Mayor Holt is looking for ideas for MAPS 4, and he is challenging us to think big. In fact, the appointed theme of MAPS 4 is “Dream Big”. While I agree we need to dream, we first must address the nightmare in our midst – the Oklahoma County Jail. It is important to state that improvements have been made at the jail recently; however, many reports coming out of the jail have and continue to be inexcusable. In 2018 six inmates died while in custody, down from twelve in 2017 and fifteen in 2016.

In February of this year, inmate Nicholas Green died from an accidental drug overdose. In December, a County jailer was charged with committing two counts of sexual battery and two counts of forcible oral sodomy against a female inmate while on duty. Inmate deaths and other alleged civil rights abuses have resulted in several lawsuits.

Costing county tax payers $52 million, “The 13-story jail has been plagued with structural and operational problems since it opened in 1991.” An awkward physical layout creates blind spots for the officers on staff (some of which in 2008 existed within cells and showers). A straight-line plumbing system, which inmates sometimes intentionally clog to cause sewage to flood the PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OKLA CITY OK
From the President

By Sheila Stinson

As we start this new year, I am excited about some things planned with the OCBA for 2019. So look for some new and upcoming events.

The new year also includes the swearing in of several new judges in the Oklahoma County metro area and throughout the state, including the swearing in of Oklahoma County’s own Justice Noma Gurich as Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. So on behalf of the Oklahoma County Bar Association, I welcome the new and returning members of the judiciary, and we as an Association look forward to working with each of you.

As the new year starts, it’s always full of resolutions, goal setting, and evaluating what worked and didn’t work in the last year. As 2019 started, I asked my two young children what goals they had for the upcoming year. My 8 year old is what some may refer to as an “old soul.” He tends to contemplate things a little more than my younger son. So after some discussion, he decided that in the next year, he wants to “be a little kinder and to stay out of trouble.” I realized that should probably be the goal for all of us.

Starting with the kindness, we can all be a little kinder. I know I can. I have a quote on my desk that says “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.” I need to read that quote more often than I do. I also need to tape it to the table from you at an OCBA committee meeting. It’s hard to hate a person, or even be overly unfriendly to someone, if you sit across the table from you at an OCBA committee meeting. I hope to be kinder to everyone in your professional and personal dealings.

One way to work toward kindness in our profession is through our own Association. A friend years ago told me something that has always stayed with me: “You can’t hate up close.” It’s hard to hate a person, or even be overly unfriendly to someone, if you sit across the table from you at an OCBA committee meeting. It’s hard to call someone unkind names in the courthouse hallways if you know you are volunteering with that person the following week by reading to children. So if you are looking for ways to build bridges and engage with your own legal community, call the OCBA office and say you want to help. Call me, if you want to help.

Now, for the stay out of trouble resolution. Granted, “trouble” for my 2nd grade likely looks a little different than “trouble” for a grown lawyer or judge. But maybe it doesn’t. It includes following the rules, listening more than you talk, questioning authority with respect and reverence, taking care of yourself, taking care of others, not lying, being on time, and accepting responsibility for your messes. So, I propose that in 2019, we declare, as a profession, and as a group of people that all associate ourselves with the legal community, that staying out of trouble needs to be a declared resolution.

Go forth and be kind, and stay out of trouble. If a sweet little 8 year old can strive for it, so can we! And for those of you wondering about the 5 year old’s resolution, it was to go to Toys R Us more often. I don’t have the heart to tell him....

2019 – A Year to Be a Little Kinder

Quote of the MONTH

There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that “my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.” -

— Isaac Asimov, scientist and writer (1920-1992)
Dear J.R.:

First, condolences to your client. Death in a family is always a sad thing, but it’s especially cruel; in my opinion, when it overshadows the Holidays. Getting to your question, I agree with you, and think the Tenth Circuit would too. They just decided in Cohen v. Chernushin under similar facts. A Colorado widow opposed a Trustee’s efforts to sell a second home after the suicide of her spouse. The property was held in joint tenancy by the couple, and Husband filed for Chapter 7. She too claimed the estate’s interest died with Mr. Chernushin. The Bankruptcy Court agreed, as did the District Court. The Tenth Circuit affirmed.

The court laid out the basics: “The commencement of a bankruptcy case “creates an estate.” 11 U.S.C. § 541(a). “Section 541(a)(1) provides that the property of the debtor in property as of the commencement of the bankruptcy case.” However, the court noted, absent overriding federal interest, the existence and extent of property interest pose questions often alone for Chapter 7. She too ruled “Congress intended the trustee to stand in the shoes of the debtor and ‘take no greater rights than the debtor himself had.’” Under Colorado law, each joint tenant possesses an undivided interest in the whole property. (Ayn “[s]everance must be proved that all joint tenants, since the right of survivorship instantly vests title to the whole property in the surviving tenant at the moment of death of the other joint tenant.”)

