Wear the Damn Mask!

By Rex Travis

I always read the comics in the daily newspaper. I don’t usually laugh out loud at them but today I did. In case you haven’t read it, “Shoe” is a comic strip about a bunch of birds, centered around an editor, a news reporter, and their circle of bird friends (the strip was created by a talented political cartoonist named Jeff MacNelly who illustrated the strip from 1977 until his death in 2000. It has been carried on by two equally talented cartoonists, Jeff’s wife, Susie and Gary Brookins).

The particular cartoon which so amused me featured the reporter, Cosmo Fishhawk. He’s hanging out at the diner run by Roz Specklehen. Cosmo says: “there’s an app that tells you immediately which of your friends are total Morons.” Roz responds: “oh, what’s it called?” and Shoe replies “Facebook.”

I think that’s likely true but, occasionally, Facebook speaks volumes. Steve Barghols posted a plea for all of us to wear masks to help us all survive the coronavirus pandemic. He suggested that when we

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70-Year Membership
George Camp

Mr. George Camp was born in Creek County, Oklahoma. He earned his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Camp served overseas during World War II in Leyte, P.I. and Japan and in G-3 GHQ AFPAC (General MacArthur’s Headquarters). He was one of about a dozen to attend the first day of the Japanese War Crimes Trials in Tokyo on May 3, 1946. At arraignment, several defendants, former U.S. college graduates, spoke and pleaded not guilty in excellent English. Camp’s first case was the successful appeal to President Truman of a tainted court-martial conviction for the killing of two civilians. President Truman granted full clemency.

Mr. Camp was elected County Attorney in Major County 1950 and 1952. He served as First Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1954 to 1961. Mr. Camp was in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives from 1964 to 1982 and served as Municipal Judge from 1982 to 1983. As a US Attorney, he led the initial investigation by FBI and IRS Special Agents of the corrupt Oklahoma Supreme Court Justices; however, Mr. Camp was unable to prosecute the cases because of a change in the Administration. Later, as State Representative Camp, he assisted with their impeachment. Highly respected by both parties, Camp not

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From the President

2020 DISRUPTED

By Michael W. Brewer

At the halfway point in 2020 I am guessing that none of you predicted how things have turned out thus far this year. My observation has been that many of the COVID-19 related issues in the United States have to do with a loss of first world conveniences such as eating out, airplane travel, spas, salons, hotels, resorts and a shortage of toilet paper. Unfortunately, there was not much that a volunteer organization of professionals could do during a worldwide health crisis other than cancel. The OCBA cancelled most of our meetings, social gatherings, fundraisers for charity and all in-person gatherings. No, we are not part of the “cancel culture.” Rather, we are part of society that is looking out for the wellbeing of each other. OCBA members choose to encounter others on an individual risk basis. Our hope is that we can soon return to public outings without risk to others or ourselves. The OCBA held a free Zoom CLE for members to discuss dealing with the PPP. I participated there and learned that we had well over 200 members participating most of whom are solo or small firm practitioners. I also learned from listening that many of them were struggling during the shutdown and are doing what it takes to survive as a legal services provider in the reen. These kinds of issues are not going away for many OCBA members. On the community support side, the Young Lawyers committee of the OCBA will be sponsoring a blood drive in August with the OBI bloodmobile. Another great benefit to donating blood is that the OBI provides free antibody testing. We will share more details on location and time with you soon. I am looking for ways the OCBA can help our members. Please reach out to the OCBA office or me if you have ideas or need help.

It seems to me that going forward the primary questions for each of us will be how to deal with a disruption to the status quo that no one saw coming and where do I want to be on the other side of this disruption. First, you should take care of your mental health. Experts predict upticks in depression, anxiety, abuse, and addiction. We are a social people who are not used to isolation. Lawyers Helping Lawyers is always an available resource. Your OBA membership also includes counseling opportunities. For many during this time there is reliance on faith. You may seek mediation or other spiritual resources. When you know someone that needs help or you feel like you are going down the rabbit hole, reach out to someone for assistance.

