

# Sooner Lawyer Archive

---

Volume 2012 | Issue 1  
*Spring/Summer 2012*

---

2012

## OU Law Updates

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(2012) "OU Law Updates," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2012 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2012/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the OU College of Law Archives at University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sooner Lawyer Archive by an authorized editor of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [darinfox@ou.edu](mailto:darinfox@ou.edu).

## Staff changes

### ► New faces and titles



**Autumn Lockett** joined the staff in January as an admissions counselor. She previously taught fourth-graders in central Texas, but after her family moved to Oklahoma when her husband entered OU Law, she welcomed the opportunity to help others make the transition into the law school environment.



**Raegan King** ('10) came to OU Law in May as a development associate. Prior to joining the OU Law staff, she was on the staff of Sooner Club, the fundraising arm of the OU Athletics Department.



**Brandon Martin** started in November 2011 as a facilities attendant. He works at night as part of the team responsible for keeping the 170,000 square feet of Coats Hall clean and in order.



**Alan Haberman** took on new responsibilities in the Donald E. Pray Law Library in March as a cataloging assistant. He has worked at OU Law since 2010, previously serving as the evening circulation supervisor.



**Humberto Arredondo** began his job as a facilities attendant in March. He also works the night shift to ensure the building is in shape for routine use and many special events.



**Miranda Thomas** became the evening circulation supervisor in the Law Library in April, after working there as an undergraduate for three years. Her new responsibilities include supervising student employees and maintaining the faculty library and microfiche collection.



### ► OU Law launches new website design

After months of planning, testing and tweaking, OU Law launched a new website design for [www.law.ou.edu](http://www.law.ou.edu) on January 17. A committee guided the process by researching other law school sites to determine the best features and navigation, reviewing and editing current web content, and consulting with experts on the latest web design and functionality. The new website has several new features including a content management system that allows multiple content editors, a new way to sort and view courses, a photo gallery, a video page and an OU Law blog.

► **Retirement reception honors Evans and Poarch**

A reception celebrating the years of service of Stan Evans ('03) and David Poarch ('77) was held March 7 in the Sneed Lounge and Boren Atrium. A large group of faculty, staff, students, friends and family gathered to honor the two former assistant deans.



David Poarch and Stan Evans are flanked by the two men who held the position of dean of the OU College of Law during their years as assistant deans — Andy Coats, left, and Joe Harroz, right.



Professors Mary Sue Backus and Cheryl Wattley join Stan and Sandy Evans for a photo.



David Poarch and his wife, Teana Lewis, enjoy the celebration.



## ► IHRC students travel to Zambia and Argentina



While in Zambia, IHRC students visited the University of Zambia Law School in Lusaka, Zambia, and met with students, professors and the dean to discuss human rights issues affecting the country.

During the break between the fall and spring semesters, two groups of students in the International Human Rights Clinic traveled to Argentina and Zambia to investigate human rights protections. The students met with native peoples, government representatives and others to research how each country's indigenous communities can be helped. They will submit reports of their findings to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Jayne Crosby, a 3L from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, said she was excited about the opportunity to have a tangible impact on the lives of the people they researched in Argentina. "I feel like the report we will be submitting could actually make a difference in these people's lives and potentially make some great changes in the way the country treats its citizens," said Crosby. "Some of these people don't have a voice, and our report may be the only way they will be heard by the Human Rights Council at the United Nations."

Trista Wilson, a 3L from Freedom, Oklahoma, said her group was given the opportunity to meet with multiple non-governmental agencies and government officials to discuss real issues affecting the indigenous people of Zambia. "I valued learning how Zambians are addressing some of the issues troubling the country today," she said. "It was amazing to see all the important work so many people are doing to address human rights in Zambia."

Women's rights and the right to education were primary topics of a three-hour interactive forum when the IHRC students visited the University of Zambia Law School. In speaking of their meeting with law students and faculty, Carol Verbeek, a 2L from Tyler, Texas, said, "This was an especially unique experience because it gave us the chance to talk freely with young adults about the issues by which they were most affected."

Other clinic students who traveled to Zambia, in addition to Wilson and Verbeek, were Gennie Arvites and Elizabeth Wozobski. Cassidy Chew, Shannon Slagle and Scott Cordell joined Crosby on the team that visited Argentina.

## ► BLSA hosts regional convention

OU Law's Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chapter of the Black Law Students Association hosted one of the regional conventions of the national organization February 8-12. Approximately 100 individuals from the 17 law schools in the region attended. Fifty students from those schools participated in the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition and Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, which were held in Coats Hall. Pictured at right, volunteer judges gather in the Sneed Lounge for orientation prior to the moot court competition.