The Trustee argued: (1) Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1016 provides that the death of the debtor does not impact the bankruptcy estate; (2) the Chapter 7 trustee has plenary authority over the bankruptcy estate subject to bankruptcy court approval; and (3) the Chapter 7 trustee has greater rights than the debtor under the strong arm clause.

As to the first argument, the Tenth Circuit ruled that nothing in the plain text of the rule states that the bankruptcy estate can never change upon the death of the debtor. Instead, the rule directs that the bankruptcy proceedings shall continue and the estate “shall be administered and the case concluded in the same manner, so far as possible,” as though death had not transpired. This is a procedural rule. It says nothing substantial about the bankruptcy estate. Next, the court found that the Trustee’s argument is based on a misunderstanding about the property in Mr. Chernushin’s bankruptcy estate. Colorado’s joint tenancy law did not interfere with federal law or with his ability to manage the bankruptcy estate to the extent of the property lawfully included. Finally, the strong arm clause “gives a bankruptcy Trustee special powers to defeat the status of certain creditors and the case concluded in the same manner, so far as possible,” as though death had not transpired. This is a procedural rule. It says nothing substantial about the bankruptcy estate.

Dear J.R.:

Mr. Chernushin’s late husband filed for Chapter 7. As part of her duties she led opening and closing prayers each day, and taught the “Bible-based curriculum” endorsed by the school. When she informed the school that she needed a few weeks off for medical treatment the school fired her. I sent a demand letter to the school, asserting Ms. Chernushin’s ADA rights. I received a letter back from some lawyer in Topeka saying he represents the school, and that the ADA doesn’t apply due to the “ministerial exception.” Is there such an animal, and, if so, how do I kill it? M.B.R., OKC

DEAR MDB:

There is indeed such an animal. The Supreme Court in the same Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church & School v. E.E.O.C. that, as part of that right, the First Amendment’s Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses “bar the government from interfering with the decision of a religious group to fire one of its members.” 556 U.S. 567, 129 S. Ct. 1221, 181 (2012); The Court grounded this principle in a longstanding historical and jurisprudential concern with “political interference” in “matters of church government as well as those of faith and doctrine.” Id. at 184, 186 (citations omitted). When the ministerial exception applies, it categorically bars an employee’s suit under otherwise generally applicable employment laws. Assuming your client is not an ordained minister in the faith in question, the operative inquiry here is whether it applies.

Ordinarily, teaching basic subjects to a certain grade does not make the teacher an minister. Two key questions are whether your client held herself out as a minister, and whether she performed a key role in “transmitting the faith to the next generation.” Hosanna-Tabor, emphasized the importance of assessing both the amount of time spent on religious functions and “the nature of the religious functions performed.” 565 U.S. at 194 (emphasis added); see also id. at 204 (Alito, J., concurring) (“What matters is that [the individual] played an important role as an instrument of her church’s religious message and as a leader of its worship activities.”). This sounds like a quantitative factual inquiry. A contrary rule, making any school employee who teaches religion would fall within the ministerial exception, would not be faithful to Hosanna-Tabor or its underlying constitutional and policy considerations. It would render most of the analysis in Hosanna-Tabor irrelevant, basing the exception on a single aspect of the employee’s role rather than on a holistic examination of her training, duties, title, and the extent to which she is tasked with transmitting religious ideas.

Hope you all have a great 2019 in store for you.

Holidays here were tense but blessedly uneventful. I lived under the threat laid down by that rotund hit-man I told you about, but no one took any actions to follow through.

One morning in January, I left the Hudson County Courthouse making my way to the parking lot on Newark Avenue. As I approached Larry and Joe’s Pizza, I noticed Ernie Trani outside that restaurant, apparently just holding up the wall. I started to speak, but a subtle shake of his head dissuaded me. As I began to cross over at Chestnut, I heard Ernie call out: “Hey Philthy.”
officers below, is also used as a communication system throughout the entire jail. An outbreak of mold cost the county more than $850,000 to address. Commissioner Ray Vaughn stated that “Mold continues to be pervasive due to leaking water pipes that will cost $5 million to replace… It’s money the county doesn’t have.”

