



Briefcase

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INSIDE

Pour yourself a cup of ambition

What "9 to 5" can teach the legal profession

Page 2



YLD Back to School Ethics Trivia

Regional Food Bank fundraiser

Page 3



INDEX

From the President.....	2
Stump Roscoe	4
Bar Observer	5

124 Years in the Making: One Bar, One Purpose — Where Do We Go From Here?

By Judge Anthony Bonner
President

Walking into the Oklahoma County Courthouse early in the morning, before the hallways swell with lawyers and litigants, the quiet weight of our justice system is impossible to miss. For nearly a century, those marble walls have echoed the footsteps of lawyers and judges who helped shape our state long before most of us ever drafted our first pleading.

For 124 years, the Oklahoma County Bar Association has anchored the legal architecture of this community. Founded in the territorial days before statehood, our association has witnessed, weathered, and shaped the transformation of Oklahoma.



Bonner

For 124 years, the Oklahoma County Bar Association has anchored the legal architecture of this community. Founded in the territorial days before statehood, our association has witnessed, weathered, and shaped the transformation of Oklahoma. We have worked through boomtown growth, constitutional debates, deep social reckonings, and the steady, unglamorous day-to-day grind of making justice accessible across our county. To look back across

See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2



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Pour yourself a cup of ambition: What '9 to 5' can teach the legal profession

By Judge Siderias

Workin' "9 to 5?" You wish.

For most lawyers, it's more like working 9 to 9. More than ever, the practice of law can sometimes feel like an exhausting exercise of repetitive angst. As you look back on 2026, consider the following little nuggets of wisdom, compliments of Dolly Parton and interpreted by yours truly.

"Barely Gettin' By..."

"Barely gettin' by" is no way to live.

Burnout is not a badge of honor. You will not be remembered fondly for being miserable but perpetually available to your most demanding client.



Siderias

If you are, you did it wrong.

What three non-work related things are you most proud of as you look back on 2026? If you struggled to identify them, now might be a good time to evaluate the balance between your work and professional lives. Make time for the things — and the people — that matter to you. Sometimes that means delegating, and sometimes that means saying no — even to a new case, a new committee, or one more obligation you could squeeze into your calendar.

One thing for sure: if you do not insist on some measure of balance, the imbalance will eat you alive.

"They Just Use Your Mind..."

Your intellect has value.

You may find yourself contributing enormously while receiving disproportionate recognition from your client, managing attorney,



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or even the institution you serve. Recognizing your intellectual value is not arrogance; it is required if you want to understand your professional worth.

For lawyers in private practice, that may mean changing your rate so that it is commensurate with your experience, talent, and the rate of other lawyers similarly situated. The sooner you recognize that your intellectual labor has value, the sooner you might be able to alleviate some pressure.

How?

Because getting the rate your experience and talent demand takes off a lot of the pres-

sure of feeling like you have to say yes to everyone and everything.

That said, value is not measured only in dollars. It is also measured in credit.

Good leaders tend to give credit downward rather than collecting it upward. If you constantly find yourself in a situation where leadership appropriates your ideas, minimizes your contributions, or claims your successes as their own, you may want to consider finding new leadership or a new environment.

If you are the leader, consider asking yourself the harder question: Whether you are giving credit where it is due, even when it is not

due to you (all puns intended).

"It's A Rich Man's Game..."

Pay attention to who has power.

While the profession has become more diverse, it is not diverse enough — especially when it comes to having a seat "at the table." Hierarchy remains powerful. Access matters. Relationships matter, too.

- Who gets heard?
- Who gets ignored or interrupted?
- Who receives the difficult assignments that lead to advancement?
- Who gets mentorship?
- Who gets forgiven for transgressions?
- More importantly, who never gets invited to have a seat at the table?

Progress is not simply about who enters the profession. It is also about who is given a meaningful opportunity to succeed once they arrive.

"Want To Move Ahead, But The Boss Won't Seem To Let Me..."

A lawyer's development — or a judge's, for that matter — should not depend entirely upon whether the right partner or judge happens to take an interest in them.

Leaders should deliberately create opportunities for all the people coming behind them. In doing so, it might be helpful to consider how you felt when you were overlooked despite great effort. Remember the person who finally gave you a chance before your resume proved you deserved it. Remember the assignment, introduction, recommendation, or encouragement that changed the trajectory of your career. Then do that for someone else.