Next, you should review your current business model and business practices. Things have changed quickly in the legal world. In person meetings, depositions and mediations now have distancing options. Those options are now based on technology such as Zoom and other similar platforms. Travel is the last option and is now understanding how much they can save in cost by reducing travel. Efficiencies gained from technology have been fast-forwarded by years. Is your practice up to speed or capable of getting up to speed? With working from home now seen as acceptable, support staffing is lean and office space is shrinking. The commercial real estate market may never be the same, much less recover. Office lease costs should go down. Can you change your business practices to take advantage of the leverage gained from saved overhead and new technology? Can your staff learn and acclimate to the new ways? You will need to invest in purchasing new technology, educating yourself and your support staff on how to get the most out of it. If you are a marketer, the media for communicating your message is likely changing. Networks and news media are changing and will soon look very different. Newspapers have shrunk and are mostly online. Streaming services are taking over from network and cable services. Local and national news will soon be selected by the viewer from their online menu. What media will provide you the most exposure for your marketing dollars in our new future? Is your practice up to speed or capable of getting up to speed? With working from home now seen as acceptable, support staffing is lean and office space is shrinking.

Efficiencies gained from technology have been fast-forwarded by years. Is your practice up to speed or capable of getting up to speed? With working from home now seen as acceptable, support staffing is lean and office space is shrinking.

is whether our court system will have sufficient funds for juries when you consider the large deficits that are expected for State tax revenues.

Finally, are you going to be a person that comes out of this disruption as a better person and more involved citizen? To get to that answer there are several questions that you need to consider. Will you make choices based not only on what is good for you and your family but also good for the entire community? Will you be there for your partners, coworkers, your employees, or your clients when they are in need? Will you volunteer as a Big Brother or Big Sister? Will you volunteer to read to or tutor children that do not have anyone in their household who can do so? Will you represent the most vulnerable in our judicial system? Will you contribute financial and time resources to your community? Will you support the rule of law and equal justice for all? My challenge to each OCBA member is to take a self-audit and make a decision on where you want to be personally, as a business, and as a citizen of our community when the disrupters of 2020 give way to the new normal. Let’s keep dialogue on issues open and take steps to make things better.

Michael W. Brewer is an attorney, founder, and partner of Hiltgen & Brewer, P.C. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. To contact Mike, email mbrewer@hbokc.law, call (405) 605-9000 or tweet him at @atty-mike. For more information, please visit www.hbokc.law.
Dear VLA: Personally, I see no reason to kill a perfectly good pet – or any animal for that matter. I can’t say I’ve ever done a scientific survey as to how often it comes up, but apparently it’s not as rare as one might think/hope. Anecdotally, I understand that such clauses find their way in Oklahoma estate documents. Here in the Garden State, legislation has been introduced in both Houses preventing just such a thing. One may infer from the need for a resolution that a problem does, in fact exist. As to the longevity of the practice, our neighbors in PA does, in fact exist. As to the longevity of the practice, our neighbors in PA...
The Philip F. Horning OKCPS college scholarship fund names first scholarship recipient

Phil Horning was an Oklahoma City attorney and a long-time member of the OCBA. He served on the OCBA Board of Directors, rarely missed the OCBA annual ski trip and wrote articles for the Briefcase.

Phil also received the OCBA Ethics award in 1979. Last month, Phil died after a two-year battle with cancer. Phil firmly believed in the importance of our public education system and he believed that every child deserves the best possible education. Because of these beliefs, after he retired, Phil became a volunteer at Linwood Elementary School for ten years where he tutored and mentored many young students. Phil also served two terms on the Oklahoma City Board of Education.