In 2008, the federal government removed all federal detainees from the Oklahoma County Jail because of the danger it posed to prisoner safety, and ten years later it still will not use the jail. Since 2009 the jail has been operating under a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Justice after an investigation found 60 civil rights violations. The Department determined that the Oklahoma County Jail fails to provide detainees with: 1) reasonable protection from harm; 2) constitutionally-required mental health care services; 3) adequate housing, sanitation and environmental protection; and 4) protection from serious fire-safety risks. The findings supporting the Department of Justice’s determination were appalling. For example, a letter from the then Acting Assistant Attorney General stated that “we found detainees sleeping on the floor and three or four detainees locked into two-man cells. The detainees spend nearly 24-hours per day in these cramped quarters.” The letter noted that “the excessive number of detainees in close quarters contributes to issues such as increased violence among detainees and the grossly unsanitary condition of cells.” The Department further documented “an inordinately high risk of detainee-on-detainee violence at the Jail as a result of the Jail’s chronic overcrowding,” and that “between January 2006 and March 2007 there were 1,337 reported use of force incidents” by the jail staff.

As cited ad nauseam in the Justice Department report, the bigger issue facing the jail (and Oklahoma more generally) is that too many people are being jailed. From 1983 to 2016 the county jail population in Oklahoma County grew from 495 people to 2,581, a more than fivefold increase.

What is also concerning is why these prisoners are detained in the first place. According to Oklahoma County Commissioner Ray Vaughn, “The highest population of offenders in the jail committed misdemeanors. They are not felons… The highest population of those misdemeanor offenses are being arrested for not having a valid driver’s license.” According to another report, approximately “80 percent of people coming into the jail are pretrial; they are not being punished for an offense, they have not been found guilty. One-quarter of all jail admissions are for the lowest-level offenses: municipal and traffic violations—public drunkenness, not having a driver’s license at the time of a traffic stop, failing to pay a municipal fine or fee, etc.—from Oklahoma City.”

Thus, I do not argue that building a new Oklahoma County Jail will in any way fix our broken criminal justice system. Nor do I place sole blame for the issues affecting the jail on staff, law enforcement, or even the building itself for the dreadful conditions to which we confine our fellow citizens. We are simply looking too many people up, and we do not have the resources to do it in a humane, constitutional or even productive manner. Nevertheless, we can improve the intolerable facilities we do have for the staff, the inmates and the moral worth of our community.

Leaders in the Oklahoma City community have been stepping up regarding the County Jail, and Criminal Justice Reform more generally. In late 2015 the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber created a special task force chaired by a Special Assistant to the Governor to evaluate Oklahoma County’s criminal justice system, make recommendations, and prepare for future investments in the County’s jail and other related facilities. In addition to Bennett, the members of the task force included prominent Oklahoma City leaders such as former Mayor Mick Cornett; Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Noma Gurich; Robert Henry, former Chief Justice of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and former President and CEO, Oklahoma City University; Larry Nichols, Chairman Emeritus, Devon Energy Corporation; and, David Rainbolt, President/CEO, BancFirst Corporation. Information and reports by the task force can be found at https://www.mysmartseokoco.com.

The group’s final report was issued on December 14, 2016. Many of the facts in this article are drawn from that report. The task force agreed that systematic overcrowding is the main issue affecting conditions at the jail, stating that “To be sure, there are critical humanitarian concerns with the current facility; but jail overcrowding is not a problem that the county can simply build its way out of. Rather, the county needs systemic reforms that address the root causes of the overcrowding.” The task force recommend six areas of reform including keeping people charged with lower level offenses out of the jail entirely and creating alternatives to jail for people with mental illness and/ or substance use disorders.

The recommendations by the task force address the systematic issues affecting our local prison population; however, we will likely always be in need of a county jail. For 25+ years our current facility has failed all of us. It is time for a change to reflect Oklahoma County and its values.

I am not the first, nor likely the last, to raise this idea. Oklahoma Joe—Joe Hight—published an article on December 10th calling on Oklahoma City to address the jail. Joe argues “In the midst of the downtown Oklahoma City progress and success, the fading 13-story, 27-year-old structure stands as a testament of our failure. And each year we don’t do something about it, it becomes even more unseemly and the cost of replacing it increases.” So let’s do something.

(Endnotes)

7 Clay, Nolan, “Rash of lawsuits over mold at Oklahoma County Detention Center blamed on ‘jail-house lawyer’”, The Oklahoman published Sept. 9, 2018.
Human malice exceeds human wisdom. Whenever laws fail we must have recourse to reason and nature, which are the only guides in the making of laws. Cicero said “The foundation of the law was uncovered from nature itself.”

Positive laws can never entirely prevent the arts of crafty men to evade them or the power of great ones to violate them. New laws are daily in the making and new occasions for more are daily arising. Some laws are therefore signs of the corruption of man and many laws are signs of the corruption of a state.

Positive laws taken from the law of nature according to the exigencies of times, places and persons, grow obsolete or cease to be as soon as they cease to be necessary. Law is right reason; commanding things that are good and forbidding things that are bad; distinguishing and declaring things right reason; commanding things that are good and forbid things that are bad; distinguishing and declaring things right reason; commanding things that are good and forbid all the laws of society are entirely reciprocal and no man ought to be exempt from their force. He who observes no law forfeits all title to the protection of law. He who observes no law forfeits all title to the protection of law. It is wickedness not to destroy a destroy er. Many mischiefs are prevented by destroying one who chooses.