Remember, you are a leader for a reason: pre-

See **AMBITION**, Page 5

■ FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

twelve decades is to see a profession defined by institutional resilience, unmatched collegiality, and an enduring respect for the rule of law.

Standing here today as your president and as the first African American to hold this gavel in our association's storied history — I am acutely aware of the shoulders upon which this moment rests.

I think of giants like Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, whose courageous fight before the U.S. Supreme Court broke open the doors of our state's law school so that generations could follow her through them. I think of pioneers like Judge Charles Owens, who broke barriers as Oklahoma's first Black district judge right here on our county bench, where I currently serve. I think of trailblazers like E. Melvin Porter, the first Black member of the Oklahoma State Sen-

ate and a defining Oklahoma County civil rights advocate.

I also think of the generations of leaders who insisted that our courts belong to everyone, even when the broader world argued otherwise. Many of those legal pillars have led this very organization — names like Howard Berry, Andy Coats, Steve Barghols, Judge Stephen P. Friot, Valerie K. Couch, Judge Vicki L. Robertson, and countless others. This milestone does not belong to me alone; it belongs to every mentor, practitioner, and advocate who believed our bar could, and would, expand its table.

What makes this moment truly remarkable, however, is the spirit in which we arrived here.

We live in a culture often defined by fraction, noise, and sharp dividing lines. Inside the halls of the Oklahoma County Bar Association, a very different story unfolds. Our membership reflects a rich cross-section of backgrounds, practices,

and life journeys. We represent sole practitioners and national firms, prosecutors and public defenders, civil litigators, in-house counsel, and public servants. We may view the world through different lenses, but we are bound by an immovable core: our oath to protect the integrity of the law and a shared duty to serve the people of Oklahoma County with dignity and honor.

When we gather for committee meetings, collaborate on community service projects, and stand in our courtrooms, our diversity does not fracture us — it sharpens our advocacy and enriches our understanding of the law. We prove every day that civility is not weakness; it is the essential discipline that allows justice to function.

Celebrating how far we have come must never become an excuse to overlook how far we still have to go.

A historic milestone is not a finish line; it is simply the pass of the baton. Today,

I challenge every member of the OCBA to let this moment prompt an honest and courageous evaluation of our collective mission:

How are we using our advocacy to strengthen the fabric of our community? Who is not yet at our table, and whose hand can we reach out to pull forward?

The future vitality of our profession depends on our willingness to answer those questions with action. We must deepen our commitment to mentoring the next generation of young lawyers, expand our efforts to ensure the courthouse remains an instrument of remedy rather than an insurmountable barrier, and continue demonstrating to our community that the law in Oklahoma County is a steady, fair, and welcoming harbor for every citizen.

We are heirs to an extraordinary legacy. Together, let us ensure that the next chapter of the Oklahoma County Bar Association is defined not only by the history we honor, but by the doors we choose to open.

BRIEFCASE

September 2026

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■ YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

The YLD's Hopes and Dreams for 2026-2027

By Chelsi Chaffin Bonano
Chair, Young Lawyers Division

The YLD is excited for another year of serving both its fellow OCBA members and the greater community as a whole. We've already started the year off strong with our Back to School Ethics Trivia, where we had fun, earned an hour of Ethics CLE, and **raised \$2,049.30 for the Regional Food Bank**. This year's first place Trivia winners were Kaleigh Ewing, Hank Herren, Emily Isbill and Amanda Finch from Crowe & Dunlevy. Second place winners were Kylie Simpson from the Rudnicki Firm and Nolan Taylor with Lai & Taylor, while Chris Contreras, Rhema Brodie-Mends, Reese Charles, and Haley Hamilton of McAfee & Taft took third place.

We are very appreciative to OK Cider, for offering the venue free of charge and providing us with some great drinks, as well as Durbin Larimore & Bialick, which sponsored the trophies given to our Trivia winners. These generous donations allowed all of the profits to go directly to our annual Harvest Drive, where we have pledged \$20,000 for the Regional Food Bank. We are also appreciative of Braden Hoffmann for his gameshow-host-attitude and his creation and delivery of the trivia rounds. Thanks to Victoria Wilson and Andy Gin for organizing the event. And as always, we appreciate OCBA Staff — Christi Chan-



Crowe & Dunlevy: Back To School Trivia first place.