For many years, Phil practiced law with Roger Grove, Carrie Hulett, Kent Johnson, James Moore and Carolyn Thompson. To honor Phil and his strong belief in the value of education, Phil’s partners established the Philip F. Horning OKC PS College Scholarship Fund with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Each year, the Fund will award a scholarship to a graduate of one of several designated OKC PS high schools. The scholarship will go directly to the recipient’s college to be applied toward tuition, fees and other direct expenses. The first recipient of a scholarship from the Philip F. Horning OKC PS College Scholarship Fund is La Naiia Brown, who graduated in May fifth in her class from Douglass High School in northeast Oklahoma City. She will receive $4,000 from the scholarship fund.

While at Douglass High School, La Naiia was an active member of the Law and Public Safety Career Academy. As a member of the Academy, La Naiia attended a summer program put on by the OKCPS Career Academy at Douglass High School. La Naiia was a member of the Douglass High School Mock Trial Program and she delivered the closing argument in two different mock trials.

During the time La Naiia was attending Douglass High School, the OCBA had close ties to the Law and Public Safety Career Academy at Douglass High School. The Academy and all of its activities were completely funded by grants from the OCBF and the OBF. For several years, the Academy was run by OCBA member Carolyn Thompson and other OCBA members served on the Academy Advisory Board. A number of OCBA members visited Douglass to teach classes for students in the Academy on legal topics such as workplace discrimination, first amendment rights, family law and criminal procedure.

The OCBA was also a strong supporter of the mock trial program at Douglass High School when La Naiia was a member of the mock trial team. Grant money from the OCBF and the OBF fully funded the expenses of the Douglass mock trial program. OCBA member Carolyn Thompson developed a curriculum for a mock trial class for Douglass High School and she taught the class several times each week.

La Naiia said she is very appreciative to have been selected as the first recipient of the Philip F. Horning OKCPS College Scholarship Fund. After reading Phil’s obituary she said, “It’s amazing how much someone can accomplish in a lifetime.” La Naiia also said that she would like to meet all the trustees of the scholarship fund who selected her as the first recipient because, “It’s always best to thank people in person.”

The scholarship fund to honor Phil has already received a number of donations from OCBA members. However, additional donations would help the fund reach the level at which the Oklahoma City Community Foundation would match the amount of the annual scholarship, thereby doubling the scholarship amount. Donations to the Philip F. Horning OKCPS College Scholarship Fund are made through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Tax deductible donations can be made online at donate.occf.org, or by check, payable to the Philip F. Horning OKCPS College Scholarship Fund and mailed to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, OK 731011146.
By: Special Judge Allen Welch

Ron Buckelew died on October 14, 2019. Ron was one of my heroes. When I was first sworn in as a Special Judge in 2004, Ron frequently had business in my courtroom. I was so impressed by his example that being an advocate for one’s client was not inconsistent with the concepts of professionalism, decency and civility.

The Code of Professional Conduct required that lawyers represent their clients “zealously.” When Oklahoma transitioned from the Code to the Rules of Professional Conduct in 1988, that language did not survive the transition. I’m not sure that Ron was aware of that arcane nuance of professional responsibility, but he didn’t need to read that. He lived it.

Ron was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He married his high school sweetheart Elisa. They met at Bishop McGuinness High School. Ron and his lovely bride had three children (including the youngest Dan) and nine grandchildren.

Ron thought of the legal community as his second family. Those who knew Ron knew that his word was his bond, and that a handshake was as good as, if not better than, a written contract. Many lawyers reminded Dan that he was the opposing counsel in their first, or one of their first, hearings or trials. Many of them reported that they were scared or intimidated about their first trial until they quickly gleaned that Ron was kind, that he did not take advantage of them, and that he actually taught them through the process. Many clients were later referred to him by the opposing party. He was an incorrigible optimist, who would often tell Dan and others “It’s going to be okay.”

He firmly believed that agreed Orders were always preferable to asking a detached stranger (i.e., the Judge) to enter rulings about the parties’ personal affairs and about child custody matters in particular. He also counseled clients about why they might not want to proceed with a divorce.

