. Sharrock (‘73) received the Journal Record Leadership in Law Award, honoring his community service work. He is of counsel with McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City.

Jerry L. Steward (‘73) was named president of Oklahoma City Community College. Prior to his 20 years at OCCC, he was the senior partner in the Steward Law Firm in Oklahoma City and served four years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

David A. Cheek (‘74) was elected vice president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He practices in Oklahoma City with Cheek & Falcone PLLC.

Richard C. Ford (‘74) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in six categories, including appellate practice. He is a director for Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

G. Blaine Schwabe III (‘74) was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in three categories, including commercial litigation. He is of counsel with GableGotwals, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Susan E. Bryant (‘75) joined Verrill Dana LLP in the firm’s Portland, Maine, office. She previously was a private practitioner, legal counsel to Aetna Mutual Funds, general counsel to First Investors Corporation and administrator of the Oklahoma Department of Securities.

Steven E. Clark (‘75) wrote Justice Is for the Lonely, a novel in the Kristin Kerry series. He is the managing partner at Clark & Mitchell PC in Oklahoma City, where his practice focuses on personal injury law.

Bruce A. Peabody (‘75) received the Oklahoma Bar Association Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service. He practices in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, concentrating on family law, divorce, litigation and estate planning.

Mark A. Robertson (‘75) received the Samuel S. Smith Award from the American Bar Association Law Practice Division. He is a partner of Robertson & Williams in Oklahoma City.

Michael E. Smith (‘75) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for energy and natural resources. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Eric R. King (‘76) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in three categories, including oil and gas law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

P. David Newsome (‘76) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for securities and corporate finance. He is of counsel with Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

C. William Threlkeld (‘76) was elected president of the Oklahoma City law firm of Fenton, Fenton, Smith, Renaeu & Moon PC.

Tom Gruber (‘77) was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for administrative/regulatory law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

Thomas T. Rogers (‘77) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for insurance law and commercial and regulatory enforcement litigation. He is a partner in Jackson Walker LLP, based in the firm’s Austin, Texas, office.

Linda Albright Wilkins (‘77) was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in the field of employee benefits law. She is a partner in Wilkins Finston Friedman Law Group LLP and practices in the firm’s Dallas office.

Michael C. Wofford (‘77) was named partner in the firm of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson. He practices in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Cynda C. Ottaway (‘78) was named president-elect of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. She also was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in four practice areas, including closely held companies and family businesses law. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the Oklahoma City office.
Steven L. Parker (’78), of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, wrote the novel, BS, which was published by Red Dirt Press and released in June 2015. He serves as an appellate judge for the Southern Plains Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as district judge for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

G. William Rice (’78) served as the grand marshal for the inaugural Native American Heritage Festival in Cushing, Oklahoma, in September 2015. He is an associate professor of law and co-director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Terry Lee Wilkins (’78) opened the law firm of Wilkins Law Group in Dallas. He previously practiced for more than 20 years at Cantey Hanger LLP. He practices corporate and real estate law.

Glen D. Johnson (’79) was elected chairman of the board of directors for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. He also was reappointed as one of Oklahoma’s designees to the Southern Regional Education Board, was elected to a third term as vice chair of the board and re-elected to the executive committee of the State Higher Education Executive Officers.

Michael S. Laird (’79) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” in construction law, and was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in five additional practice areas. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Graydon Dean Luthey Jr. (’79) was named “Lawyer of the Year” in corporate governance law for Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He also was recognized in the publication in five other categories. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals.

Edgar C. Morrison Jr. (’79) was included in S.A. Scene magazine’s 2015 “Best S.A. Lawyers” and The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for health care law. He is a partner of Jackson Walker LLP in the San Antonio office.

Judy Hamilton Morse (’79) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in seven categories, including banking and finance litigation. She is a director in Crowe & Dunlevy’s Oklahoma City office.

John Leo Wagner (’79) was named Orange County “Lawyer of the Year” in mediation by The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He practices with Judicate West, a mediation and arbitration provider with offices throughout California.

1980s

Jari Askins (’80) was named administrative director of the courts by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. She previously served as lieutenant governor, a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and special judge in Stephens County. Most recently she was special adviser to the governor on the Pinnacle Plan of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Diana J. Bearden (’80) was selected as Outstanding Female Partner (large firm) by the Dallas Women Lawyers Association. She is a partner in Strasburger & Price LLP, based in the Dallas office.

Charles E. Geister III (’80) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for multiple categories, including bet-the-company litigation, and was named “Lawyer of the Year” for litigation, antitrust. He is a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of Hartzog Conger Cason and Neville.

Reggie Whitten (’80) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for personal injury law. He is co-founder and senior partner of Whitten Burrage Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

William J. Bergner Sr. (’81) became the executive director of the Senior Law Resource Center in Oklahoma City. He previously worked at Energy Land Consultants Inc., Chesapeake Energy and was in private practice.

Candace W. Lisle (’81) was elected as a director of Phillips Murrah in Oklahoma City. She is a litigation attorney with an emphasis in the representation of financial institutions.
Tom Morgan ('81) was elected chair of the business law section of the State Bar of Arizona. He is a member of the law firm of Sherman & Howard, based in the Phoenix office.

Karen S. Rieger ('81) received the 2015 Mona Salyer Lambird Spotlight Award sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association Women in Law Committee. She also was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in six categories, including health care law, and was named chairman of the board of the Oklahoma Cerebral Palsy Commission. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the Oklahoma City office.

Malcolm E. Rosser IV ('81), a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was named Tulsa “Lawyer of the Year” in real estate law in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016. He also was recognized in four additional practice areas, including construction law.

Stephen D. Beam ('82) received the Joe Stamper Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association. He practices law in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Dean A. Couch ('82) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 for water law. He is of counsel with GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

Thomas A. Creekmore III ('82) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for bankruptcy, business. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

Mark S. Darrah ('82) wrote *A Catalogue of Common People*, a collection of personal essays and commentaries. He is a lawyer, writer and public radio commentator in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Harvey D. Ellis Jr. ('82) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” in appellate practice in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He also was recognized for mass tort litigation/class actions defense. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy.

David D. Hunt II ('82) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in two categories, including oil and gas law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Cheryl P. Hunter ('82) became a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm, Pringle & Pringle & Hunter. Her practice includes all aspects of commercial real estate development and commercial litigation.

