OCBA Celebrates Law Day 2020

Your Vote * Your Voice *
Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100

The women’s suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies.

This year’s festivities include the Annual Law Day Luncheon to be held on May 1 at 12 Noon in the Skirvin Hotel Grand Ballroom. Featured speaker for this year’s luncheon is Linda D. Wilson, an Independent Historian. Ms. Wilson has researched and written biographical entries of suffragists from Oklahoma and other states for the online database, Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the U.S.

Tickets for the luncheon are available on the website at www.okcbar.org under the Events tab or you may call the Bar Office at 236-8421. More details on Law Day activities will be in the April issue of the Briefcase.

2020 OCBA Young Lawyers Division Chili Cook-Off A SUCCESS

By Benjamin Grubb
OCBA YLD Past Chair

The OCBA YLD held its annual Chili Cookoff on Friday February 28, 2020. This year, the event moved to the spacious atrium within Leadership Square. Chili tasters from around the county joined Oklahoma County Judges while they sampled and awarded the following accolades:

• Best Overall Chili – Elias Books Brown & Nelson Team #2
• Best Traditional Chili – Elias Books Brown & Nelson Team #1
• Best Non-Traditional Chili – Wiggins Sewell & Ogletree
• Best Hottest Chili – Phillips Murrah #3
• Best in Show – Girl Scout Troop 3

After winning the coveted best overall award, Ella Rudnicki from Girl Scout Troop 3 noted: “I like the feeling of winning. We should enter more competitions.” Ella has a standing invitation to join the YLD after she passes the bar examination.

The YLD would like to extend special thanks to the members of the judiciary, whose enduring involvement make this event possible: Heather Coyle, Noma Garich, Lisa Hammond, Mark McCormick, Richard Ogden, Amy Palumbo, Trevor Pemberton, Kathryn Savage, Sheila Stinson and Ken Stoner. Thanks to all who attended and submitted entries. We look forward to seeing you next year!

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BRIEFCASE
March 2020
Briefcase is a monthly publication of the Oklahoma County Bar Association.
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OKLAHOMA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT
Volunteer lawyers and judges dedicated to serving the judicial system, their profession, and their community in order to foster the highest ideals of the legal profession, to better the quality of life in Oklahoma County, and to promote justice for all.

By Michael W. Brewer

Beware! It is interesting that we began 2020 looking back with the observation that this year has to be better than the last, continuing a time-honored tradition that follows the completion of every previous year. Then came January 2020 which moved fast and was jammed packed with all sorts of good and bad. In February, we observed that January contained an entire year of ups and downs and wondered could it get worse. Little did we know that February 2020 would bring us face to face with COVID-19. Life is creating situations that you can’t make up. It’s like we’re living in multiple action movies with intersecting timelines of catastrophe, volatility and contagion. Be glad that you weren’t traveling internationally at the end of February to find yourself quarantined, weren’t on a cruise ship (still on that cruise ship), didn’t go all-in at the highest stock market level of all time to only have huge volatility spikes and drops in the ensuing 10 day period, wiping out a year’s worth of profit and erasing 1.7 trillion dollars of U.S. value alone. You can’t make this stuff up.

A virus identified as COVID-19 has changed everything in our day to day lives. Photos of consumers at Costco and Sam’s buying up all the disinfectant wipes, toilet paper, and bottled water abound. This phenomenon even overshadowed the political infighting and Super Tuesday which is anything but calm and civil. Last month, I discussed civility and how it needs to begin and end with each of us. When I look at everything written about COVID-19, it also begins and ends with each of us (you’re stuck on a cruise ship or living in a quarantine zone.) Don’t touch your face and wash your hands with warm to hot water and soap for up to 20 seconds. How hard is that and did we really need a pandemic to teach us this? We’ve already had a harsh regular flu season and it is apparent that people don’t get flu vaccines, can’t help but touch their faces and aren’t very good at washing their hands with soap. Also, it is suggested that you cough or sneeze into a tissue, discard it, and wash your hands. If you cough or sneeze into your sleeve if you don’t have a tissue. I’m not particularly fond of messing up my sleeves so I carry a tissue.

Viruses. Maybe it helps us to sarcastically look at past events and enjoy a little chuckle. Try it, wash your hands with warm water and soap, get a flu shot (next season) and have a long-term view of that viewpoint. We need optimism but also to work toward completing those positive goals.