The funeral director’s assistant at Ron’s funeral was, by happenstance, a former client of Dan’s. After the funeral, she recalled Dan’s advice to her many years ago. The couple’s problems were mostly financial. Dan suggested that he saw no reason why, once the financial issues were resolved, they could not resume their life together. After the funeral, the assistant approached Dan. She told him that she and her husband had taken his advice to heart many years ago and reconciled, that her husband remained “the love of [her] life” to that day,” and that she could not imagine life without him. She was so grateful for Dan’s advice which allowed her and her husband to live happily ever after. In many ways, her gratitude was really for Ron. Dan was just doing as his father taught. This story illustrates that Ron was a great teacher, and that the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

Ron had a great sense of humor, as anyone who knew him would attest. He was, coincidentally, on the “wrong side” of my rulings in several hearings in a row. He dropped in to see me shortly thereafter, and asked if he could give me a present. He handed me a framed cartoon of a brow-beaten lawyer, suit
Michael Raye Ford, 50 Years
Kenneth George Mayfield, 50 Years
Gordon W. Edwards, Jr., 50 Years
R. Clark Musser, 50 Years

AWARDS
continued from page 1

only served in most of the Republican leadership positions, but was unique in having served more sessions since statehood as a Committee Chair than any other Republican until 2008. Some of the diverse laws he authored were: repeal of school segregation; the first in the world procedure to protect the status of children conceived by artificial insemination; Oklahoma’s first no-smoking law; and, the most significant change to criminal procedure law in our history. The change requires a showing of prejudice to obtain a severance from a co-defendant instead of merely a request and allows defendants to be charged with multiple counts in a single case instead of a single case for each charge. It is estimated that these procedural changes reduce the cost of the administration of criminal justice about one-third each year. Mr. Camp is a widower after 56 years of marriage. He has two children, son Dr. Mark Camp, daughter Cheryl Camp, and two grandchildren, Madeline and Ian Camp.

ADDITIONAL 70-YEAR HONOREE
Gene C. Howard

E.W. Keller

Mr. Elvin Wayne (E.W.) Keller was born in Moravia, Idaho. He earned his LLB in 1960 from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Keller served as Captain in the US Army Infantry and JAG Corps. He was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1972 and served until 1986. Mr. Keller is a Past Member of the OLA Workers Compensation Committee and served as Chair of that Committee. He is also a Past Member of the State Bar Committee on Compliance with Federal Compensation Standards. Mr. Keller has been married to Marsha Mason Keller for 62 years. He is the father of Trent Keller and Rachel Dalton. Mr. Keller is a Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.

ADDITIONAL 60-YEAR HONOREES
William R. Davis
Truman Moss

Gary C. Bachman

Mr. Bachman was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Midwest City High School and Central State College. Mr. Bachman earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1970. He began his practice 50 years ago trying cases in multiple jurisdictions, both in federal and state courts, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. Mr. Bachman has been a partner in the firm of Holloway Dobson & Bachman for over 40 years and has received the highest AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He began his career working in insurance defense and now his practice focuses on representing individuals and families in a variety of cases including automobile and trucking collision, insurance bad faith, wrongful death, product liability and nursing home negligence. In his 50 years of legal practice, Mr. Bachman has achieved exceptional results, including numerous seven-figure verdicts and settlements. He has litigated cases all across the state in both state and federal courts. Mr. Bachman is a member of the Oklahoma Association for Justice, the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association, the Oklahoma County and Oklahoma Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in all federal and state courts in Oklahoma. He has presented seminars and lectures at numerous CLE events and has acted as Municipal Judge for many years in his hometown of Midwest City. Mr. Bachman is General Counsel for Rose State College and serves as Trustee on the Rose State Board of Trustees. He is a Downtown College Consortium Advisory Committee Member, Co-Founder of Zion’s Gate, a Ministry to Israel and Director for International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Mr. Bachman is married to wife, Connie, and has one son, Steven D. Bachman. He also has one granddaughter, Samantha Bachman. His family constitutes a three-generation practice at Holloway Dobson & Bachman, PLLC.