Jake Jones ('82) was inducted into the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals for 2015. He also was reappointed to serve as board chair of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System. He is a partner with Kirk & Chaney in Oklahoma City.

William S. Leach ('82) received the Earl Sneed Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association for his continuing commitment to legal education. He is a shareholder of McAfee Taft, based in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

Stephen W. Ray ('82) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for business/corporate. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

David Bernstein ('83) received the Outstanding Service to the Public Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association for co-founding Lawyers Fighting Hunger. He practices in Norman, Oklahoma, with the Bernstein Law Firm, focusing on insurance law and personal injury matters.

Steven C. Davis ('83) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for three practice areas, including tax law. He is a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of Hartzog Conger Cason and Neville.

Robert L. Hudson ('83) was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. He previously served as first assistant attorney general for Oklahoma, as well as district attorney for Payne and Logan counties.

Ted Sherwood ('83) was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is a principal in the firm of Sherwood, McCormick & Robert in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

L. Mark Walker ('83) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in eight categories, including energy law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.
Richard D. Craig ('84) was elected to the board of directors of McAfee & Taft. He works in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, focusing his practice on a variety of tax law matters.

Lisa Tipping Davis ('84) received the Oklahoma County Bar Association Howard K. Berry Sr. Award and the Journal Record Leadership in Law Award. She is a district judge in Oklahoma County.

Renee DeMoss ('84) received the 2015 Neil E. Bogan Professionalism Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association and was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for ERISA litigation. She is a shareholder of GableGotwals, based in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

David L. Kinney ('84) was named general counsel for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. He previously served 13 years as an assistant attorney general in the general counsel section of the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General.

Susan C. Worthington ('84) was sworn in as Logan County special judge, based in Guthrie, Oklahoma. She previously maintained a private practice in Stillwater.

Alison A. Cave ('85) received the 2015 Mona Salyer Lambird Spotlight Award sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association Women in Law Committee. She is senior vice president of Oklahoma Attorneys Mutual Insurance Company.

Joel W. Harmon ('85) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in four categories, including bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency and reorganization law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the Oklahoma City office.

David L. Kearney ('85) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for energy and natural resources. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Joe C. Lewallen Jr. ('85) became a shareholder of McAfee & Taft. Based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, his practice includes a range of complex business transactions with an emphasis on commercial real estate development.

Jane G. Rowe ('85), of Albuquerque, New Mexico, received the Justice Pamela B. Minzner Outstanding Advocate Award from the State Bar of New Mexico for her outstanding advocacy for women through an Albuquerque nonprofit providing housing and education services to families transitioning out of homelessness.

Donald K. Shandy ('85) joined Crowe & Dunlevy as a director in the Oklahoma City office. He also was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for energy regulatory law.

Andrew Tevington ('85) was named director for compliance and interim deputy Title IX coordinator in the Department of Human Resources at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He previously served as assistant general counsel for the Regional University System of Oklahoma.

Ray Zschiesche ('85) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He is a director of Phillips Murrah in Oklahoma City, where his practice focuses on litigation.

Kimberly J. Korando ('86) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for employment law, management and labor law, management. She is a partner at Smith Anderson, based in Raleigh, North Carolina.

John D. Robertson ('86) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in three categories, including corporate law. He is a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville.

Kurt Rupert ('86) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.

Larry G. Ball ('87) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for business litigation. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City, where his practice includes bankruptcy, litigation and commercial law.

Dennis C. Cameron ('87) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in six categories, including oil and gas law. He practices in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with GableGotwals.
Jeffrey A. Curran (‘87) was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for insurance law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Patrice Douglas (‘87) joined Premier Consulting Partners, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as president of emerging markets. She also was elected as a director on the boards of Bank SNB and Southwest Bancorp Inc. She formerly served on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, practiced law and worked in the banking industry.

Charles Greenbough (‘87) was named leader of the McAfee & Taft business restructuring, workouts and bankruptcy practice group. Based in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office, he is a shareholder of the firm.

Jeffrey D. Hassell (‘87) was named Tulsa, Oklahoma, “Lawyer of the Year” for banking and finance litigation as well as trusts and estates litigation in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He also was listed in the publication for five additional practice areas. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals.

Laura McConnell-Corbyn (‘87) was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for family law. She is a partner in Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.

Victor E. Morgan (‘87) was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in three categories, including commercial litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Elizabeth Ann Scott (‘87) was named a director of Crowe & Dunlevy. She works in the Oklahoma City office, where she is in the litigation department and a member of the health care practice group.

Timothy J. Sullivan (‘87) was named regional director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority in the Denver regional office. He has served the FLRA in several capacities since 1987, most recently as the acting regional director.

Timothy J. Bomhoff (‘88) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He is a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Kevin R. Donelson (‘88) was appointed to the Oklahoma City Board of Adjustment. He is a shareholder at Fellers Snider in Oklahoma City.

John A. Epstein (‘88) was included in 2015 Oklahoma *Super Lawyers* for media/advertising. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

David T. McKenzie (‘88) became of counsel with Mulinix Edwards Rosell & Goerke PLLC. He previously worked in the Office of the Public Defender of Oklahoma County and was in private practice.

Scott Meacham (‘88) was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in three practice areas, including banking and finance law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the Oklahoma City office.

John D. Russell (‘88) was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in four categories, including real estate litigation. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Shelly A. Youree (‘88) was listed in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for employee benefits law and tax law and was included in 2015 Texas *Super Lawyers* for employee benefits. She is a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP, based in the Dallas office.

Ken Bellmard (‘89) was inducted into the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame and was appointed to the Osage Nation Gaming Commission. He practices in Oklahoma City with a focus on Indian law.

LeAnne Burnett (‘89) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” for water law in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, in which she also was listed in two additional categories. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy.

Lisa Hammond (‘89) received the 2015 Mona Salyer Lambird Spotlight Award sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association Women in Law Committee. She is a special judge in Oklahoma County District Court, handling cases on the juvenile, family and criminal dockets, in addition to the drug court program.
Sarah E. Hansell (’89) was elected to the board of directors of Hall Estill, where she practices in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office. Her primary areas of practice are corporate/commercial and intellectual property.

Richard C. Ogden (’89) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. He serves as special judge in Oklahoma County.