## ► Library welcomes Strickland Collection



A lobby card promoting *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962) is part of the Strickland Collection of Law and Popular Culture.

The Donald E. Pray Law Library announced the addition of a new collection of materials to be known as the Strickland Collection of Law and Popular

Culture. The collection was established through the donation of law-related movie posters, lobby cards, pressbooks and other materials gathered over a 35-year period by Professor Rennard Strickland, senior scholar in residence at the OU College of Law.

Strickland's interest in motion pictures and the law is reflected in his writing as editor (with Teree Foster and Taunya Banks) of *Screening Justice: The Cinema of Law*, published in 2006, and as author of *Tonto's Revenge*, published in 1997 as the University

of New Mexico Department of History Horn Lecture. Strickland founded the University of Oklahoma Center for Native American Law and Policy, served as dean at various law schools and is widely recognized as a Native America art collector, legal historian and authority on Native American law.

The collection's posters and lobby cards depict scenes from movies dating from the early silents to the recent turn-of-the-century and reflect the portrayal of lawyers and law-related themes in popular culture. "The earliest poster in the collection is *Traffic in Souls* (1913), which is listed among the first crime dramas and includes a border of policemen," stated Strickland. "*The Lady Objects* (1937) is a poster from one of the screen's first portraits of a 'lady lawyer' when there were more of them on the screen than in the courtroom," Strickland continued. "An additional lawyer film represented in the collection is *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), based on the Harper Lee novel."

There are more than 200 movie posters and 1,000 lobby cards in the Strickland Collection. In addition to being works of art, they offer students and scholars an opportunity to view legal history in an enjoyable format while promoting and encouraging reflections on more serious issues such as the civil rights movement and the gender balance in the legal profession.

## ► Trial team wins professionalism award



Honored with the Professionalism Award from the National Trial Competition are Amy Pepper, coach, Allison Hay, Matt Brown, Shayna Feiler, Sam Newton, Anden Sharpe, Paige Hoster and Mary Ann Roberts, coach.

Photo by Norman Party Pics

A team of six students and their two coaches traveled to Denver for the regional National Trial Competition February 2-4. Unfortunately, a record-breaking snowstorm hit the area during that time and disrupted the competition. Twenty teams, representing seven states, made it to Denver, but many of the volunteers who were to serve as judges and clients were not able to get to the event site and the competition schedule had to be adjusted.

At the conclusion of the competition, the OU Law team was honored with the Professionalism Award. The award, voted upon by all teams in the competition, recognized the team that best exemplified the preparation and professional attitude of good trial attorneys.

## ► Bolivian guests visit College of Law

Four guests from the University of San Andrés in La Paz, Bolivia, visited the OU College of Law January 20 as part of a five-day event sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and coordinated by the Oklahoma City International Visitors Council. The program, "Native American Justice Systems — A Project for Bolivia," was developed to broaden the participants' vision of Indian law in the United States by introducing them to various aspects of the justice system, focusing on the interrelation of federal and tribal law. While at OU Law, they met with professors Lindsay Robertson and Taiawagi Helton. Robertson lectured at the University of San Andres in July 2011.



Bolivian guests visit the office of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy. Pictured are Alvaro Baca, OU Law adjunct lecturer, Nestor Andres Mamani Machicado, Reinaldo Edwin Colmena Sinka, Luis Marin Cuno Huasco, Gloria Castro Luna and Professor Lindsay Robertson.

## ► Devon Energy Corporation and Crowe & Dunlevy sponsor Career Development Night



Representing Crowe & Dunlevy at Career Development Night are Daniel Johnson ('05), Jessica Perry ('09), Jennifer Ivester Berry, Morgan Hager, Drew Palmer ('06) and Adam Childers ('00).

First-year students kicked off their second semester of law school by attending Career Development Night on January 19. The event, sponsored by Crowe & Dunlevy and Devon Energy Corporation, was coordinated by the Office of Professional & Career Development to expose 1Ls to the various types of law practices, including corporate, law firm and governmental.

Dean Joe Harroz opened the event, held in the Dick Bell Courtroom, by emphasizing to the students that grades in law school, and particularly in their first year, are not determinative of their success. He reminded students that there are many paths to reaching their ultimate dream job and that professionals frequently change jobs throughout their career. He advised students to choose a career path and job based on their priorities, and to not be afraid to take risks in their career.