McAfee & Taft: Back To School Trivia third place.



Nolan Taylor and Kylie Simpson, Back to School Trivia second place.

dlar, Pam Bennett, and Odyssey Bagby — who connect all of the pieces.
The YLD is committed to serving the community of Oklahoma County. This includes

our annual Harvest Drive, in which we pledge to raise *at least* \$20,000 for the Regional Food Bank. Consider contacting your local young lawyer and providing the YLD with a dona-

tion to support the Regional Food Bank. Our next fundraiser will be the Fall Fest on November 5, 2026.
We look forward to a great year.



THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED NEUTRALS

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER MEMBERS

Check Available Dates Calendars Online for the following members, recognized in 2026 for Excellence in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution



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■ STUMP ROSCOE | By Roscoe X. Pound

Dear Roscoe: I'm retired and have time on my hands. I've been wondering about some mysteries of the law I've thought about but never got around to checking out. I've always wondered whether the signs you see, mostly in restaurants and diners reserving the right to refuse service to anyone, have any legal teeth against sketchy potential patrons.

PA, Edmond

Dear PA:

Enjoy your golden years. If I had to answer in a word, I'd say "no." The biggest challenge for restaurants is ensuring against broad "we reserve the right to refuse service" language to mask illegal discrimination, as restaurant refusal cases are heavily scrutinized. You can legally deny service or ask a patron to leave for reasons related to:

Disruptive or Threatening Behavior: Patrons yelling at staff, harassing other diners, using profanity, or causing a scene can be asked to leave.

Dress Codes: Dress codes are legal when reasonable, clearly posted, and uniformly enforced. A fine dining establishment can require jackets, or a casual spot can enforce "no shirt, no shoes, no service." However, they cannot selectively target specific racial, religious, or cultural groups.

Severe Intoxication: Restaurants and bars can face severe liability for overserving alcohol. There's a legal obligation to refuse alcohol service — and can refuse entry — to visibly intoxicated people.

Capacity and Operations: If the restaurant is closed for a private event, or seating the guest violates local fire code capacity limits, you can legally turn them away.

Non-Service Animals: You can refuse entry to pets. However, under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you must allow legitimate service dogs trained to do work for a disability. (Emotional support animals do not qualify for ADA protection.)

Oklahoma lacks state-level public accommodation protections for sexual orientation, but check local municipal codes. Cities like Oklahoma City have specif-

ic human rights commissions and local codes regarding fairness in public spaces. Because Oklahoma explicitly protects age in public accommodations, a restaurant cannot ban children entirely or refuse service to older adults unless it is a licensed, age-restricted bar area.

Best Practices:

Retire the Blanket Signs: Instead of generic "We reserve the right ..." signs, post specific, objective rules (e.g., "To ensure a pleasant dining experience for everyone, management requests appropriate attire and respectful behavior toward our staff and guests.")

Train Front-of-House Staff: Hosts and managers should know what constitutes a valid reason to deny service. Staff should document any incident where a customer is asked to leave.

Enforce Rules Evenly: If you let one regular slide on a dress code or rowdy behavior but enforce it against a new customer, you open yourself to a potential discrimination claim.

"Sketchy" is subjective. In a court or before a civil rights commission, open-ended terms like "sketchy" often invite interpretations as proxies or covers for discrimination. Oklahoma doesn't have the same strict disparate impact rules as other states, but turning someone away based solely on arbitrary physical appearance can invite a federal Title II Civil Rights lawsuit if customers believe they were profiled based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Staff cannot act on a "hunch." Unless the person actively violates a clearly posted, uniformly enforced dress code or safety policy, they must be served.

Banning someone for past incidents place restaurants on firmer legal ground, if you ban returning customers because they caused a verifiable, documented disruption during a previous visit. You may issue a permanent ban (trespass notice) to a specific individual for non-discriminatory behavioral reasons, such as: verbally abusing or physically threatening staff or other guests; dining and dashing; disruptive intoxication; or damaging restaurant property.

If problem customers return, tell them they are not allowed and ask them to

leave. If they refuse, they are legally trespassing, and you can call the police. To protect restaurants from a retaliatory discrimination claim, you must follow these operational rules:

Document the incident: The moment a customer causes an incident, management must write an incident report detailing the date, time, exactly what the customer did, and any staff/witness statements. If police are called, get the police report number.