Steven W. Soulé (’89) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers 2015 for bankruptcy, business. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1990s

Trent A. Gudgel (’90) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for construction litigation. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Stacy Cole McDaniel (’90) received the Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award in recognition of her community service establishing the nonprofit Oklahoma Cleats for Kids. She previously served as general counsel for Reserve National Insurance Company and practiced at McKinney Stringer & Webster.

Timila S. Rother (’90) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for insurance law. She is a Crowe & Dunlevy director in Oklahoma City.

Brad West (’90) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for personal injury general, plaintiff. He is a partner with The West Law Firm in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Tamara Cain (’91) received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Oklahoma State University College of Human Sciences. She is a partner at Cain & Cain in Norman, Oklahoma, where her practice focuses on estate planning.

Richard M. Carson (’91) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for two practice areas, including energy law. He is of counsel with GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Phillip “Phil” L. Free Jr. (’93) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for intellectual property litigation and was named to “The Top 50.” He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

D. Michael McBride III (’93), a director in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office of Crowe & Dunlevy, received the Mary Townsend Crowe Service Award from the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women in recognition of his service to benefit American Indians. He also was named Tulsa “Lawyer of the Year” for gaming law and Native American law in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

Richard G. Pryor (’93) became director of client services for Candor Public Relations in Oklahoma City. He previously worked for 25 years at OETA, most recently serving as deputy director and editor-in-chief.

Erin Van Laanen (’91), a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, was named leader of the firm’s aviation group. She works in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Kurt Larson (’92), of Springfield, Missouri, received the 2015 Humanitarian Award from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks for founding the Safe and Sober Prom Night campaign and expanding it into the Missouri Safe and Sober program, a nonprofit organization. His practice focuses on personal injury law.

Scott D. McCreary (’92) was elected to the board of directors of McAfee & Taft, where he is a member of the aerospace group in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Armand Paliotta (’92) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in four practice areas, including securities/capital markets law. He is a partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville.

Paul Vrana (’92) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in three categories, including natural resources law. He is a partner in Jackson Walker LLP in the Fort Worth, Texas, office.
George Zachos (‘93), a resident of Easton, Massachusetts, was elected president of the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units. He serves as the chief of the Medicaid fraud division of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, a position he has held since 2012.

Brad R. Carson (‘94) was nominated to serve as the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness in the Department of Defense after serving in the position on an interim basis. He currently serves as undersecretary of the U.S. Army and chief management officer of the Army.

Melissa McLawhorn Houston (‘94) was appointed labor commissioner of Oklahoma. She previously served as chief of staff and policy adviser for the Oklahoma attorney general and chief of staff of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security.

J. Leslie LaReau (‘94) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for tax law and trusts and estates. She is a partner in Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.
Becky J.W. Borthwick (‘95), of Springfield, Missouri, was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court Municipal Judge Education Committee. She is a Springfield municipal court judge and the chief judge of the city’s Homeless Court Program.

Glen L. Dresback (‘95) opened the Dresback Law Office in Cleveland, Oklahoma, focusing his practice on criminal, family and estate law. He previously served as an assistant district attorney in Mayes County.

Noble McIntyre (‘95) received the Outstanding Service to the Public Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association for co-founding Lawyers Fighting Hunger. He practices with McIntyre Law PC in Oklahoma City, focusing primarily on drug litigation and catastrophic injury cases.

Eric S. Fisher (‘96) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in three categories, including business organizations. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

J. Christian Guzzy (‘96) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for corporate law. He is a partner in Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville in Oklahoma City.

Andrew A. Ingrum (‘96) was included in D Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in Dallas 2015,” the Chambers USA 2015 “Leaders in their Field,” The Legal 500 US 2015, The Best Lawyers in America 2016, and 2015 Texas Super Lawyers for his real estate practice. He is a partner of Thompson & Knight LLP, based in the Dallas office.

Jeff Tate (‘96) joined Christensen Law Group PLLC in Oklahoma City. His practice includes bankruptcy, collection, litigation and transactional law.

Holli Wells (‘96) was confirmed as the attorney general of the Osage Nation. She previously served as a special judge in Oklahoma District Court Judicial District 15.

Nicholle Jones Edwards (‘97) was elected as a director of Phillips Murrah in Oklahoma City. Her practice concentrates on family law, general civil litigation and appellate matters.

Mark G. Falkin (‘97), of Austin, Texas, recently released the book, Contract City, which is set in the future in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In addition to being an author, he is a literary agent, and practices entertainment and intellectual property law.

Susanna M. Gattoni (‘97), a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City, oversees the firm’s office in Nashville, Tennessee, while continuing to maintain a practice in Oklahoma. She focuses on labor and employment law and criminal defense work.

Stanley Koop (‘97) joined the Oklahoma City law firm of Lytle, Soulé & Curlee PC as an associate. The focus of his practice is on civil litigation, with an emphasis on personal injury, insurance, products liability and employment law.

Stacey D. Spivey (‘97) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” in closely held companies and family businesses law in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 and was listed in two additional categories. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy.

Terri L. Thomas (‘97) joined the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center legal staff to serve of counsel. She previously served as legal counsel for the Organization of Rural Oklahoma Schools for 16 years.

Richard L. Wynne Jr. (‘97) was recognized in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for intellectual property litigation. He is a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP in the firm’s Dallas office.

Robert N. Ylla Jr. (‘97) was named a partner of West, Ylla & Gosney in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on personal injury law.

John D. Stiner (‘98) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Brown & Gould PLLC. He represents clients in business litigation matters, including contract disputes, business torts and bad faith insurance claims. He previously practiced with McAfee & Taft.

John M. Thompson (‘98) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” in real estate litigation in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 and was listed in four additional categories. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, and serves as the firm’s vice president of economics and finance.
Kayci B. Hughes (‘99) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the category of bankruptcy litigation. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

Blaine M. Peterson (‘99) joined Christensen Law Group in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on estate planning and taxation law.

Amy M. Stipe (‘99) was listed in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in two categories, including commercial litigation. She is a shareholder of GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

2000s

Adam W. Childers (‘00) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in three practice areas, including labor and employment litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the Oklahoma City office.

Christine Batson Deason (‘00) received the Alma Wilson Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association for her contributions to the young people of Oklahoma. She practices family law with Hester, Schem, Hester, & Deason in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Jolisa Melton Dobbs (‘00) was recognized by The Legal 500 US 2015 for energy transactions, and was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for energy law and oil and gas law. She also was selected as treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation for 2015-2016. She is a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas.