The students then broke into three separate sessions focused on careers in corporate law, private law firms and in the government. Speakers from Devon Energy Corporation, Crowe & Dunlevy and the U.S. Attorney's Office gave the students valuable insight into the many career paths that can lead to success in the legal profession.

The event concluded with a reception where speakers and other attorneys were available to visit with students one-on-one about possible careers.



Sandy Schovanec ('84), senior counsel with Devon Energy, talks with students Anna Imose, Summer Hanning and Dylan Erwin at the reception following Career Development Night.



► **McAfee & Taft sponsors Professionalism Day**

First-year students put their books aside and devoted a Saturday morning to learning the finer points of professionalism at a February 4 event sponsored by McAfee & Taft. Coordinated by the Office of Professional & Career Development, Professionalism Day 2012 began with Eric Eissenstat ('83), senior vice president and general counsel of Continental Resources, speaking to the students in the Bell Courtroom.

Following Eissenstat's address, the students broke into groups and rotated through three presentations that provided information on professional conduct, business and dining etiquette, and professional dress. At the conclusion of the sessions, the students and presenters enjoyed lunch in the Boren Atrium.



Ashley Burget, Alison Patel ('06), Richard Nix ('85), Ron Shinn ('02), Jared Burden, Charla Echhawk and Judy Cross with McAfee & Taft participated in Professionalism Day.

► **Tax Challenge team succeeds in national competition**



Brandee Raney and Jessica Cory, shown here with Assistant Dean Michael Scaperlanda, receive plaques commemorating their success in the national competition.

*Photo by Norman Party Pics*

The team of Jessica Cory and Brandee Raney placed third in the American Bar Association Section of Taxation 11th Annual Law Student Tax Challenge held in San Diego February 16-18. An alternative to traditional moot court competitions, this national competition, which included more than 90 teams in the J.D. division, required two-person teams of students to solve a cutting-edge and complex business problem that might arise in everyday tax practice.

In addition to receiving plaques recognizing their national achievement, each student received a monetary award, free membership in the ABA Tax Section for a year after graduation, and free meeting registrations for a year. Professor Jonathan B. Forman served as the team's coach.

► **OU Law students receive national scholarships**



Haley Rader, Austin Brewer, Frances Agbebaku and Ensieh Mohajeri received scholarships totaling \$15,000 from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation.

Four OU Law students were awarded scholarships by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation in recognition of their potential to make a significant contribution to the field of natural resources law. The students are Frances Agbebaku, Austin Brewer, Ensieh Mohajeri and Haley Rader.

The OU students were four of 20 national recipients who received financial assistance for the 2012 spring semester. Recipients are chosen based on academic and leadership ability as well as financial need. RMMLF is a collaborative educational nonprofit organization dedicated to the scholarly and practical study of natural resources law.

## ► State official discusses Oklahoma energy plan



Professor Emily Meazell speaks with Jay Albert following his presentation.

Deputy Secretary of Energy Jay Albert ('10) discussed Oklahoma's first energy plan as part of the Student Bar Association's Leadership Series. The SBA partnered with the Environmental Law Society, Energy Resources Law Student Association and Office of Professional and Career Development to present the February 22 event.

Albert was a principal author and architect of the state energy plan, which was unveiled last summer. The plan was developed to help foster economic development, transition transportation fuels, optimize existing energy systems and position Oklahoma as one of the nation's energy leaders and innovators. Albert discussed the significance of the plan and how the energy marketplace is changing for the state's future lawyers and public servants.

The Leadership Series was launched at the beginning of this academic year to help develop leadership and service at the College of Law. Other Leadership Series speakers include Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven Taylor, OU Law Dean Joe Harroz, American Fidelity Foundation President Tom McDaniel, OU Law Dean Emeritus Andy Coats, former Lt. Governor Jari Askins, former Judge Reta Strubhar and Judge Jerome Holmes, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## ► SATJ brings placement opportunities to students



Leah Roper learns about opportunities available for law students at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



Eli Pierce talks with a representative from the U.S. Marine Corps about the Marine JAG Corps

Students for Access to Justice sponsored the University of Oklahoma College of Law Pro Bono and Public Interest Career Fair February 21. The SATJ event provided students with the opportunity to meet with representatives from organizations seeking student volunteers for summer work and law graduates for full-time positions.

Thirteen employers from Oklahoma and Texas met with students at stations set up in the hallways surrounding the Kerr Student Lounge. Employers participating in the event included nonprofits and governmental and military organizations.