Russell Dougherty Bennett

Mr. Bennett was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He graduated from Northwest Classen High School and Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Mr. Bennett earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1970. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve (ROTC). Mr. Bennett served with the Military Intelligence Branch and was discharged in 1977 with the rank of Captain. He began his legal career as a Legal Intern, Associate and Junior Partner with the firm of Shirck Withington Work Robinson & Bennett from 1968 to 1973. Mr. Bennett was Assistant Municipal Counselor for the City of Oklahoma City from 1973 to 1976, when he became City Attorney for the City of Lawton. He served as Environmental Attorney & Labor Counselor for the US Army JAG Office at Ft. Sill from 1986 to 2013. Highlights of his career include: Beta Theta Pi Fraternity 1964 to Present; Board of Directors, Lawton Community Theater (4 terms as President, 1982-1998); and Founding Member, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Lawton, Inc. (1994-2013). Mr. Bennett is married to Sandra K. Unr. He has two daughters, Mikel S. Bennett-Doonan, Architect, Austin, Texas, and Jordan Grace Bennett, Registered Nurse, Austin, Texas.

Charles A. Codding

Mr. Codding received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1962. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Oklahoma City University in 1970. Mr. Codding is registered to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office. His areas of practice include: Antitrust, Copyrights, Patents, Real Property, Trade Secrets, Trademarks, Trial Practice and Unfair Competition. Highlights of Mr. Codding’s career include serving as President of Dunlap Codding, PC; American Association of Trial Lawyers Member; Licensing Executive Society and the American Intellectual Property Law Association Member; and Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma City University School of Law. Mr. Codding is married to wife, Elizabeth A. Codding.
David T. Cook

Mr. Cook was born in Wewoka, Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Cook earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1970 from Oklahoma City University School of Law, where he was on the Order of the Coif. While a member of the 317th Air Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade during his time in the United States Army, Mr. Cook served with the 137th Military Airlift Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard from 1965 to 1971. Mr. Cook began his legal career as Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma County in 1970. From 1975 to 1980, he practiced with the firm of Kimball Wilson & Cook. Mr. Cook was partner in the firm of Cook & Hackett from 1980 to 1991 and is currently a solo practitioner. Highlights include: considerable experience in probate and mineral law practice, with the main emphasis being title examination; being on the approved list of title examiners for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, having done work for two major bankrupcy estates. He has been AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell since 1983. Mr. Cook is married to Toni Cook and has three sons, John, William and Drew. He also has two grandchildren, Madelyn and Harper.

Gordon Edwards, Jr.

Mr. Edwards was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, earning his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1967. Mr. Edwards served in the US Army. His legal career included the District Attorney’s Office in Oklahoma County and private practice in Oklahoma City for 35 years. Mr. Edwards has a son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, Eliza and Jaya.

This note was received at the OCBA from Mr. Edwards daughter-in-law: “To Whom It May Concern: Mr. Edwards passed away on June 12, 2020. He had just received his award for 50 years of law practice & was so proud of it! Thank you so much...”