Julie D. Stanley (‘00) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the category of trusts and estates. She is of counsel with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

Geren T. Steiner (‘00) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for commercial litigation and construction litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

David M. Sullivan (‘00) was named Oklahoma City “Lawyer of the Year” in patent law in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was listed in seven additional categories. He is a Crowe & Dunlevy director and chair of the firm’s intellectual property and technology group.

Linda English Weeks (‘00) was elected justice of the Supreme Court of the Chickasaw Nation. She works at Sarkeys Foundation in Norman, Oklahoma, serving as legal counsel and senior program officer.

Christopher B. Woods (‘00) was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for banking and finance litigation and real estate litigation. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kiemonn Jones (‘01) became a shareholder in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office of Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis. Her practice concentrates on criminal law, employment and labor law and transportation law.

Jenna B. Rader (‘01) was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in three categories, including copyright law. She is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

Leah Edwards (‘02) was appointed district judge for Garvin and McClain counties. She previously served as an assistant district attorney in Grady County and as a municipal judge in Chickasha, where she also maintained a private practice.

Aaron A. Herbert (‘02) founded the Law Firm of Aaron A. Herbert PC in Dallas. His practice is concentrated on personal injury law, a specialty area for which he is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Sheila D. Stinson (‘02) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. She practices in Edmond, Oklahoma, with the Stinson Law Group, focusing on estate planning, estate litigation, probate, and business development and consultation.
Ryan M.T. Allen ('03) joined the firm of Ferguson, Braswell & Fraser PC in Plano, Texas. His practice focuses on the resolution of business, intellectual property and employment disputes throughout Texas and Oklahoma.

Julianna P. Deligans ('03) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for intellectual property. She is a shareholder of Hall Estill in the Oklahoma City office.

Brandon Hale ('03) received the Rear Admiral Hugh H. Howell Jr. Award of Excellence in recognition of his service as a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General’s Corps. He also is an as assistant U.S. attorney in Oklahoma City.

Trent Shores ('03) was named first assistant attorney general in the Oklahoma Office of Attorney General. He previously served as a prosecutor in the office of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Andrea Slater Gulley ('04) was named a “Rising Star” in education law in 2015 Texas Super Lawyers. She is a shareholder in Underwood Law PC in Amarillo, Texas.

Kaleb K. Hennigh ('04) received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association, and was elected to the OBA Board of Governors for Judicial District 4. He is a founding member of Ewbank, Hennigh & McVay PLLC, a regional law firm with offices in northwest Oklahoma.

Scott M. Inman ('04) was elected to a fourth consecutive term as Oklahoma House of Representatives minority leader. First elected to the House in 2006, he is currently serving his fifth term representing District 94.

Damario Solomon-Simmons ('04) received the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association Diversity Committee. He practices with Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

John D. Weaver ('04) joined the law firm of Evans & Davis as senior attorney in the Edmond, Oklahoma, office. He previously worked at the Oklahoma Tax Commission and with the law firm of Baer & Timberlake.

Seth A. Day ('05) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for general litigation. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Casey T. Delaney ('05) returned to Fellers Snider and serves as counsel in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. Her practice is focused primarily on complex commercial litigation. She previously served as OU Law’s assistant dean for external affairs and director of the Office of Career Development.

J. Scott Henderson ('05) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Blaney, Tweedy & Tipton PLLC. His litigation practice concentrates on business, commercial and general litigation.

Jeremiah M. Mayfield ('05) was named a 2015 Texas “Rising Star” in business/corporate law in Super Lawyers and was recognized in the area of mergers and acquisitions by The Legal 500 US 2015. He is a partner in Thompson & Knight LLP, based in the firm’s Dallas office.

Trey Tipton ('05) was named partner at Blaney, Tweedy & Tipton PLLC in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on business, commercial and real estate law.

William D. Wallace ('05) was named as a fraud prosecutor for the Texas Department of Insurance. He works exclusively with criminal prosecutors in the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office to combat insurance fraud. He previously served as general counsel of US Lloyd’s Insurance Company in Hurst, Texas.

Brandon L. Bloom ('06) was named a 2015 Texas “Rising Star” in tax law in Super Lawyers. He is an associate with Thompson & Knight LLP, based in the firm’s Dallas office.

Joel A. Bulleigh ('06) was elected shareholder at McAfee & Taft. He is a member of the firm’s aviation group, based in Oklahoma City.

Bryan J. Nowlin ('06) was included in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers for business litigation. He is a shareholder of Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where his practice is focused in the areas of trusts and estate planning, as well as litigation and Indian law.
Drew T. Palmer ('06) was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016 in four practice areas, including copyright law. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

Cherish Ralls ('06) received the *Journal Record* Leadership in Law Award to recognize her community service in Oklahoma City. She works at Devon Energy Corporation.

Sara Kate Billingsley ('07) was appointed judge of the 446th Judicial District Court in Ector County, Texas. She previously was managing partner for the Billingsley Law Firm in Odessa, Texas.

Jeremiah L. Buettner ('07) was elected shareholder at McAfee & Taft, where he has worked in the Oklahoma City office since 2007. His practice is focused on commercial litigation.

Wagner R. Dias da Silva ('07) was elected shareholder at McAfee & Taft. Based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office, his practice is concentrated on corporate and securities law.

Lauren Barghols Hanna ('07) was elected shareholder at McAfee & Taft, where she works in the Oklahoma City office. Her litigation practice is focused on labor and employment law and general civil litigation.

Matthew B. Hickey ('07) was named a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City. He was included in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in three categories, including closely held companies and family businesses law.

Clayton B. Bruner ('08) became of counsel with Pignato, Cooper, Kolker & Roberson PC in Oklahoma City. He also practices in Weatherford, Oklahoma, with The Law Office of Clayton B. Bruner.

Clayton Hasbrook ('08) was named Oklahoma state chair of the National Trial Lawyer’s “Top 40 Under 40.” He practices in Oklahoma City with Hasbrook & Hasbrook concentrating on personal injury law.

Tyler J. Mantooth ('08) was named a “Rising Star” for intellectual property law in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers. He is an associate at Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Ryan Owens ('08) was appointed co-executive director for the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration. He also currently serves as general counsel for CCOSA, as well as executive director of the United Suburban Schools Association.

Carrie Pfrehm ('08) became a partner at Mordy, Mordy, Pfrehm & Wilson PC in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Her areas of practice include probate and estate planning, bankruptcy and general litigation.