► **BLSA presents “I’ll Do It!” during Black History Month**



During the fourth and final act of the play, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, portrayed by Reonna Green, sits in her law school class separated from her white classmates. In the background are Kelly Ude, Courtney Hilliard and Nathan Williamson, who served as readers for this act.

Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher’s struggle to gain admittance to the University of Oklahoma College of Law was the focus of the play “I’ll Do It!” performed by the Black Law Students Association February 23 at the Oklahoma Judicial Center in Oklahoma City and February 26 at Langston University. The play was written by Cheryl Wattley, professor and director of the OU Legal Clinic.

“The play is called ‘I’ll Do It!’ because Ada Lois Sipuel possessed the courage, focus and determination to be willing to tackle the entrenched system of segregation at the University of Oklahoma,” Wattley said. “Her bravery and steadfast resolve opened the doors, not just of the University of Oklahoma, but of academic institutions across this nation.”

► **Diversity Day reaches out to potential applicants**



Stan Evans, former assistant dean, talks about law school with OU undergraduate Tyeshia Waters during lunch at Diversity Day.

College and high school students interested in pursuing a legal education attended Diversity Day March 2 to learn more about the admission process and to experience a day in the life of a student at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Students and professors offered advice about applying to law school,

preparing for entrance exams and paying for law school with scholarships and financial aid. The program also included information about student organizations, a mock classroom session, a tour of the law school, and a discussion about career options and the state of the profession in Oklahoma.

“Diversity Day is a fun and informative event where high school and undergraduate students learn more about OU Law and the process of applying to law school,” said Assistant Dean Scott Palk. “We welcome prospective students year-round, not just during events like Diversity Day. Admissions staff members are always available to lead tours and answer questions.”

► **OU Law co-sponsors Native American Pre-Law Day**

The OU College of Law joined with four other groups March 3 to present Native American Pre-Law Day at the University of Tulsa College of Law. Native American college and high school students attended the event, co-sponsored by OU Law, the Law School Admissions Council, DiscoverLaw.org, Oklahoma City University School of Law and the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Attendees learned how to prepare for law school. Native American attorneys discussed their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives provided information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal education, and law students talked about the law school experience.

## ► Groups collaborate to present Sovereignty & Identity Symposium

Three host organizations — the *American Indian Law Review*, the Student Bar Association and Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma — brought together some of the nation's leading minds for the Sovereignty & Identity Symposium on March 1. The event focused on the diverse nature of native and indigenous peoples, specifically highlighting the issues surrounding tribal membership criteria.



Professor Taiawagi Helton speaks about contemporary perspectives on tribal membership in an afternoon session of the Sovereignty & Identity Symposium.

Twenty speakers at the daylong event discussed Native American culture and the changing legal and academic landscapes facing tribes today. Morning sessions focused on how the study of Native American culture, citizenship and history can promote sovereignty. Afternoon speakers discussed legal issues related to tribal membership criteria, including an analysis of the Cherokee Freedmen controversy. Symposium participants also had the opportunity to view Native American art currently on display at the College of Law and a series of short films by the Dead Center Film Festival.



## ► Therapy dogs relieve students' stress

Certified therapy dogs, provided by the organization A New Leash on Life, visited OU Law for two weeks around finals to provide students an opportunity to relax and enjoy the canines' company. The service was provided at no cost to the College of Law or the students who interacted with the dogs. Brooke Churchman, a first-year student, gets to know Jack, a Labrador retriever owned by Michelle Traw.

*Photo by Steve Sisney, Copyright 2012, The Oklahoman*

## ► OAWL hosts event for local girls

by Paige Hoster, Class of 2013



OAWL members Paige Hoster, Megan Hensley and Joy Tate serve dinner to the girls who visited OU Law for the Girl Power event.

For the second year in a row, the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law teamed up with the Center for Children and Families Inc. to host Girl Power on March 9 at the OU College of Law. As part of CCFI's "Neighborhood Centers" initiative, Girl Power is a special program designed to help girls who may lack strong, female role models in their lives to navigate the challenges of middle school. Now, once a year, the girls come to the law school to engage in fun games and learning activities.

The evening began with 2L Megan Thompson leading the group in some challenging icebreaker games.

A tour of the law school was next. The first stop for my group was the Law Library. The Phillip's Courtroom was our next stop

and their favorite part of the tour. After the tour, it was time for a delicious dinner of pasta, bread and salad.

The last and most important activity of the event took place in the Bell Courtroom. We led them through an activity, "No Vehicles in the Park." While the concept of playing a game that hinges on statutory interpretation sounds boring to us, the girls loved it. We initially sat down to discuss the statute and then proceeded to some fact patterns. The answers the girls gave were astounding. They were thinking like lawyers without even knowing it.