Michael Raye Ford

Mr. Ford was born in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He attended Northwestern University and received his Bachelor of Arts in Letters from the University of Oklahoma in 1967. Mr. Ford earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1970 from the University of Oklahoma, where he served on the Order of the Coif, Phi Delta Phi, was Article and Book Review Editor for the Oklahoma Law Review 1969-70. He was on the Commandant’s List at Judge Advocate General’s School in 1970. Mr. Ford earned his Master of Laws in Taxation from George Washington National Law Center in 1974. His military service includes: Distinguished Military Graduate, University of Oklahoma ROTC 1970; Captain, US Army JAG Corps 1970-1974; Legal Assistance Officer, HQ Military Traffic Management & Terminal Services, Washington, DC 1971-72; and Trial Attorney Regulatory Law Office Pentagon, Washington, DC 1973-74. Mr. Ford received the Joint Service Commendation Medal in 1972 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 1974. From 1974 to 1977, he was Associate Commissioner for the Tulsa firm of Gable Gotwals. Mr. Ford was partner with the Oklahoma City firm of Baker Wilson Selph & Ford from 1977 to 1984. In 1984 to 1986, he was partner in the Enid firm of Ford & Brown. Mr. Ford was with the Oklahoma City firm of Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens from 1986 to 2016, where he was President of the Firm for two years and on the Executive Committee multiple years. In 2017, Mr. Ford became a Shareholder with the firm of Hall Estill Hardwick Gable Golden & Nelson in Oklahoma City. Highlights of his career include: President Enid Estate Planning Council; Director Enid Chamber of Commerce 1983; President Enid Kiwanis Club 1984; Vice Chair Enid Central Christian Church 1985; Lt. Governor of Kiwanis District 16 in 1986; and Chair, OBA Section of Taxation. He received the Journal Record Leadership in Law Award in 2008. Mr. Ford is married to Rebecca Deal Ford and has six children, Laura, Bryon, Seth, Jared, Trevor and Devin. Son Jared Ford, practices at Hall Estill. Son Ford has two grandchildren, Eliza and Jaya.

Lawrence K. Hellman

Mr. Hellman was born in Oklahoma City and raised in Chandler, Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor Science degree from Washington & Lee University in 1966 and his Masters degree in Business Administration from Northwestern University in 1967. Mr. Hellman earned his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University in 1970. His legal career began with the US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division in 1970. In 1974, he taught at the Washington & Lee University School of Law and then moved to the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1977. Dean Hellman served as Dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law from 1998 to 2011. Highlights include: An Elected Member of the American Law Institute and the Oklahoma Fellows of the American Bar Foundation; serving in leadership roles on OBA committees concerned with professional responsibility including the Oklahoma Justice Commission and the Legislative Task Force on Judicial Selection. Dean Hellman has been a frequent speaker and author on the education and regulation of lawyers. He has lectured or taught on five continents (including twice at the Chinese National Judges College in Beijing; and from 1986 to 2013, he contributed a monthly article in the OCBA Briefcase addressing legal ethics topics of interest to practicing lawyers. Dean Hellman is a recipient of the OBA’s Award for Legal Ethics and President’s Award for Service from the OBA, OCBA, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg American Inn of Court. His thirteen-year tenure as dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Law was those years, OCU gained admission to the Association of American Law Schools, initiated summer public interest fellowships for students, established the Oklahoma Innocence Project, and developed innovative educational programs for Chinese lawyers and law students. Dean Hellman has been married to Gay (OCU JD 1980) since 1972. They have two children, Eli (OCU JD 2005) and Max (University of Pacific JD 2011).

Robert D. Looney, Jr.

Mr. Looney was born in Oklahoma City. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with minors in English and Psychology from the University of Oklahoma in 1967. Mr. Looney attended Georgetown University Law Center from 1967 to 1968 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1970. He served as Captain in the US Army from 1970 to 1972, being in the Republic of Vietnam with the 317th Air Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade from 1971 to 1972. Mr. Looney began his legal career with the firm of Looney Nichols & Johnson in 1972, where he practiced for 30 years. He currently practices with the firm of Hall Estill. Mr. Looney is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel, is a Charter Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is a member of the Federal Bar Association. He is married to Anne and has three daughters, Kim Bohanon (Philip), Beth Iversen (Brett), and Kara Lundquist (Chuck).