William A. Gosney ('09) was named partner in the Oklahoma City law firm of West, Ylla & Gosney. His practice is concentrated on personal injury law.

Nathaniel T. Haskins ('09) was named a “Rising Star” for employment and labor law in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers. He is an associate at Hall Estill in Oklahoma City.

Curtis Thomas ('09) was honored with the Oklahoma County Bar Association President’s Professionalism Award recognizing his three years of service as chair of the Law Day Committee. He also received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Division Director Award for the second consecutive year. He is an associate of McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City.

2010s

Jasper Abbott ('10) was selected for membership in “The National Black Lawyers – Top 40 Under 40” for 2015. He is an attorney with Sweet Law in Oklahoma City.

Gregory P. Chansolme ('10) became an associate with Muluxin Edwards Rosell & Goerke PLLC in Oklahoma City. His practice is focused on real estate, business organization, commercial litigation and estate planning.

Kristen Pence Evans ('10) was named a “Rising Star” for general litigation in 2015 Oklahoma Super Lawyers. She is an associate of Hall Estill in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Katherine R. Morelli ('10) became an associate at Rhodes Hieronymus Jones Tucker & Gable in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her areas of emphasis include civil litigation and appellate practice.
Matthew C. Russell ('10) became an associate at Hartsfield & Egbert PLLC in Edmond, Oklahoma. His practice is concentrated on personal injury law and family law.

Christopher M. Staine ('10) was selected for the National Black Lawyers “Top 100” recognizing attorneys practicing in banking and finance, and received the Journal Record Leadership in Law Award for his community service work. He also was included in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for bankruptcy litigation. He is an associate of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City.

Sheridan Haynes ('11) was included in the St. Louis Business Journal “30 Under 30” class of 2015 recognizing future leaders of the St. Louis area. She is the assistant dean of development and alumni relations for Saint Louis University School of Law and previously served as OU Law’s director of alumni affairs and development.

Benjamin R. Ritchie ('11) joined the Greuel Law Firm PLLC as an associate in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice is concentrated on estate planning.

Jade Caldwell ('12) joined Crooks Stanford PLLC in Edmond, Oklahoma, as an associate. Her practice is focused on estate planning and business transaction matters.

James M Scears ('12) became an associate at GableGotwals in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he works in the areas of tax law, as well as estate and trust planning. He returned to Oklahoma after practicing law in Zurich, Switzerland.

Sean C. Wagner ('12) joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in the financial services litigation and regulatory compliance practice group of the firm’s Charlotte, North Carolina, office. He previously served as a term clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

Joseph Allen ('13) became an associate at Barrow & Grimm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice is primarily focused on business law and civil litigation.

Gavin Caldwell ('13) became an associate of Crooks Stanford PLLC in Edmond, Oklahoma. His practice is concentrated on civil litigation, intellectual property law, business/corporate law, and real estate and construction law.

Dixie A. Craven ('13) became an associate at Pignato, Cooper, Kolker & Roberson PC in Oklahoma City. Her practice is focused on insurance defense.

Benjamin K. Davis ('13) joined Crowe & Dunlevy as an associate in Oklahoma City. His practice is focused on banking and financial institutions, commercial real estate and corporate business transactions.

Dylan Charles Edwards ('13) became an associate at Mulinix Edwards Rosell & Goerke PLLC in Oklahoma City. He represents businesses and individuals in general civil litigation and transactional matters.

Courtney Ernston ('13), of Saint Paul, Minnesota, traveled to Kosovo with the Minnesota State Bar Association as part of a pilot mentorship program to assist the Kosovo Bar Association in developing their organization. The exchange program was arranged with support from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative and the Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network.

Jessica E. Hamm ('13) was named assistant director of compliance and governance for the Big 12 Conference. She previously served for two years as the assistant director of compliance at Baylor University.

John Paul Albert ('14) became an associate of Mahaffey & Gore PC in Oklahoma City. His practice is focused on oil and gas litigation and probate and heirship matters.

Megan B. Davis ('14) joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in the firm’s Huntington, West Virginia, office. Her litigation practice includes the areas of professional liability, health care, class actions, product liability and commercial litigation.

Adlai Groves ('14) became an associate at Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP in Springfield, Missouri. He is a member of the firm’s real estate group, focusing on real estate development and incentives, tax credits, housing, construction and real estate finance.
Erick W. Harris ('14) was named the first executive director of the Norman Philharmonic. He is a full-time assistant attorney general for Oklahoma and a life-long music lover.

Brooke Donnelly ('15) became an associate at Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas. Her practice is focused on real estate and real estate finance matters.

Erica K. Halley ('15) joined Phillips Murrah in Oklahoma City as an associate. As a member of the transactional practice group, she represents individuals and businesses in transactional matters.

Eric Odom ('15) became an associate at Blaney, Tweedy & Tipton PLLC in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on commercial transactions and commercial litigation.

Jenny M. Odom ('15) joined McAfee & Taft as an associate in Oklahoma City. Her areas of practice include business transactions, health care law and real estate law.

Robert T. Redwine ('15) became an associate at Newton, O'Connor, Turner & Ketchum PC in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He concentrates his practice on labor and employment law, business law and civil litigation.

Ashley M. Schovanec ('15) became an associate at Phillips Murrah in Oklahoma City. She joined the litigation practice group and represents individuals as well as privately held and public companies in civil litigation.

Kaitlyn E. Schrick ('15) joined McAfee & Taft as an associate in the firm’s Oklahoma City office. Her practice focuses on business transaction and finance, as well as securities law.

Zachary T. Stuart ('15) is an assistant district attorney working in the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office. He handles juvenile and misdemeanor cases.

Blair L. Sutter ('15) joined Rieger Law Group in Norman, Oklahoma. The firm handles matters involving real estate, construction and business law.

Justin R. Williams ('15) became an associate at Pignato, Cooper, Kolker & Roberson PC in Oklahoma City. His practice focuses on general insurance defense.