Rather than a trip to Italy or China or a cruise, you can take a car trip with your family to a U.S. location like the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone Park. It can be a pleasant experience spending some time in a car observing the landscape rather than simply flying over it. This situation will be true for my family this summer.

Looking like my first trip to Italy will not happen nor will my first cruise, thanks to COVID-19. Taking a car trip, seeing some of the beautiful places in the United States that I’ve not been before, is a pretty good trade-off. I can always find good food wherever I’m located and sometimes they even have pie.

In February, we observed that January contained an entire year of ups and downs and wondered could it get worse. Little did we know that February 2020 would bring us face to face with COVID-19. Life is creating situations that you can’t make up. It’s like we’re living in multiple action movies with intersecting timelines of catastrophe, volatility and contagion. Be glad that you weren’t traveling internationally at the end of February to find yourself quarantined, weren’t on a cruise ship (still on that cruise ship), didn’t go all-in at the highest stock market level of all time to only have huge volatility spikes and drops in the ensuing 10 day period, wiping out a year’s worth of profit and erasing 1.7 trillion dollars of U.S. value alone. You can’t make this stuff up.

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Viruses. Maybe it helps us to sarcastically look at past events and enjoy a little chuckle. Try it, wash your hands with warm water and soap, get a flu shot (next season) and have a long-term view of the market.

Michael W. Brewer is an attorney, founder, and partner of Hilgten & Brewer, P.C. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. To contact Mike, email mbrewer@hbokc.law, call (405) 605-9000 or tweet him at @attyMikeb. For more information, please visit www.hbokc.law.

NOTICE TO ALL OCBA MEMBERS

There has been concern about attorneys who are not licensed in Oklahoma being denied membership to the Oklahoma County Bar Association due to our bylaws. These attorneys, i.e., law professors, immigration law and patent law practitioners, are licensed but not necessarily in the state of Oklahoma.

Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma County Bar Association has brought forth a motion to the Board of Directors that reads:

3.1 General. Any member in good standing of the Oklahoma Bar Association or a licensed attorney in good standing in any jurisdiction of the United States of America or its territories may become a member of the Association upon payment of the applicable annual dues as hereinafter set out.

The OCBA Bylaws require a 20-day published notice to members prior to a vote by the Board of Directors to amend the Bylaws.


Quote of the MONTH

Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them are not really progress at all, but just terrible things.

— Russell Baker, columnist and author (1925-2019)
Dear Roscoe:

Is a DPOA (or any POA for that matter) a contract? MT, OKC.

Q: That sounds right. Yes.
A: That sounds right. Yes.

Q: Paid out of your own pocket?

Q: That would be during your tour in Germany?
A: Yes.

Q: What precisely did he do for you, Mr. Kearny?
A: He helped me with my disability.

Q: The dysgraphia?
A: That’s right.

Q: Now, you say you paid him on your own?
A: Yes, my father died in 1989. He helped me get my job with the government but said it was up to me to keep it.

Q: And your mother?
A: My mother died in 1978.

I held my eyes riveted to the scene at the stand. From the thunderstruck look on Carl’s face, I guessed that last answer left the entire court similarly agape — and I ain’t talking about love there. The Court tried to gavel the courtroom into silence. Three burly officers, gentlemen for the defense sounded like hyperbole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought bole at its best. Unfortunately, no one took notice. In fact, the ensuing pandemonium they registered as inarticulate as Waldo in his salad days. The real action took place between the lectern and the Bench. Joseph Kearny charged towards his brother — make that half-brother — I guess you treacherous sniveling weakling sounding like the kindest thing he had to say. An officer tackled him down to the floor. I gotta say he fought...
OBITUARY

Bob Moore

By Rex Travis

R.P. “Bob” Moore died February 24, 2020. He was 78 years old.

Bob was a native of Oklahoma City. He graduated from Harding High School and had an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma City University. He served in the army as a Captain on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Upon returning from military service, he worked his way through a law degree at the OCU night school. He was President of Moore’s Cycle and Supply Company. He also served as a Special Judge of the Oklahoma City Municipal Court.

Bob got his 50-year service pin for membership in the OBA and served on numerous civic organizations’ boards, including the OCU Alumni Board. Bob was married for 48 years to Bobbie Moore, who served for many years as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Marion Opala. Bob and Justice Opala were good friends.