Kenneth G. Mayfield

Mr. Mayfield was born in Alva, Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Sociology from Northwestern State University in 1967. Mr. Mayfield earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1970. He began his legal career in private practice in Oklahoma City in 1970 with an emphasis in real estate title examinations, bankruptcy and probate. In 2001, he became General Counsel for Aero Practical & Title Company. From 2010 to 2015, Mr. Mayfield was owner/operator of Phoenix Aircraft Title & Escrow Company. He retired in 2015. One of the highlights of his career was Head Aircraft Title Insurance Underwriter for Fidelity National Title Insurance Company from 2003 to 2010. Mr. Mayfield has been married to his wife, Connie for 47 years. They have no children, but do have a bus-load of nieces and nephews.

R. Clark Musser

Mr. Musser was born in Oklahoma City. He earned both his undergraduate degree and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Musser served as Captain with the US Air Force in the JAG Corps. His legal career includes practice with the firm of Musser and Bunch, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and Alpine Energy Company. Highlights of his career include twenty years as Adjunct Professor of Oil & Gas Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering and Business. His participation in Oklahoma County Bar Association activities has been a gift to the Association, including his time as President from 1997 to 1998. Mr. Musser has been married, “happily so,” to Kay Pappan Musser for 53 years. They have two children, son Clay, a physician at Duke, married with two children; and Cara Fraley, CPA and MPA, PSB Programs Coordinator, Child Study Center, OU Health Sciences Center, married with two children.

Joseph G. Shannonhouse, IV

Mr. Shannonhouse was born in Alexandria, Louisiana. He graduated from Classen High School in 1963 and from Central State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in 1966. Mr. Shannonhouse earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1970 and his LLM in Taxations from New York University School of Law in 1972. His legal career includes being on the approved list of title examiners for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, having done work for two major bankruptcy estates. He has been AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell since 1983. Mr. Shannonhouse is the author of many legal publications, has an AV rating in the Martindale-Hubbell Directory; is listed in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in the area of Taxation; and was a member of the Phi Delta Pi Legal Fraternity from 1967 to 1970. Mr. Shannonhouse has three children, Joseph V. Shannonhouse, V (Trish Renner), Stephanie Shannonhouse Gunter (Danny), and Justin B. Shannonhouse (Cally Warren Shannonhouse). He has five grandchildren, Jordan May Shannonhouse, Kaitlyn Gunter, Camryn Gunter, Parker Belle Gunter and Torvi Shannonhouse.

Irwin H. Steinborn

Mr. Steinborn was born in Dallas, Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963 and his LLB in 1964 from the University of Texas. Mr. Steinborn served with the US Army Reserve from 1964 to 1970. He began his legal career as Associate and Partner with a Dallas law firm in 1964. In 1970, Mr. Steinborn became Vice President and General Counsel with LSB Industries, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange Company.
OBITUARY

In memory of Sonja Porter

By Jacqui Ford

Sonja Roxanne Porter, the DUI Diva of Oklahoma, died June 18, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. She was born March 22, 1972 in Kingsport, Tennessee. She received her J.D. from OCU School of Law in 1999. Known as the DUI Diva, she was a criminal defense attorney focusing on DUI defense for 20 years. She began her career as an Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma County. She then joined the law firm of Fabian and Associates, before opening her own practice. She earned many awards for her accomplishments, including the Thurgood Marshall Appellate Award from the Oklahoma Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. She was very active in her church, Harvest Hills Baptist Church, teaching children and coaching volleyball and basketball. She earned her 1st Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and studied the Korean language. She was an amazing wife, mother, advocate, teacher, and friend.

Anyone even slightly active in the OBA knew Sonja, as she was a presence at nearly every OBA function. From the Solo & Small Firm Conference, to the Legislative Monitoring Committee and Appellate Section in recent years, to the Board of Governors, she was a highly active member. Sonja was never a “wallflower,” but always spoke up with forthrightness and respect and was the epitome of a hard-working, ethical lawyer. She leaves to remember her a husband and three children, as well as the entire Oklahoma legal community.