We Remember

Loretha Mae Barnett ('00)  John N. Goodman ('70)
Charles Chadwick Bledsoe ('66)  Sidney M. Groom Jr. ('51)
William L. Brock ('67)  Thomas Peter Hamill ('50)
Robert Morris Butler ('59)  Kenneth Edison Holmes ('63)
G. Howard Dearing ('51)  Gregory S. Jenkins ('88)
David Rutledge Dickey ('63)  John B. Johnson Jr. ('57)
Richard E. Dixon ('64)  Michael Downing Johnson ('06)
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C. Wayne Falkenstein ('60)  Joe R. Kennedy ('63)
John T. Fields ('57)  John Tully McCoy ('73)
Ronald G. Fisher Sr. ('84)  William Carroll McCoy ('56)
Donald K. Funnell ('84)  Frank Harrison McGregor III ('89)
James P. Garrett ('48)  Renee Marie Moorad ('11)
Ruth E. Moran ('46)  A. Winston Oxley ('80)
Clarke Lewis Randall ('76)  Jerry W. Rizley ('62)
James Adelbert Robertson ('53)  Robert Forney Sandlin ('58)
William Boss Jones ('51)  Shockley Taliaferro Shoemake ('48)
Kenneth Edison Holmes ('63)  Gregory Davis Smith ('04)
Robert Henry Warren ('48)  Jerry D. Sokolosky ('62)
Renee Marie Moorad ('11)  Donald C. Welch ('53)
Rick D. Williams ('81)
Staff changes

New faces and titles

Kenton Brice (’09) joined the law library as digital resources librarian to assist with the Digital Initiative, as well as support faculty research, teach the 1L legal research course, and work on other library technology projects. He previously was an associate at a Dallas-area law firm, where he was responsible for the firm’s technology and administration.

Brandon Brooks was named executive director of development and assumed lead fundraising and alumni relations responsibilities in July as a senior member of the law school leadership team. He has worked in OU Law development since September 2014.

Mackenzie Dilbeck joined the OU Law staff as director of communications in September. She manages media relations, web communications, publication development, social media and brand execution. She previously worked at Oklahoma Baptist University as director of alumni programs and special events.

Jenny Ham started in August as the research and instructional services librarian. She provides faculty research support; conducts research training for faculty, staff and students; delivers guest lectures in law school courses; and teaches a section of the 1L legal research course. Prior to coming to OU Law, she worked at the University of Tennessee as a faculty research service assistant.

James Juarez started as the director of information technology in June. He was formerly with First American Bank, where he served for 10 years, first as a network administrator, then as IT manager for eight years.

Brittany Jupe became the administrative assistant for development in November. She supports fundraising and alumni initiatives, along with special events and communications efforts. She joined the OU Law staff from Mewbourne College of Earth & Energy.

Glen Pinkston began in May as director of finance. He previously served for 12 years as vice president for business and finance at Cameron University and as senior director in accounting operations at Duke University for 17 years. He also has worked for Arthur Andersen & Co. and Kron Medical Corporation.

Stacey Reynolds, who has overseen the continuing legal education and legal assistant education programs since August 2014, has taken on the additional duties of coordinating all OU Law special events.

Leslee Roybal joined the faculty support department in September. She assists faculty members with various projects and tasks. She previously worked at the Department of Human Services as a developmental disabilities services case manager.
Ashley Streight ('09) was promoted to director of the Office of Career Development and will oversee the office’s various services, which include career counseling, on-campus interviews, career speakers and the internship program. Since August 2013, she has served as the associate director of the office.

Melanie Tijerina began working in the faculty support department in August. Two of her major areas of responsibility are the competition and externship programs. She joins the OU Law staff after working for 10 years with Lexis researching court records for the states of California, Missouri and South Dakota.

Retirements
Blane Anderson
Jennifer Gerrish
Carl Ketner
Marilyn Nicely
Kathy Shahan

OU Law adds Top 20 Best Value ranking to accolades
The University of Oklahoma College of Law is a Top 20 Best Value law school, according to National Jurist magazine. OU Law rose to 17th in the nation and is the only Oklahoma law school in the Top 20.

“At the OU College of Law, we are humbled by this recent accolade and proud of our students and alumni for their achievements,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “This good news follows a recent report that our graduates achieved a 90 percent first-time pass rate on the Bar Exam, the highest in Oklahoma. OU Law will build on these successes by continuing to provide the highest quality legal education at a reasonable price for our students.”

OU Law’s latest rankings and honors include:
- Highest U.S. News & World Report ranking ever achieved by an Oklahoma law school
- Top 20 (No. 17) Best Value Law School National Jurist
- Top 5 (No. 3) Best Schools for Small Law National Jurist
- Top 10 (No. 7) Moot Court Program The Blakeley Advocacy Institute
- Included in “Best 173 Law Schools” The Princeton Review
Events kick off the 1L experience for the Class of 2018

- Class of 2018 Section Social — September 9
- Academic Convocation — August 21
- 1L Orientation — August 20
- Section Release Party — June 19
Office of Career Development leads 1L orientation

On September 15, with three weeks of class under their belts, first-year students learned about the Office of Career Development and the many opportunities it provides during their years at OU Law. In the first of three different sessions, 1Ls heard from Professor Connie Smothermon about applying for and acquiring summer externships. Professor Amy Pepper spoke about the Legal Clinic and the practical experience it provides students while in school. Finally, Ashley Streight, director of career development, and Morgan Hager, associate director of career development, discussed the various services available through their office and the 1L job search timeline.

In the second session, a four-member student panel, moderated by Streight, discussed job-searching experiences and how the Office of Career Development can assist throughout the process. In the third session, Hager spoke about Symplicity, the online database. She conducted a walk-through of the site and explained how to utilize all aspects of it throughout their law school and legal career.

Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville host 1L networking reception

Drew Neville (’72), of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, welcomes first-year students to a reception the firm hosted on September 24 in its downtown Oklahoma City office.
OILS hosts distinguished international law guest speakers

The Oklahoma International Law Society and Professor Evelyn Aswad hosted Joe and Elizabeth Cassidy to discuss religious freedom and refugee issues with OU Law students on October 6. During their visit, the Cassidys participated in a speed-mentoring event for students and also met informally with students and faculty at a reception in their honor.

Joe Cassidy has 25 years of experience in the U.S. Foreign Service and served in many overseas posts, including Iraq, Namibia and Switzerland. From 2011 until 2012, he was the director of multilateral affairs and human rights at the White House.

Elizabeth Cassidy is the acting co-director of research and policy at the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom and worked on human rights issues for nongovernmental organizations in Switzerland and Namibia.

Students attend Annual Legislative Conference in D.C.