Bob was always a cheerful presence around the courthouse. His memorial service was well-attended by lawyers, many of whom are now retired. He had a lot of friends in the Oklahoma County Bar, by whom he will be greatly missed.

Progressive Mayor John C. “Jack” Walton:
A Century of Retrospect

John Calloway Walton was born on March 6, 1881, in Greensboro, Indiana. He spent six years in Indianapolis before his family moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas. There, young Walton spent his formative years and attained his education. At the age of sixteen, Walton joined the United States Army in 1897 and served for six years. Walton did not see combat service during the Spanish–American War; however, he did serve a military posting in Mexico for some time. Following his discharge from the Army in 1903, Walton traveled to Oklahoma Territory to make his life as a contractor in the field of civil engineering. Walton set up his practice in the thriving metropolis of Oklahoma City. Walton lived in Oklahoma City when Oklahoma was officially admitted to the Union on November 16, 1907 and saw the capital moved from Guthrie, Oklahoma to Oklahoma City in 1910.

Walton joined the local Democratic Party and soon became an active participant in the political arena. The reader is reminded that in those days the spoils system of local government was in full bloom—the “strong mayor” form of government. In 1927, after fall out from the abuses of power and political favoritism, the city Charter was amended to the council-manager form of government. But into the spoils system Walton did arrive, and it would be both his boon and bane. In 1917, under Mayor Robert L. Williams’ administration, Walton was elected to his first political office. Due to his engineering experience, Walton easily won the election to serve as Commissioner of Public Works of Oklahoma City. Walton was a competent and diligent public servant. He reorganized several aspects of the public works department and undertook new construction for better sewers and additional water resources.

In April 1919, Walton ran for mayor of Oklahoma City but first had to defeat Maj. Herbert M. Peck. The ‘establishment’ supported Peck and indeed he was the inside favorite for his religious fervor and civic leadership. But Walton cobbled together a strong faction of former socialists, the down-trodden and the state Democratic machine. Walton won the primary against Peck, and then decimated Republican C.H. Russell.

But it was here that Walton began the slow spiral of using the power of office for social change. Upon election, Walton attempted to fire the chief of police W.B. “Czar” Nichols and the city engineer, although neither position was directly appointed by the mayor. The Daily Oklahoman, ambivalent to the recent local elections, leaped upon Walton urging him to “slow down” and that he had “destroyed public confidence” through his actions. Thus was born Walton’s other moniker: “Rarin’ Jack” Walton.

Jack Walton was a man of his time. For his “friends” he would issue courtesy cards which would play like modern day Monopoly “get out of jail free” cards. This produced much embarrassment to county law enforcement and friction between the County Attorney O.A. Cargill. Eventually the local Democratic machine was able to patch things over between the two men for a little while. But Jack would remember this friends.

On the afternoon of December 27, 1920 a parade of 500 plus strikers protested through the streets of Oklahoma City, marching toward the packing plants near today’s Stockyard City. Thereafter a riot ensued and several were injured including strikers, scabs and meat packer security forces. The Open Shop War was now in full tilt. The War would culminate two weeks later with the lynching of Jake Brooks, a picket line crossing. The lynching of Brooks precipitated an all-out demand for the strike to end and demands for Governor James B. A. Robertson to declare martial law. An investigation by Adjutant General Barrett cited both the Chamber of Commerce and the Labor Union Congress for inciting hot-heads and malcontents to do violence. Walton vehemently refused the state’s help and accused the chamber and open shop committee chairman, John Shirk, of being part of the problem.

Ultimately the county attorney filed charges and a trial was commenced against seven white union workers and two black union workers implicated in the lynching. Three whites and both black men, were sentenced to life imprisonment after the Oklahoma City trial. Lee Whitley 29, Charles Polk 18, Elmer Yearta 19, Robert Allen 27, and Nathan Butler age 40. Allen and Butler both being the black members. At sentencing, District Judge James I. Phelps told the defendants that their conduct warranted the electric chair.

In the summer of 1921 Walton learned that over half of the city’s police force had newly joined the resurging Ku Klux Klan. “This is contrary to our Constitution,” Walton declared, and informed the Chief to fire any man not renouncing his membership.