Clearly define the ban: When the incident happens, management should ideally tell the customer explicitly: "Because of your actions tonight, you are permanently banned from this establishment. If you return, you will be considered a trespasser."

Don't be subtle: Don't try to "soft ban" them by ignoring them or messing up their order to get them to leave. Simply have a manager approach them calmly and state: "You were banned from this property following an incident on [date]. We cannot serve you, and we must ask you to leave."

Enforce it universally: You cannot ban a rowdy customer who is a stranger but let a rowdy "regular" off the hook for the same behavior. Selective enforcement opens the door to discrimination claims.

Dear Roscoe: I feel like a dinosaur to ask, but what is "doxxing"?

KW, OKC

Dear KW:

Sometimes I feel Cretaceous myself. Doxxing means researching and maliciously broadcasting private or identifying information about an individual or organization to the public, to enable harassment,

stalking, or other harm. This can result in severe consequences for the victim, like cyberstalking, real-world threats, identity theft, job loss, and extreme emotional distress. Although Oklahoma lacks comprehensive statutes targeting doxxing, 21 O.S. § 1172-73 relates to cyberstalking and comes close. Both Oklahoma and federal law prohibit actions equivalent to doxxing against officers and officials as a means of intimidation. Hopefully, your Legislature and/or Congress will close that loophole. Intent to harass, intimidate or otherwise harm the victim or the victim's family is key under most doxxing statutes.

.....

Longtime readers know about my thrice weekly habit of running six miles at Laurel Hill County Park, then undoing some of whatever good I'd done for myself at Sinkers and Joe. My leg injury made the run impossible, so I settled for half a loaf and went directly to Sinkers and Joe.

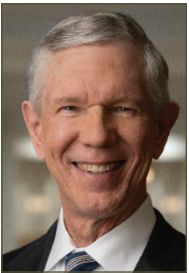
Halfway through a Danish, Mike Evett slid into my booth. Sheriff of Hudson County, keeper of the peace, and occasional co-conspirator in my less-than-official investigations. He had that look — half cop, half man at war with himself over an apple fritter or a cinnamon roll. We discussed hung juries and mistrials. Mike had something on his mind. He pretended to listen; I pretended not to notice. I caught movement in my peripheral vision. A man in a faded windbreaker headed for the door, pulling along a girl who couldn't have been more than 11. She wasn't look-

See ROSCOE, Page 6

■ THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

The Oklahoma County Bar Foundation ("OCBF") is looking for a few good grant recipients! The OCBF is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation that operates for educational and charitable purposes. Among other goals, the OCBF strives to advance, facilitate, and promote the administration of justice and the study of law and research therein. The corporation also receives and administers funds to make grants for charitable or educational purposes to other charitable, non-profit organizations to enable them to conduct their own affairs, provide services, and fulfill their own exempt purposes that are compatible with the purposes of the OCBF.

The OCBF grant is available on a yearly basis to not-for-profit organizations that demonstrate a desire to study, improve, and facilitate the administration of justice. Multiple grants are available each year. Organizations may apply for the grant, even if they



Geister III

have previously been a recipient. Grants offered by the OCBF have generally ranged from \$2,000 to \$7,000 with unrestricted use to the recipient.

Organizations interested in a grant must fill out an application and submit the requested documents to be considered. Completed applications must be received by the office of the Oklahoma County Bar Association by Oct. 15, 2026. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered for a grant. The Board of Directors of the OCBF will select the grant recipients no later than Nov. 1, 2026.

Grant application forms may be obtained by going to the Oklahoma County Bar Association's website, www.okcbar.org. Click "Bar Foundation," click "OCBF Grant Application," and click "OCBF_Orig_Grant_Application.doc." Any questions about the application or the grant process may be directed to Christi Chandler, the Oklahoma County Bar Association's Executive Director.

Let's give the OCBF's Board plenty of grant applications to consider!