For the second consecutive year, OU Law sent a group of students to the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and National Black Law Students Association Retreat in Washington, D.C.

Each year, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation hosts a series of meetings to match young and aspiring professionals with seasoned national politicians. OU Law students had the opportunity to meet many public servants, including Vice President Joe Biden. The meeting also afforded them the chance to be briefed on key national issues.

“It is the intent of OU College of Law to do everything possible to prepare our young lawyers to have a positive and informed impact in our state and in our nation,” said Dean Joe Harroz.

“Having a strong policy of sending rising lawyers to events like this helps them connect with important issues as they begin their law careers.”

The student group consisted of second- and third-year students Emmanuel Charles, Sara Rollan, Natalie Soas and Desiree Singer. Washington, D.C., OU Law alumni Michelle Millben (’09) and Rayshon Payton (’13) also attended the conference. Millben and Payton work in the White House and with Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, respectively.

Educational lunch programs present career information

Working as a lawyer in the JAG Corps was the topic of a September 30 lunch-and-learn program coordinated by the Office of Career Development. Students heard speakers representing the Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines.

The Office of Career Development presented a lunch-and-learn program September 16 featuring two business/transactional attorneys from Phillips Murrah PC in Oklahoma City. Dawn Rahme and Jennifer Berry share their experiences with students interested in learning about a transactional practice.
Policing expert speaks at OU Law

Tracey L. Meares, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law at Yale University, was the guest of the OU College of Law on October 1. During her visit, Meares gave a public lecture, “How Police and the Public Think About Rightful Policing,” in the Kerr Student Lounge. The event was co-sponsored by the Order of the Coif.

“OU Law was pleased to welcome Professor Meares to share her expertise,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Her lecture was especially timely given the nation’s ongoing conversation about rightful policing, a topic our faculty and students are actively discussing.”

Meares’ teaching and research interests center on criminal procedure and law policy. Her writings on crime prevention and community capacity-building are interdisciplinary and reflect a civil society approach to law enforcement that builds upon the interaction between law, culture, social norms and social organization.

Earlier this year, she served on President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which made recommendations on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. Prior to joining the Yale faculty, Meares served as the Max Pam Professor of Law and director of the Center for Studies in Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago Law School. She was the first African American woman to receive tenure at both the University of Chicago and Yale law schools. Meares also clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and served as an honors program trial attorney in the antitrust division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Later in the evening, the College of Law and the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage hosted a dinner and lecture featuring Meares at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Board of Advocates holds intraschool negotiation competition

More than 100 students participated in the Board of Advocates Negotiation Competition in October. Participants included 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls and LL.M. students. Competitors were given short fact patterns with general information known to both parties and confidential facts known only to their clients.

“Once again, this was an exciting and successful BOA Negotiation Competition,” said Connie Smothermon, assistant professor of law and director of competitions and externships. “Our students thrive in competitions, and this all-school setting allows them to push and challenge each other as they learn through experience.”

Final Round Participants:

1ST PLACE:  
Douglas Brooking  
Paige Green  

2ND PLACE:  
Blake Jackson  
Austin Vance  
Jonathan Herrera  
Jacob Laughlin  

3RD PLACE:  
Jake Ingle  
Robin Kirk

First-year students Douglas Brooking and Paige Green hold the trophy awarded to them for winning the Board of Advocates Negotiation Competition.
Admissions office hosts prospective students

Prospective Students Reception
October 14 | University Club

Fall Open House
October 20 | Kerr Student Lounge

OAWL auction benefits Norman Women’s Resource Center

Members of the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law collect admission for the 27th Annual Charity Auction held November 4. Proceeds from the auction assist the Norman Women’s Resource Center in its critical work supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
2Ls and 3Ls compete in Calvert Moot Court Competition

The 2015 Calvert Moot Court Competition, held October 26-29, featured 40 second- and third-year students who researched a case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court (Kansas v. Carr) and presented oral arguments before tournament judges. The annual competition is sponsored by the OU Law Board of Advocates and the Floyd and Irma Calvert Fund for Law and Liberty.

On a split decision, 3Ls Ruthie Stevens and Xavier Avery prevailed over Lindsey Tanner and Audrey Roth in the final round. Ryan Hunnicutt, 2L, was named Best Individual Speaker.

Presiding over the final round were Judges David Russell, Brian Goree, William Hetherington, David Lewis, Charles Johnson and Wayne Alley, along with OU Law Dean Joe Harroz and Professors Rick Tepker and Maria Kolar.

OU Law hosts debate on civil asset forfeiture reform

The OU College of Law hosted a debate on civil asset forfeiture reform November 18 in the Kerr Student Lounge. The public was invited to attend the event, which featured Oklahoma Sen. Kyle Loveless, Oklahoma County First Assistant District Attorney Scott Rowland, Oklahoma City Police Department Maj. Bill Weaver and Brady Henderson, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma.

Cases involving civil forfeiture have dramatically increased in number due to the proclaimed war on drugs. To some groups, the practice is seen as a critical tool in the law enforcement arsenal, while others view it as an abusive tactic known as “policing for profit.”

“OU Law was honored to host such an important discussion,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “The appropriateness of civil asset forfeiture is a topic of great interest for Oklahoma and our nation. Our guest panelists provided important insights as we seek to understand and navigate this significant issue.”

Professor Stephen Henderson served as moderator as the debate participants presented opposing views on reforming the system of civil asset forfeiture.
Faculty changes

New faces

Roger Michalski began as an associate professor of law in fall 2015. He teaches courses on civil procedure, complex litigation and international litigation and arbitration. His recent scholarship has focused on state pleading regimes, procedural values and inter-district transfers.

Michalski came to OU Law after teaching for three years as a visiting professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. He previously taught undergraduate legal studies and political theory at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Rochester, a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Melissa Mortazavi joined the faculty as an associate professor of law in fall 2015. She teaches and writes about legal ethics, food law and policy, administrative law and torts.

She previously served as a visiting assistant professor of law at Brooklyn Law School, practiced law with a focus on commercial litigation at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York and clerked for a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Mortazavi earned a bachelor’s degree in government and theatre from Cornell University and a juris doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Joshua S. Sellers came to OU Law as an associate professor in fall 2015. His principal areas of research and teaching are election law, legislation, civil procedure and constitutional law.