Mayor Walton however was distracted by a larger target: Governorship. Walton had been touted by the Democratic Machine for several years. Walton was handsome, articulate and capable of managing governmental resources. Being a heavily democratic state, Walton had to merely survive his primary and then be launched into the Governor’s seat come November. Republican voters were still an extreme minority in the state. Before his term as mayor ended, Walton entered his name in the Democratic primary as a candidate for Governor of Oklahoma to succeed Governor Robertson.

In September 1921 Socialist leaders, farmers’ organizations, and labor unions met in Shawnee and formed the Farmer-Labor Reconstruction League. Again in February this organization met in Shawnee and selected candidates for the upcoming state elections. But the Klan continued to grow in the Oklahoma City area and on the night of February 20, 1922 more than 2,000 white-robed Klansmen paraded through the streets of Oklahoma City. The league nominated Walton for governor on the Democratic ticket. Walton defeated Klan-supported R. H. Wilson and conservative Democrat Thomas H. Owens in the primary.

After winning the Democratic nomination Walton travelled around the state giving the most colorful and liveliest speeches and campaign platforms in Oklahoma’s history until that point. In the general election, Walton was successful in his bid (despite an advertising campaign by conservative Democrats accusing him of “Sovietism” and “state Socialism”), and his inauguration and inaugural ball were just as lively as his campaign. The “ball” was a barbecue at the State Fair Grounds that feted over 150,000 celebrants. The barbecue pits extended for over a mile and over 40,000 gallons of coffee were served. “Rarin’ Jack” Walton had arrived as an Oklahoma Governor, but ultimately gubernatorial history would not be on his side.

Sources:
- And Satan Came Also (1955) by Albert McRill, revised/annotated by Larry Johnson (2013);
- Oklahoma Historical Society – Photographic Division.

Special Municipal Judge (Part-Time):
The City of Oklahoma City will accept applications from March 10, 2020 through April 10, 2020. Requirements include residency in Oklahoma City and a minimum of four years’ experience as a licensed practicing attorney in the State of Oklahoma. For more information and to apply go to www.okc.gov.
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2020 Chili Cook-Off & Auction

Best Overall Chili – Elias Books Brown & Nelson
#1 – Jack Bomhoff & Wyatt Swinford

Best Non-Traditional Chili – Wiggins
Sewell & Ogletree – Dan Thompson, Andy
Gin & Hayden King

Chili Judges Trevor Pemberton & Noma Gurich

Cami Ruff, Amber Martin & Kristin Meloni
announce the winners

Hottest Chili – Phillips Murrah #3 –
Mark Hornbeek, Phoebe Mitchell &
Morgan Medders

Chili Judge Ken Stoner took his job
seriously

Chili Judges Amy Palumbo, Heather Coyle, Kathryn Savage & Mark McCormick

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DIVORCING THE HOME
A TIME AND PROCESS FOR EVERYTHING

Setting realistic timelines and expectations is vital when divorcing a house and mortgage. Our team can guide divorcing clients through each step. Here’s a quick look at how we take care of our customers’ needs and make sure all requirements are met.

FILING THE DIVORCE PETITION:
Most lenders require a settlement agreement ordered by the court before they can close on a new mortgage loan. So, it’s crucial to plan when the divorce petition is filed with the court.

Big financial changes like maintenance and/or child support in the settlement, along with any marital debt, directly affect how much debt or income is disclosed on the mortgage application. Dominic can help determine the right time to file so divorcing clients are in a better position to qualify for a new home loan.

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2020 Winter Seminar Highlights

Monica Ybarra & Travis Weedn hosted an evening party sponsored by TBS Factoring Services LLC.

Kim Tran & Lauren Oldham presented on Employment Law.

Michael Laird & Kaimbri White concluded the seminar with presentations on Medical Marijuana Laws.

Beau Williams hosted the Opening Night Reception at El Farol.

Chief Justice Noma Gurich started off the seminars with Ethics.

DeWitt Paruolo & Meek sponsored an evening of Desserts & After Dinner Drinks highlighted with a trial story by Garvin Isaacs.

District Judge Ken Stoner presented on Understanding Addiction with the second hour on Mindfulness (Wellness/Recovery).

Ben & Lauren Grubb enjoyed an afternoon of skiing.

Saturday afternoon was the perfect day for this group to do the Tent Rocks Hike.