Charles Geister III

RAISING THE BAR 2026

SEPT. 24, 2026 | 6 PM-8 PM
HORS D'OEUVRES & OPEN BAR

LEADERSHIP SQ. MEZZANINE
2ND FLOOR, 211 N. ROBINSON AVE

Join us for an evening of celebration as we kick off a new year, honor outgoing leaders Todd Blasdel and Genni Ellis, and welcome 2026 - 2027 officers, Judge Anthony Bonner as OCBA President and Chelsi Bonano as YLD Chair.

TICKET PRICING

Guests must be accompanied by active OCBA Member

REGULAR MEMBERS	— \$75
YLD & SENIOR MEMBERS	— \$55
JUDICIAL & GOVT MEMBERS	— \$45
OCBA MEMBER GUEST	— \$25
KIDS (15 and under)	- FREE

CLICK HERE, VISIT
OKCBAR.ORG, OR
CALL OCBA STAFF
AT 405-236-8421 TO
PURCHASE TICKETS!

Guest tickets must have accompanying member ticket. Parking available in underground Leadership Parking Garage.

Like many OCBA events, Raising the Bar is made possible through the generous support of our members and community partners. Sponsorships and ticket sales help us bring this annual celebration to life while supporting the OCBA and its mission. To become a sponsor of this year's event, please contact Christi Chandler or visit okcbar.org to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and ways to support the OCBA.

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,200

10 Member Tickets & 5 Member Guest Tickets
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■ BAR OBSERVER

McAfee & Taft

Trial lawyer **Philip J. “PJ” Novak, III**, a 2025 *summa cum laude* graduate of OCU Law, has joined the Oklahoma City office of McAfee & Taft after serving one year as a law clerk to the Honorable Ronald C. Griffin of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. His practice encompasses the areas of complex business and commercial disputes, class actions, and matters involving complex issues of federal and state law.

Brett P. Merritt, a corporate and real estate lawyer with 12 years of experience advising clients on a wide range of complex transactional,



Novak III



Merritt

corporate governance and regulatory matters, has rejoined McAfee & Taft. He originally joined the firm in 2014 and returned after spending five years working in senior legal and compliance roles for several Oklahoma-based organizations.

John R. Reeves, a veteran Oklahoma energy and regulatory attorney with more than 50 years of experience helping clients navigate complex regulatory issues and disputes, has joined the law firm of McAfee & Taft. He will continue to concentrate his practice on matters before the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.



Reeves

Phillips Murrah welcomes a new litigation attorney

Phillips Murrah is pleased to welcome

Lindsay Mayes to the Firm's Oklahoma City office. Lindsay M. Mayes is a litigation associate who represents individuals and both privately held and public companies in a wide range of civil litigation matters.

Mayes attended the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where she served as a Note and Comment Editor on the Oklahoma Law Review and published an article examining the intersection of artificial intelligence and Article 9 search logic. She earned numerous academic distinctions, including the Frank C. Love Memorial Award for Writing, the Captain Brian Wheeler Write-on Award, the Gene H. and Jo Ann Sharp Law Review Award for Outstanding Comment, membership in the Order of the Scribes, and American Jurisprudence Awards in Bank-



Mayes

ruptcy, Criminal Procedure Investigation, and MPT and Practical Lawyering. She also received the OU Law Comfort Scholarship.

Prior to law school, Mayes earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Creative Media Production from the University of Oklahoma and spent four years with the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. She previously participated in the Phillips Murrah Summer Law Clerk Program in 2025.

“I am very excited to begin my legal career at Phillips Murrah. During my internship last summer, I saw firsthand the thoughtful ways the firm serves its clients, and I look forward to continuing to learn from and work alongside my new colleagues,” said Mayes.

Mayes is based in Oklahoma City and enjoys camping and exploring national parks with her husband. When she is not on the road, she can usually be found reading with a good cup of tea, accompanied by her two dogs, Thelma and Louise.

AMBITION

Continued from page 2

sumably because you were given a chance and you earned it. Pass that chance forward.

“Pour Yourself A Cup Of Ambition...”

As we look back on 2026 — a year in which the legal profession continued to navigate political division, technological disruption, declining institutional trust, and increasingly uncivil public discourse — perhaps some of the profession's lessons come not from another judicial opinion or CLE, but from Dolly Parton.

Go pour yourself a cup of ambition, and while you do, you might also consider what Dolly Parton represented. In a profession that often rewards certainty, status, argument, and ego, Dolly Parton's enduring appeal offers an unlikely lesson for lawyers and judges: strength does not require hardness.