Prior to coming to Oklahoma, he was a postdoctoral fellow in law and political science at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Before he began teaching, he was a law clerk to a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and a litigation associate at Jenner & Block LLP in Washington, D.C.

Sellers holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and Afroamerican and African studies from the University of Michigan and both a doctor of philosophy degree in political science and a juris doctor degree from the University of Chicago.
OU Law celebrated the career of Professor Owen Anderson and thanked him for his 23 years of service on December 2, acknowledging his retirement from the regular faculty.

Anderson held the Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil, Gas and Natural Resources, served as the director of the John B. Turner LL.M. Program and was a George Lynn Cross Research Professor. He leaves behind an enormous legacy in the Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy program at the College. He was one of the original organizers of the Eugene Kuntz Conference, the largest conference of its type in the nation; the driving force behind the establishment of the LL.M. Program for Energy and Natural Resources; an instrumental voice in founding the *Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal (ONE J)*; and is a strategic planner for a new Master of Legal Studies Degree in Oil and Gas and Energy Law (currently under review for approval by the State Regents for Higher Education).

Anderson taught various oil and gas law courses at OU, including oil and gas law and international petroleum transactions. He will retain emeritus faculty status and return to teach a course in oil and gas law as well as serve as a founding member of the new advisory board for the College’s various programs in oil and gas, natural resources, and energy law.
Faculty honors

- **Anderson receives Kuntz Award**

Owen Anderson received the Eugene Kuntz Award at the annual Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy in November. The award recognizes his many contributions to the field of oil and gas law, as well as his role in establishing the Kuntz Conference in 1993.

The award is named for former OU Law dean and renowned oil and gas professor Eugene Kuntz. The honor is awarded annually at the Kuntz Conference, the largest conference focusing on oil and gas law in the nation. The conference is hosted by OU Law and the Oklahoma Bar Association Energy and Natural Resources Law Section. This year, more than 530 oil and gas industry personnel and attorneys were in attendance.

- **Kershen receives scholarship honor**

Drew Kershen received the 2015 American Agricultural Law Association Professional Scholarship Award for the article “Agricultural Biotechnology: An Opportunity to Feed a World of Ten Billion” he wrote with Professor Nina V. Fedoroff of Penn State University. The piece was written as part of a symposium issue of the *Penn State Law Review* on agricultural biotechnology in 2014.
Forman receives recognition for scholarship

Jonathan Forman received The Actuarial Foundation’s 2015 John Hanson Memorial Prize for his recent research. The award recognizes his work as co-author on the paper “Tontine Pensions.” Forman received the award in October at the annual meeting of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries in Bonita Springs, Florida.

The John Hanson Memorial Prize is given annually to the author(s) of the best paper on an employee benefits topic. Forman’s article, co-authored by Michael J. Sabin, was published in the February 2015 issue of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. The article shows how to create low-cost “tontine pensions” through which large employers could provide retirement income for their employees.

Beyond the classroom

Evelyn Aswad was appointed by the U.S. Department of State to serve on its Stakeholder Advisory Board, which makes recommendations on issues involving business and human rights. Board members are from business, civil society, labor and academia. OU Law students will be able to work with Aswad by focusing some of their pro bono hours researching these issues.

Sarah Burstein began serving on the International Trademark Association’s Design Rights Committee on January 1, 2016. The committee, part of the advocacy group of committees within INTA’s structure, works to develop and advocate INTA’s policy on the impact of design law and enforcement on trademark rights.


The hearing on lifetime pension benefits brought together expert witnesses from all over the United States. The ERISA Advisory Council is drafting model notices to help retirees in making decisions about how and when to collect their pensions.

Liesa Richter participated on two panels discussing possible changes to federal rules governing the use of hearsay evidence during a symposium at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. The presentations were made at an October meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence.

The symposium included federal judges, litigators and law professors who specialize in the law of evidence. Richter spoke about alternatives to expanding the residual exception to the hearsay rule and about prior consistent statements after a 2014 amendment on testifying witnesses.
OLR Symposium addresses human rights abuses

The theme of the annual Oklahoma Law Review Symposium was “Accountability for Human Rights Abuses Abroad by Private Security Contractors.” Held November 13, the event consisted of three panels featuring expert speakers with specialized interests involving human rights. The topics and panelists included:

Civil Accountability in U.S. Courts – Laura Dickinson, Oswald Symister Colclough Research Professor of Law at The George Washington University; and Edward T. Swaine, professor of law at The George Washington University.

Multistakeholder Initiatives – Arvind Ganesan, director of business and human rights at Human Rights Watch; Reg Manhas, senior vice president of external affairs at Kosmos Energy; and Lynn Sicade, senior advisor for multilateral and global affairs and deputy director of the office of multilateral affairs in the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor.

Criminal Accountability in U.S. Courts – James G. Stewart, associate professor of law at University of British Columbia; Steve Vladeck, professor of law at American University; and Alex Whiting, professor of practice at Harvard Law School.

“This year’s international business and human rights topic springs from the consultations OU Law hosted last year on the White House national action plan on responsible business conduct abroad,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Centering the symposium on this issue gives our students a unique opportunity to develop intellectually and gain a greater understanding of the world they will soon help lead.”

Professor Evelyn Aswad and Professor Emeritus Peter Krug served as panel moderators. After presentations by the panelists, attendees posed questions for further discussion.
Memorial fund honors Renée Moorad, Class of 2011

A memorial fund has been established at the University of Oklahoma Foundation in honor of OU Law alumna Renée Moorad, who died on September 15, 2015, in New York City following a brave battle against cancer. She was born November 30, 1984, in Oklahoma City.

Prior to entering law school, she received a bachelor’s degree in health and exercise sciences from the University of Oklahoma in 2007. At the time of her death, she was pursuing an LL.M. in international and comparative law from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Moorad was a passionate student who sought to bring people together and fight for justice, equality and civil rights, especially for Arab Americans. As a law student, she was honored as a member of the Order of the Barristers and the Board of Advocates, while also serving as a member of the International Human Rights Clinic.

After law school graduation, Moorad served as a staff attorney at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in D.C. She also spearheaded the effort to have a Kahlil Gibran postage stamp issued by the USPS. Moorad was most recently employed with Real Foundations, an international real estate firm in Dallas.

Contributions may be made online at http://bit.ly/1ltE7I0. If you would like to make a contribution by check, please contact OU Law Development at law.alumni@ou.edu or (405) 325-9175.

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