Sunday morning’s seminar began with a presentation by Monica Ybarra & Cody Cooper on Corporate/General Counsel Law.

Chief Justice Noma Gurich started off the seminars with Ethics.

Ben & Lauren Grubb enjoyed an afternoon of skiing.

Michael Laird & Kaimbri White concluded the seminar with presentations on Medical Marijuana Laws.
Award nominations are being accepted

Do you know a judge or lawyer who should be recognized for their dedication or willingness to go above and beyond their everyday life to better the legal or legal community? The Oklahoma County Bar Association is seeking nominations for the following awards to be presented at the Law Day Luncheon on May 1, 2020.

The Journal Record Award is presented by the Journal Record Publishing Company to an attorney or judge who has served both the community and legal community in a professional and outstanding way. Based on lifetime achievements, this award recipient is selected by the Law Day Committee and is one of the OCBA's most prestigious awards. Letters of nomination for this award should be sent to the OCBA, 119 N. Robinson, Suite 240, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, attn: Law Day Committee. Nominations should be received in the bar office no later than April 1, 2020.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented at the Law Day Luncheon by the Young Lawyers Division. This award is given to a non-lawyer who has given their time to assist the legal community in Oklahoma County. Nomination for this award can be mailed to YLD Chair Amber Martin, 119 N. Robinson, Suite 240, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, attn: Awards Committee. The nomination deadline is April 1, 2020.

The Howard K. Berry Sr. Award is given to an individual who resides in Oklahoma County or a charitable organization that is located in Oklahoma County to honor that individual’s in the legal profession or outstanding achievement or contribution to Justice or the Justice System. The winner of the Award will be honored by the presentation and a cash award of $25,000 from the Oklahoma County Bar Foundation. The winner of the Howard K. Berry Sr. Award is selected by the Board of the Oklahoma County Bar Foundation from the nominations received without any action on the part of the nominee to seek this award or enter the proceedings. One need not be an attorney or a member of the bar to make a nomination, but one must be a resident of Oklahoma County to make the nomination.

The entire nomination – letter, supporting materials, clippings, seconding letters and contact information as to the qualification of the nominee or organization must advance the charitable purposes of the Foundation to advance the cause of Justice, equal access to justice for all and/or the improvement of the Justice System. No nominee will be disqualified by having been previously nominated for any other award in recognition of his, her or its achievement or contribution to Justice and/or the Justice System or the legal profession. The winner of the Award will not be required to render any substantial services as a condition to receiving the prize of the Award. This Award is made possible through a generous gift of Oklahoma County attorney, Howard K. Berry, Jr., to honor his father and long-time Oklahoma County attorney, Howard K. Berry Sr. Mr. Berry’s gift has established the Howard K. Berry, Sr. Fund at the Oklahoma County Bar Foundation to provide funds for the Howard K. Berry, Sr. Award and support other causes related to law and justice.

No special form is required to make the nomination, but a form is available on the OCBA website at www.okbar.org under the OCBF tab. Please keep the following in mind when making the nomination:

- The entire nomination – letter, supporting materials, clippings, seconding letters and attachments included may be no longer than five single-sided, 8 ½” x 11” pages. No exceptions.
- The nomination must contain contact information as to the qualification of the individual to make the nomination and the Nominee’s qualification to receive the Award. Deadline for submission is April 1, 2020.

Oklahoma Native Plants
Connie Scothorn, with Brian Patric, Roadrunner Press, 2019, paper, 106 pages.

So you want to help butterflies. You might want to get back to nature. You like sprightly plants, unusual hues, surprises. Michael Pollan has said that the modern yard/garden is nature under authoritarian rule. Straight lines, clipped bushes, same grass as everyone else, store-bought roses, all with the same genes, all subject to the exact same diseases. Time to take a flyer. The subtitle says “A Guide to designing landscapes to attract birds and butterflies.” That is a wise understatement, because it is subtly asking you to take a walk on the wild side. As might be expected, there are a lot of botanical terms, but most are explained or referenced. That is far different from entering a box store or nursery and saying “rose.” What attracts helpful creatures, (don’t forget the bees), may not attract us at first. We have to see differently. There is a little more work. “Wild” plants may in fact be harder to find, cultivate, especially in suburbia. This book gives directions. It also gives direction on how to cultivate these friends, without riling your neighbors. It is Spring. Get this now. By Fall you can be a “natural”.