And then the games began. Some girls put on robes and became judges. Others raised their hands high in the air to be picked as counsel. With the help of OAWL members, the girls gave their arguments. The panel of judges deliberated and delivered their verdict. After five or six rounds, every girl had participated and it was time for the evening to conclude.

This event has become so important to the members of OAWL.

Girl Power is the event where girls learn that they can be anything they want to be, including lawyers. It's a way to encourage girls in our community to dream big.

## ► Goolsby, Proctor, Heefner & Gibbs host event for 1Ls and 2Ls



Second-year student Chris Turner talks with David Proctor ('90), whose firm hosted the gathering.

The Oklahoma City law firm of Goolsby, Proctor, Heefner & Gibbs hosted a large networking event for the 1L and 2L classes March 8 at Bricktown Brewery in Oklahoma City. More than 50 small to mid-size firms were invited to share their knowledge of practicing various areas of law with the students.



## Law Week 2012

### ► SBA Leadership Series presents Judge Holmes



Judge Jerome Holmes of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals discussed public service March 27 as part of the Student Bar Association's Law Week celebration. The presentation was the final installment of the Student Bar Association Leadership Series. Pictured before the event are Camal Pennington, Jeff Riles, Judge Holmes and Dean Joe Harroz.



Wayne Alley, OU Law jurist in residence, enjoys a box lunch while listening to the presentation by Judge Holmes, his former law clerk.

### ► Suits planting roots for Arbor Day

by Nikki Cuenca, OU Law Editorial Intern



In observance of Arbor Day, students Haley Sperry, Rachel Smith, Katie Langwell, Ally Simon, Todd Lockard and Andy Dark work to plant one of three linden trees that were placed outside the Timberdell entrance to Coats Hall.

Hectic schedules didn't stop law students from coming out March 29 to plant trees on the north side of Coats Hall in celebration of Arbor Day and Law Week. Even though several students had moot court immediately after the planting, their suits, ties and pencil skirts didn't keep them from helping the cause. OU has celebrated Arbor Day for years with annual tree plantings campus-wide, but

this is the first year law students have planted trees outside of the law school.

Incoming Student Bar Association President Camal Pennington said he loves seeing the students come together to build camaraderie. He said he participated because of his love and passion for OU and the law school.

"Lawyers are required to do pro-bono work," he explained. "Community service not only helps us in law school, but also in life overall."

First-year student Andy Dark believes it's really important for the student body to come together outside the classroom for community service.

"It's cool that we can change the appearance of our campus to make it more beautiful," Dark said. "I want to be able to come back 20 years from now with my kids to see what I was a part of."

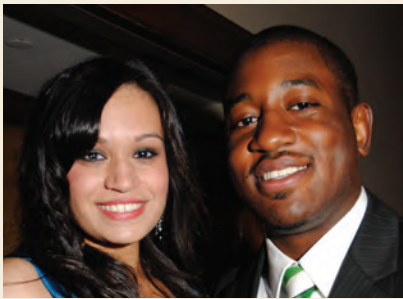
► **Students enjoy Gridiron as semester winds down**



Ashley Nguyen and Keith Needham

The event traditionally known as Gridiron, referred to by some as “Law Prom,” marks the beginning of the end of the spring semester. It provides one last chance to party with faculty, friends and classmates before getting down to the business of finals preparation. This year, Gridiron capped off Law

Week 2012 and was held March 31 in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom of Oklahoma Memorial Union. A seated dinner was followed by dancing to the sounds of the musical group My So Called Band.



Mehronissa Modgil and Camal Pennington



Professor Darin Fox, Sandy Evans and Stan Evans, former assistant dean



Mary Huckabee, Janavi Folmsbee, Christopher Folmsbee and Dhruva Mahimtura



Tiffany Spencer, Anne Sickles and Haley Rader

► **3L Night of Appreciation honors Class of 2012**



The Kerr Student Lounge is filled with third-year students, faculty and staff enjoying dinner at the 3L Night of Appreciation March 28.



Professor Katheleen Guzman talks with students as they fill their plates at the buffet line.

## ► OPCD event encourages networking with energy industry

Students had the opportunity to Meet the Energy Industry at an event coordinated by the Office of Professional and Career Development on April 4 at Bricktown Brewery in Oklahoma City. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, which has sponsored the event in past years, was joined by Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Continental Resources and Devon Energy Corporation as hosts of the event. More than 100 attorneys, landmen and students gathered to discuss careers and current events in the energy industry.