BUCKELEW
continued from page 5

in shreds, middle finger extended to the skies, barking “You know, Judge, this means an appeal!” We both laughed hard.

I still have Ron’s cartoon in my office. Ron told everyone that being married to Elise was his greatest honor. Elise literally “stood” vigil when Ron was in ICU. On one of his last days, although it was painful for him to move, he kept scooting over to the side of his hospital bed and then patted the bed, and asked Elisa to lay down beside him.

As Ron’s last sands were slipping through the hourglass the day before he died, he told Dan “I am not afraid.” Dan answered “Then neither am I.”

Dan said that if he could sum up his father in a few words, he might say this: “His patience made him a good teacher, and his kindness made him a great lawyer.”

As an aside, when I worked many years ago in the Office of General Counsel at the Oklahoma Bar Association, I reviewed a bar complaint from a client who complained that his lawyer actually referred to opposing counsel as “a really good guy.” That was the sum and total of the complaint. I don’t think Ron was the accused lawyer, but he could have been. Ron was a proud husband, father and grandfather, a wonderful lawyer and a really good guy. He will be deeply missed.

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www.okcbar.org
By Bill Gorden

Book Notes

As the title implies, this is a story of an attorney taking on a case where the prosecution seemed at one airtight.

Oklahoma's Atticus

By Hunter Howe Gates

Tulsa Massacre, and the fantastic growth of the oil industry there in the early Twentieth Century. All of this gives us a setting for the main action.

As the title implies, this is a story of an attorney taking on a case where the prosecution seemed at one airtight. The accused was a poor Native American, the crime a heinous rape-murder of an 11 year old girl. This was in 1953, the very early days of the idea of the public defender.

There is a lot to the progress of the case. State and local politics are involved, changing the scene halfway through the legal case. The advent of technology, in the guise of lie-detection equipment, plays a big part in the outcome.

The heroic attorney saw in the defense a person he could have become. His defense was then a little more intense. It takes an intelligent person he could have become. His defense was then a little more intense. It takes an intelligent

The readers of this understand that sometimes it is necessary to do justice even in the teeth of prejudice and politics. We never know when this will happen, as often injustices are covered up well in the beginning. It takes an individual to say: "Wait, that can't be right." We are all, then, potential Atticus. We enjoy reading a success of one Atticus, wondering if someday it might be us.

This book was an entrant in the Oklahoma Book Awards, out of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.
I got on the internet what purported to be a notice from a law firm. It said something like:
If you or a loved one has been refused entry to a private business for not wearing a mask and you would like to explore legal options to protect your constitutional rights, our law firm is happy to explain just how ***ng stupid you are.
And it’s not about politics anymore. Now, our conservative, Republican, Governor is seen on the front page of the Oklahoman newspaper with a large, black headline: “STITT URGES OKLAHOMANS TO WEAR MASKS.” Even our President, who refuses to wear a mask, has joined the Centers for Disease Control in saying we should all be wearing masks.

We, as lawyers, should lead the way with regard to wearing masks. I had a prospective client (I didn’t take the case) who came to my office and refused to wear the mask we offered him! I thought immediately of the phrase my daughter, Margaret, often uses: “Too stupid to live!” Unfortunately, we don’t wear the masks to protect us from getting the virus (although the wearer gets some protective effect). We wear the face mask primarily to protect others from aerosolized virus that we may otherwise spread just by breathing or speaking, even if we do not yet have symptoms. So the guy like my prospective client who says it’s his business whether he wants to take his chances by not wearing a mask is simply wrong! He’s not taking his chances; he’s taking my chances.

Until the scientists get us an effective vaccine, we must all wear our masks when we’re around other people, keep a six-foot social distance, and wash our hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. For some of us, it’s a matter of life or death. As this article is being finalized, the national Covid 19 death total is above 130,000. So, wear the damn mask!

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