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8. Certified Commercial Keurig Dealer
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12. Furniture showroom which includes Teknion, National, Paoli, Humanscale, Global, Allsteel, est ergonomic solutions, Hon and many other lines.
Local Leaders To Receive OCU Law School Awards

Tamya Cox-Touré, Garvin Isaacs, Elizabeth Isaac and Danné L. Johnson have been named recipients of the OCU Law Alumni Awards for 2020. Cox-Touré will receive the Community and Public Service Award; Isaacs will receive the Distinguished Law Alumnus Award; Isaac is the Outstanding Young Alumna; and Johnson has been named the Marian P. Opala Award for Lifetime Achievement in Law recipient. Additionally, the law firm of DeWitt, Parulo and Meek was named the Law Firm of Distinction by the school.

Cox-Touré serves as the regional director of public policy and organizing for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, where she oversees the Public Affairs departments in Oklahoma and Arkansas. A native of Des Moines, Iowa and Tulsa, she graduated from the OCU School of Law in 2006. Cox-Touré began her career with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma as the first legislative counsel. Previous awards include the AC Hamlin Award by the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus; John Green Community Service Award by the Association of Black Lawyers; Faith and Freedom Award for the Oklahoma Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Torch Award from Freedom Oklahoma; and Ada Louis Sipuel Fisher Award from Oklahoma Association Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors.

Isaacs is a 1974 graduate of OCU Law who specializes in criminal defense. He has been named a Super Lawyer since 2007. Known for his flamboyant courtroom style, several of his cases have caught the attention of the nation.

Isaac works in intellectual property law. A 2013 graduate of OCU Law, she currently practices at Dunlop Coddling, where she helps prepare patents, trademarks, copyrights, entertainment law and internet law, among others. She was named an Achiever Under 40 by the Journal Record and she sits on the board of directors for deadCenter Film Festival and the Oklahoma County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors.

Johnson is the Constance Baker Motley Professor of Law at OCU Law School, where she focuses on securities regulation, nonprofit organization, civil procedure, and race, class, and gender influences. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from George Washington University. From 1994 to 2000, Johnson worked for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the Division of Enforcement in New York City, serving as a staff attorney, senior counsel, and finally as a branch chief. She joined the school in 2003, where she has received the Best Mentor Award, Favorite Professor Award and has coached the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team. She also leads the Civil Procedures Skill Integration Project for OCU.

DeWitt, Parulo and Meek was founded by Thomas Parulo and OCU alumni Derrick DeWitt and Justin Meek. The firm focuses on insurance, accident and injury cases, one of which brought the largest verdicts in the state against a health insurer. The firm has been listed in Best’s Directory of Insurance Professionals, Super Lawyers and Rising Stars by Super Lawyer Magazine.

The OCU Law Alumni Association members accepted nominations from across the nation, followed by an extensive review process before naming the 2020 recipients. Sponsors for the evening include Ogletree, Deakins, The Isaac Family and the OCU Alumni Association. For more information or tickets, visit lawconnect.okcu.edu/alumniawards2020.

Hall Estill Welcomes Oklahoma City Attorney Dustin Crawford

Hall Estill has announced that Dustin Crawford has joined the firm’s Oklahoma City office as Of Counsel. Crawford focuses his practice on corporate and transactional matters, particularly those involving finance, securities law and governance.

Prior to joining Hall Estill, Crawford served as Senior Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary of SandRidge Energy, Inc. (NYSE: SD). He previously served in similar capacities at Chesapeake Energy Corporation (NYSE:CHK) and in private practice with Bracewell LLP (formerly Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP).

Crawford received his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School, where he was President and Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Journal of Environmental Law, and his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, magna cum laude, from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Benchmark Litigation names Crowe & Dunlevy ‘Firm of the Year’

For the sixth time in the last eight years, Benchmark Litigation has recognized Oklahoma City-based Crowe & Dunlevy as Oklahoma Firm of the Year for 2020.* Only one firm per state receives this honor each year.

*Benchmark Litigation is a national peer-review publication that researches and ranks litigation law firms and attorneys in North America. The publication’s selection process includes independent examination of casework and interviews with individual litigators who are asked to provide their professional opinions on peers and practitioners within their jurisdiction or practice area.