Dean Joe Harroz spoke of the corporate energy sponsors' contributions to OU Law through scholarships, internships and job offerings. He reported more than 10 percent of OU Law graduates are entering careers directly in the energy industry, and the school expects that number to continue to grow.

The College of Law now offers six specialized energy-related courses and is completing its first year of offering the John B. Turner LL.M. Program, extending the school's longstanding history of excellence and expertise in energy law, natural resources law and indigenous peoples law.

OU Law is grateful to the corporate sponsors, attorneys and landmen who chose to attend this wonderful event and share their expertise of the industry with current students.



Eric Eissenstat, general counsel of Continental Resources, and Lyndon Taylor, general counsel of Devon Energy Corporation, at the Oklahoma City networking reception.



Students Charles Knutter and Alyssa Fugit meet Fred Gipson ('90) and Jonice Meziere ('05) with Chesapeake Energy Corporation.



Third-year student Tyson Meek talks with Leslie Smith ('08), of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, and Scott Palk, assistant dean for students.

## ► OLR closes year with honors banquet



Sean Wagner, *OLR* executive articles editor; guest speaker Judge Charles Johnson ('55), Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals; and Michael Furlong, *OLR* editor-in-chief, pause for a photo following Johnson's presentation.

Judge Charles Johnson ('55), Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, was the guest speaker at the *Oklahoma Law Review* 2012 Honors Banquet on April 4. The event began in the Bell Courtroom, where Johnson spoke about the judicial system.

Following his address, awards were presented to students for their work on *OLR*. The Gene H. and Jo Ann Sharp *Oklahoma Law Review* Awards were given to Emily Stoner, Katherine Warren, Scott Delaney, Tiffanie Choate and Amanda Pennington.

Table sponsors for the event were Chesapeake Energy Corporation; Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippens PC; Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville; and Newton, O'Connor, Turner & Ketchum PC. The banquet sponsor was GableGotwals.



► **United Students hosts Fort Worth city councilman**



Guest speaker Joel Burns is joined by Taleri Wright, United Students president; Jeff Riles, Student Bar Association president; and Don Howerton, co-sponsor and alumnus from San Francisco.

Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns spoke April 5 in the Dick Bell Courtroom about bullying, teen suicide and his experience being an openly gay elected official.

In October 2010, Burns received national and international media attention after speaking at a council meeting about the issue of suicide among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth. Burns shared his own experience as a 13-year-old boy facing bullying while growing up in Texas. He has been a guest on NPR's "All Things Considered," NBC's "Today" show and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." His speech has had more than 2.5 million views on YouTube.

"Councilman Burns' message is powerful and poignant," said Jeff Riles, president of the Student Bar Association.

took his life last year — so his visit is local and personal," said Taleri Wright, president of United Students.

The presentation, made possible by the generous support of OU Law alumni Don Howerton ('97) and Richard Ogden ('89), was organized by the OU Law student organization United Students to support its mission to raise awareness about equality issues. United Students also partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma, Oklahomans for Equality, The Equality Network, Cimarron Alliance, Mothers of Many, OU GLBTF and the Student Bar Association to sponsor the event.

"He especially has a heart for the Norman family of Zach Harrington — who tragically



► **OCDLA joins OU Law in honoring Foley**

The Oklahoma Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and OU Law hosted a reception May 8 to honor the memory of Cindy Foley and commemorate her winning the 2010 OCDLA Lord Erskine Award for excellence in criminal defense achievements. A replica of her award was presented to the OU Legal Clinic and will remain on display in Coats Hall. Pictured are Tim Laughlin, 2012 OCDLA president, John Foley and Cheryl Wattley, director of clinical education.

## ► OU Law enters into agreement with Inter-American Court of Human Rights

University of Oklahoma College of Law Dean Joe Harroz signed an agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, an autonomous judicial institution of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights. Alvaro Baca, director of the International Human Rights Clinic at OU Law, led the initiative to form an agreement. OU Law is one of five law schools in the nation to enter into such an arrangement.

The agreement outlines ways in which the two organizations will coordinate efforts to strengthen their relationship, deepen knowledge of the law and publicize the international instruments for the promotion and defense of human rights. The agreement notes OU Law and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights may collaborate on training programs, seminars, publications, internships and more.

"Working with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights will open opportunities for many people in both organizations," Harroz said. "OU Law students and faculty will be able to participate in meaningful dialogue and projects focused on human rights in the Americas, while those with the Court of Human Rights will have access to our research and resources."