Her career was built on knowing exactly who she was while allowing others to be who they were. She took her work seriously, but herself less so. She treated people with dignity without demanding agreement. She repeatedly demonstrated that kindness and ambition are not competing virtues. She left a legacy that teaches us

to be prepared, be principled, and be gracious — perhaps lessons that are not taught enough in law school.

Like Dolly Parton, you should know who you are. If you do not know, study yourself, your thoughts, your reactions, and your habits. Pay attention to who you are when you are tired, angry, disappointed, or in a position of power. If you do not like who you are, the first step to change might start with admitting you want to be the person Dolly Parton believed you could be.

The legal profession will criticize you. Clients will criticize you. Opposing counsel will criticize

you. If you are a judge, you are guaranteed criticism. It's a little-known fun perk of the job. Nevertheless, popularity cannot be the measure of a job well done. Integrity must.

As Dolly Parton sang in her hit, “Coat of Many Colors,” even when you are criticized, if you stand in your truth, other people do not get the final word on the value of what you have built.

Do good work. Treat people well. Give credit generously. Know your worth. Make room for people following you. And have enough confidence in who you are that you do not need to diminish someone else to prove it. In short, pour yourself a cup of ambition, with room for humility.



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APPEALS | CIVIL | DISHONESTY | ERISA | NOTARY | PROBATE

Lawyers in the Library Brings Free Legal Assistance to Oklahoma City

By Preston Herron

On Aug. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a Saturday morning downtown, the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library hosted **Lawyers in the Library**, a special community event designed to provide free legal assistance to individuals requesting legal information.

The event was a joint effort between the **Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library, Oklahoma Legal Aid Services, and Oklahoma Access to Justice**. Oklahoma Access to Justice recruited volunteer attorneys who generously donated their time and expertise

to meet with members of the community and provide guidance on a variety of legal matters.

The event was a tremendous success, with the volunteer attorneys providing legal assistance to more than 40 individuals who came seeking help with their legal issues. For many people navigating the legal system without an attorney, finding reliable legal information and understanding the next steps in a case can be challenging. Lawyers in the Library provided these individuals with an opportunity to speak directly with an attorney, ask questions, and receive guidance to help

them better understand their legal options.

Programs like Lawyers in the Library demonstrate the importance of making legal information and assistance more accessible to everyone, regardless of whether they can afford private legal representation.

A special thank you goes to the volunteer attorneys who gave their time and knowledge to serve the community:

John Harrison, Todd Blasdel, Erin Reynolds, John Miley, Shandi Stoner, Kelly Masters Newton, Casey Johnson, Tiffani Armendariz, and sincere appreciation to Venita Hoover, Eva Thompson and their library

staff for their hard work and support in making the event a success.

The success of Lawyers in the Library would not have been possible without the dedication of the participating organizations, volunteer attorneys, library staff, and everyone who helped make this valuable service available to the community. Serving more than 40 individuals during this event was a meaningful accomplishment and a great example of how partnerships between libraries, legal organizations, and volunteer attorneys can make a real difference in our community.

Tee Up for a Great Cause: 2026 OCBA Golf Tournament

Grab your clubs and join the Oklahoma County Bar Association for one of our favorite events of the year! The **2026 OCBA Golf Tournament** is set for **Monday, Oct. 12, at Kickingbird Golf Course**, with proceeds benefiting **Parent Promise OKC** and its work to strengthen families and create safer, brighter futures for children in our community.

The tournament will feature a **shotgun scramble with teams of four**. Check-in opens at **Noon** followed by a **1 p.m. shot-**

gun start. Player registration is **\$165 for OCBA members** and **\$205 for non-members** and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, boxed lunch, on-course contests and prizes, and our post-tournament celebration.

There will be plenty of ways to win throughout the afternoon, with special competitions for **Longest Drive, Straightest Drive and Closest to the Hole**, along with tournament flight competition. Players can also purchase tournament add-ons and raffle tickets before tee-off.

After the tournament concludes, stick around for our Post-Tournament Happy Hour & Awards Reception! We'll kick off the celebration by drawing our raffle winners, then recognize the day's top performers and present trophies for **Longest Drive, Straightest Drive, Closest to the Hole, and our tournament flight champions**. Grab a drink, celebrate the winners, and help us wrap up a great day on the course!