Recently, Benchmark Litigation recognized Crowe & Dunlevy as one of only five “highly recommended” law firms in Oklahoma for 2020. The publication also honored Crowe & Dunlevy as one of only two Oklahoma firms designated as “highly recommended” in the Labor & Employment practice area. Additionally, the publication honored 18 of the firm’s attorneys in its individual lawyer rankings in three categories, Oklahoma Local Litigation Stars, Oklahoma Future Stars and Oklahoma Labor & Employment Stars.

Events & Seminars

MAY 1, 2020
2020 Law Day Luncheon, 12 Noon
Skirvin Hotel Grand Ballroom

JUNE 19, 2020
2020 Awards Luncheon, 12 Noon
Petroleum Club Events Center

ASK-A-LAWYER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2020

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020
Place: OETA, 7430 North Kelley Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Phone: 405-232-2210
Fax: 405-232-2211
E-mail: connie@okbar.org

I want to volunteer to answer phones on Thursday, April 30, 2020 during the OCBA’s Ask-A-Lawyer program with OETA. I would like my shift to be:

8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ___ 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. __ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ___
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ___ 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. ___ 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ___

Name of Ask-A-Lawyer Volunteer:
Address: ________________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________ Fax: __________________ E-mail:_____________________

[ ] I am bi-lingual.

Fill out this form and return it to the OCBA by Fax 405-232-2210, e-mail connie@okbar.org or call the bar office at 236-8421.

THANKS!!!
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David Hooten, OK County Clerk
Larry Stein, OK County Assessor
Butch Freeman, OK County Treasurer
Kevin Calvey, OK County Commissioner
Brian Maughan, OK County Commissioner
Bill Graves, District Judge Ret.
PD Taylor, OK County Sheriff
Leonard Sullivan, OK County Assessor Ret.
David McLain, OK GOP Chairman
Fred Mendoza, Business/Civic Leader
Estela Hernandez, Member OK State Board of Education
Sue Ann Arnall, Civic/Business Leader
David Holt, OKC Mayor
David Greenwell, OKC City Council

Bailey Walker, President Oklahoma American Indian Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Bradford, Business Leader
Charlie Potts, Business Leader
Robert Ruiz, CEO Scissortail CDC
K.P. Westmoreland, Bethany Mayor
James Mickle, Warr Acres Mayor
Floyd Eason, Del City Mayor
Dan O’Neil, Edmond Mayor
Tammy West, OK House of Representatives Majority Caucus Chair
Jon Echols, OK House of Representatives Majority Floor Leader
Brenda Stanley, OK State Senator
Bill City, OKC Chief Of Police ret.
Brandon Clabes, Midwest City Chief of Police
Evelyn McCoy, OK County GOP Chair

Ken Warner, OK County GOP Vice Chair
DeWayne McAnally, OK 5th Congressional GOP Chair
Ron Cupp, OK State Legislature Ret.
Billy Coyle, attorney
Miguel Garcia, attorney
Marco Palumbo, attorney
Chris Sloan, attorney
Linda Haneborg, Pres., OKC Republican Women’s Club
Rita Aragon, Maj Gen (Ret)
Kelly Gregg, OU Professional Football Player
Leo Kingston, Entrepreneur and Businessman
Jimmy Collins, Businessman
Alex Warren, Manager, Operator and Owner of Warren Hair Salons
Randy Goodman, Attorney-at-Law

Garey Spencer, Builder and Property Manager
Glen Hacker, Accountant
Doug Thompson, Landman
Lee Towler, Businessman
Byron Smitt, Landman
Dee Replogle, Attorney with McAfee Taft
Mike Turner, Vice Chairman, State Republican Party
Pam Pollard, former State Chairperson, State Republican Party
Steve Curry National Republican Party Committeeman
Adam Pugh, OK State Senator
Lewis Moore, OK State Representative
Kathy Holloway, former Bethany City Council member
Nicole Miller, OK State representative
Mack Savala, President, Oklahoma Federation of College Republicans

“"For the last four years, I have worked tirelessly to make sure the Oklahoma County Court Clerk’s office is running smoothly and staying within budget. I’m honored to ask the voters for another four years.”

“"My staff and I meet every morning - We want to know about problems before they happen. My door is always open. All you have to do is come see me.”