The agreement builds upon OU Law's current relationship with the inter-American system. OU Law currently offers an



Alvaro Baca, director of the International Human Rights clinic, and Lindsay Robertson, associate director of the Inter-American Center for Law and Culture, watch as Dean Joe Harroz signs the agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

externship at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, D.C., another institution of the inter-American system. Third-year law student Ryan Frazier participated in this externship during the fall 2011 semester, working primarily for the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## ► AILR holds annual banquet in museum of art



The members of the 2011-2012 AILR staff and advisers gather for a photo at the conclusion of the banquet.

While surrounded by works of art, the 2011-2012 members of the *American Indian Law Review* attended the annual banquet April 5 at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Following a reception and dinner, keynote speaker G. Calvin Sharpe ('85), president of the board of directors of Red Earth Inc., spoke about the nonprofit and its annual cultural event, the Red Earth Festival.

Graduating members of the AILR were recognized for their contributions by Mary Huckabee, outgoing editor-in-chief. Paige Hoster then introduced the incoming editorial board. Law firms sponsoring the event were Crowe & Dunlevy; Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippens; GableGotwals; Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson PC; McAfee & Taft; and Pitchlynn & Williams.

► **Henry Lecture Series speaker addresses government secrecy**



Frederick A.O. "Fritz" Schwarz speaks about government secrecy during his address, the 10th in the Henry Lecture Series.

A man whose distinguished legal career has integrated private practice and public service was featured in the 2012 Henry Lecture Series held April 6 at the OU College of Law. Frederick A.O. "Fritz" Schwarz, Jr., chief counsel of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, spoke to a lunchtime crowd of students, faculty, staff and guests. His lecture was titled "Citizen Access to Government Information: An Essential Element of Democracy and Liberty."

Schwarz earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard. In 1963, he joined the firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in its New York City office and retired from there in 2001, being named senior counsel in 2002. In addition to his litigation practice as a partner of the firm, Schwarz served extensively in the nonprofit and government sectors.

His work as chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Activities with Respect to Intelligence Activities, also known as the Church Committee, provided him with a unique perspective regarding government secrecy. The committee, which Schwarz described as "remarkably non-partisan," uncovered decades of abuse of power by intelligence agencies that had been kept secret through six presidencies.

The American democracy, Schwarz said, grew from the seed of openness. In its early days, the government strove to increase citizen knowledge. The postal service was the biggest part of the new government and as it grew, newspapers proliferated and citizens were kept informed.

This aura of openness continued into the 20th century, as did the growth of governmental bureaucracy, Schwarz explained. Through a turn of events, chief among them, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, fear caused a shift from openness to secrecy.

Schwarz drew a distinction between legitimate secrecy and illegitimate secrecy. In his opinion, "far too much government information is kept secret. Much more is classified than is necessary and kept so for too long."

In conclusion, Schwarz said, "The Church Committee proclaimed the belief that we must remain a country to confront our mistakes and not repeat them. The United States must not adopt the tactics of our enemies. Our strength is lessened each time we do."



Fritz Schwarz (center) holds the stone carving presented to him by the College of Law. Standing with him (left to right) are Dean Joe Harroz; Judge Gary Lumpkin, Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals; Justice Yvonne Kauger, Oklahoma Supreme Court; and Robert Henry, president of Oklahoma City University.



## ► SATJ recognizes pro bono service



Guest speaker Deborah Reheard talks about her work with Pros 4 Vets.

Volunteers who provided more than 25 hours of law-related pro bono service in a year were recognized by Students for Access to Justice at the Annual Pro Bono Awards reception April 19. Ninety-nine students, faculty and staff were honored at the event.

Deborah Reheard, immediate past president of the Oklahoma Bar Association and executive director of Pros 4 Vets, was the special guest speaker. Also speaking to the group gathered in the Sneed Lounge was Reggie Whitten ('80), co-founder of the nonprofit organization that provides professional services to soldiers, veterans and their families.

In addition to recognizing individuals for their pro bono service, the names of students receiving summer fellowships for public interest work, worth more than \$20,000, were announced. Among the students named were the first recipients of the David L. Boren and Molly Shi Boren Public Service Fellowship.

## ► OKJOLT banquet recognizes members

Students, faculty and guests gathered in the Sneed Lounge April 18 for the OKJOLT Honors Banquet. *The Oklahoma Journal of Law and Technology*, published exclusively in an electronic format to provide timely scholarship on the topic of technology law, is produced by students.