Want to make an even bigger impact? **Sponsorship opportunities are available for law firms, businesses and community partners**, with options ranging from hole signage to packages that include a four-person golf team.

Come play, connect with the OCBA community, and help us support **Parent Promise OKC!** Register by calling the OCBA office at 405-236-8421 or online at okcbar.org.

■ RAISING THE BAR

Be Part of Oklahoma County History at Raising the Bar

Join the Oklahoma County Bar Association on **Thursday, Sep. 24, from 6-8 p.m. at Leadership Square** for **Raising the Bar** and an important moment in our Association's history, as we welcome **Judge Anthony Bonner as the first African-American President of the OCBA**.

We'll also recognize outgoing President Todd Blasdel and celebrate our incoming and outgoing YLD leadership as we officially begin a new year for the Association.

Guests will enjoy **excellent food, complimentary drinks, and an evening with colleagues and friends from across the legal community**. Raising the Bar is a come-and-go event, so stop by at your convenience and be part of this historic evening.

Haven't registered yet? Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

Join us as we celebrate OCBA leadership, our legal community, and a historic new chapter for the Oklahoma County Bar Association.

OCBA 2026 GOLF TOURNAMENT

BENEFITING PARENT PROMISE OKC

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Show your support, gain visibility, and make a difference in the lives of local children and families.



	FAIRWAY \$250	Hole sponsor signage at hole
	BIRDIE \$450	- Custom signage - Acknowledgement at post-tournament happy hour
	FIRM PARTNER SPONSORSHIP \$950	- Hole sponsorship 1 golf team (4 players) 4 extra drink tickets - Signage at hole
	HOLE-IN-ONE \$1,250	- Hole sponsor signage at hole - Signage and acknowledgement at post-tournament happy hour 1 golf team (4 person) - Permission to sit on hole and provide promotional materials 4 extra drink tickets



ROSCOE

Continued from page 4

ing at him. She wasn't looking at anyone, left hand clenched in front of her chest, thumb tucked inside her fist.

The gripped thumb. I'd read about it but never actually saw it — an unspoken distress signal, the kind you use when you can't risk saying the words out loud.

They were already halfway out the door, the bell giving its lazy jingle. The man's grip on her hand was too firm. She stumbled on the threshold, and he yanked her forward into the gray drizzle outside.

Mike's eyes followed mine. "You think —?"

"I know," I said, sliding out of the booth. "That's a call for help."

We stepped into the street, the warm smell of fried dough giving way to that of Secaucus in September. The man moved fast, the girl's small hand still clenched tight. People passed by without a glance — commuters, dog walkers, the usual morning crowd.

"Should I take point?"

"You've got the badge," I said, "I'm just an officious busybody."

Quote of the Month

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."

John Walter Cross, George Eliot's Life, as Related in Her Letters and Journals (originally published 1885), Volume 1, p. 92 (Cambridge University Press edition).



OKLAHOMA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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THE BAR**

09/24

LEADERSHIP SQUARE



**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

10/12

KICKINGBIRD



**YLD
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11/5

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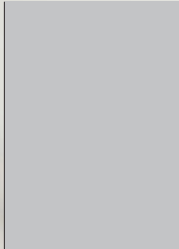


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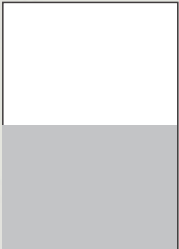
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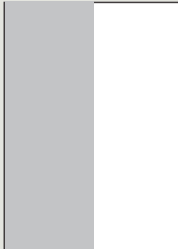
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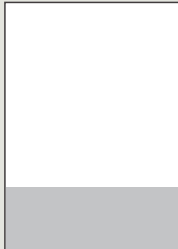
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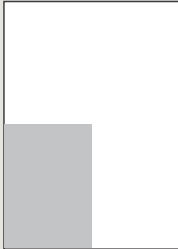
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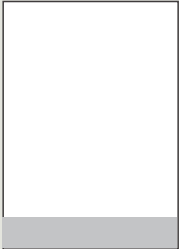
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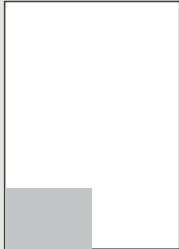
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1/8 page - Strip
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