The 2011-2012 editorial board published six articles on topics that included discussions of posthumous reproduction, Internet sales tax, trademark infringement in the fashion industry, criminal procedure and First Amendment controversies.

All students who worked on the publication were awarded certificates recognizing their service. Special awards were presented to Jessica Cory for the Best Comment and Nicollete Brandt-Leigh for the Best Note.



The OKJOLT 2011-2012 editorial board members pictured are Michael Waters, editorial adviser; Shivan Mehta, chief topic and articles editor; Christopher Murray, editor-in-chief; Josh Smith, managing editor; Jeffrey Cartmell, business manager; and Professor Drew Kershen, faculty adviser.

## ► Awards Day recognizes students' accomplishments

Dedication and hard work paid off for students recognized April 20 at Awards Day 2012. They were honored individually and in groups for accomplishments including achieving academic success, participating in the competitions program and exhibiting promise in specialty areas. The event, held in the Dick Bell Courtroom, was preceded by an announcement of a gift of \$500,000 to endow an annual \$25,000 scholarship to honor 1928 OU Law graduate Aubrey M. Kerr, Sr. (Awards Day photos are on pages 77-80.)

## ► Class of 2012 celebrates at reception

An afternoon reception for 2012 graduates and their families was hosted by the College of Law on May 11 prior to the university-wide Commencement later that evening. The event provided a relaxed atmosphere in which the soon-to-be-graduates could celebrate with family, friends, faculty and staff.

*Photos by Norman Party Pics*



May 2012 graduates Kimberly Self and Alicia Williams enjoy the reception with Self's son, Truman.



Joelle Fehlauer-Moaning (right) attends the reception honoring her graduating class with Ruth Moaning, her sister-in-law, and Girma Moaning, her husband.



Jessica Speegle (left) welcomes her sister, Brittani Speegle, to the reception at Coats Hall.



Khalid Ali celebrates his upcoming graduation with Samirah Mohamad (left), his sister-in-law, and Zayneb Mohamad Ali (right), his wife.



Lizzie Wozobski, Bette Wozobski, Emily Wozobski and Wynn Wozobski take part in the reception prior to Commencement.



## ► OU Law graduates 198 students

At the 2012 OU Law Convocation, 191 students celebrated earning their juris doctor degrees, while seven students graduated from the first-ever John B. Turner LL.M. Program. The event was held May 12 at the Civic Center in downtown Oklahoma City with thousands of friends and family members in attendance.

Class President Mitch McCuistian and Dean Joe Harroz addressed the class, and the Convocation address was given by 1977 OU Law alumnus and LyondellBasell CEO Jim Gallogly. LyondellBasell is one of the world's largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies. Gallogly spoke about his time in law school and the rewarding career path that followed. Most importantly, he shared the many life lessons he learned along the way.

*Photos by Norman Party Pics*



Jim Gallogly ('77), Convocation speaker, talks with Dean Joe Harroz prior to the processional into the auditorium.



Dean Joe Harroz congratulates Nathan Williamson, the recipient of the **Joseph F. Rarick Award**. The award recognizes a student who has made a significant contribution to the College of Law but has not received other substantial awards or recognition and therefore, has not received his "just deserts," a phrase often used by the former OU Law professor for whom it is named.



Assistant Dean Emily Meazell places the hood representing the juris doctor degree on Jeff Riles. He received the **Student Bar Association Award** that recognizes the graduating student who has rendered the most valuable and significant service to the student body.





Professor Joe Thai hoods Daniel Moskowitz.



Dean Joe Harroz commends Amy Lewis, who was awarded the **Nathan Scarritt Prize**, a gold medal presented to the student with the highest academic record at the end of five semesters of law school. The award was originally provided by a College of Law alumnus, for whom it is named, and is now presented in his memory by his sons.



New OU Law graduates Tom Hornbeek, Greg Brown and Jered Davidson visit following the ceremony.



Dean Joe Harroz stands with Mary Huckabee, recipient of the **Joel Jankowsky Award** that recognizes a member of the graduating class whose leadership, scholarship and selfless service to others exemplifies a standard of overall excellence. The award was established by Julian Rothbaum, Tulsa, Oklahoma, to honor his stepson and admired friend, Joel Jankowski.



Jessica Kudryk stands with family members Cyndi Mabon Kudryk and Laura Kudryk Schmolt following Convocation, where she received the **Professional Responsibility Award**. Her classmates voted her as the person who most clearly exemplifies the spirit and attitude of professional responsibility and leadership.