The two great laws of human society are those of equity and self-preservation. By the first all men are bound alike not to hurt one another. By the second all men have a right alike to defend themselves. All the laws of society are entirely reciprocal and no man ought to be exempt from their force. He who observes no law forfeits all title to the protection of law. It is wickedness not to destroy a destroy er. Many mischiefs are prevented by destroying one who shows a certain disposition to commit many. To allow a license to any man to do evil with impunity is to make vice triumph over virtue and make innocence the prey of the guilty. If any man may destroy whom he pleases without resistance then he may extinguish the human race without resistance.

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The law of nature does not only allow us to defend ourselves but obliges us to defend ourselves. He who does not resist mischief when he may be guilty of the same crime as if he deserted his parents, his friends and his country.

Laws are the checks upon the unruly and partial appetites of men. The great difficulty has hitherto been to find proper checks for those who are to check and administer the laws. No man in society ought to have any privilege above the rest without giving the society some equivalent for his privilege. Thus legislators, who compile good laws, and good magistrates, who execute them, do, by their honest attendance upon the public, deserve the privileges and pay which the public allow them. It has been well said that a chief magistrate, “He is above the private members of the community, but the community itself is above him.”

Wherever the laws are honestly intended and equally executed so as to comprehend in their penalties and opera tion the great as well as so much of the small, and hold in awe the magistrates as much as the subjects, that government is good and the people are happy.
Oklahoma County Bar Association
Bench & Bar Conference 2019

Judicial Independence in the Social Media Age: Facebook Friends or Judge/Attorney

**4 HOURS OF CLE**
**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**
**HOSPITALITY**
**COMRADERIE**

MARCH 29 & 30, 2019
SEQUOYAH STATE LODGE

2019 OCBA Bench & Bar Conference Agenda

**Friday, March 29**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  Registration – Main Lobby

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  Hospitality Suites Open – Suites 221 & 223

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.  Welcome Buffet – Sequoyah Hall

9:00 – 11:00 p.m.  Hospitality Suites Open – Suites 221 & 223

**Saturday, March 30**

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.  Country Getaway Breakfast Buffet – Sequoyah Hall

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.  CLE Sign-In

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.  Welcome – President Sheila Stinson

9:10 – 10:00 a.m.  Chief Justice Noma Gurich, Oklahoma Supreme Court

10:00 – 10:10 a.m.  Stretch & Breathe

10:10 – 11:00 a.m.  Choice of Break-out Sessions:

A.  Oklahoma State Court Judges Panel – Chief Justice Noma Gurich, Judges Richard Ogden, Trevor Pemberton & Sheila Stinson


C.  Best Practices in Mediation – Steven L. Barghols

**Saturday, March 30 (cont.)**

11:00 – 11:10 a.m.  Stretch & Breathe

11:10 – 12:00 p.m.  Choice of Breakout Sessions – Part II

A.  Oklahoma State Court Judges Panel – Chief Justice Noma Gurich, Judges Richard Ogden, Trevor Pemberton & Sheila Stinson


C.  What You Should Know About Oklahoma County Drug Court – Judge Ken Stoner

12:15 p.m.  Delicatessen Buffet Lunch – Sequoyah Hall

2:00 p.m.  Wine Tasting – Heather Ezell, Sommelier

Hiking

Golf Tournament

Activities on Your Own

6:00 p.m.  Cash Bar – Sequoyah Hall

7:00 p.m.  BBQ Buffet – Sequoyah Hall

Special Awards & Prizes

7:30 – 8:20 p.m.  Ethics Seminar –

Presented by OCBA Young Lawyers Troupe

8:45 – 11:00 p.m.  Hospitality Suite 223 Open
Call 1-800-368-1486 to make room reservations. To get the special room rate, mention that you are with the Oklahoma County Bar Association Bench & Bar Conference.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BENCH & BAR CONFERENCE 2019
March 29 & 30, 2019 – Sequoyah State Lodge

***REGISTRATION FORM***

Registant’s Name: __________________________________________ OBA #: ______________________

Address: __________________________________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________ E-Mail: ________________________________

List name as it should appear on badge: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Registration Fee includes all meals (Friday Night Welcome Buffet, Saturday Morning Country Getaway Breakfast Buffet, Saturday Delicatessen Buffet and Saturday Evening BBQ Buffet) and 4.0 Hours of MCLE Credit.

Active Member

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $215
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $265

+ Spouse/Guest

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $315
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $365

+ Family

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $385
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $435

Government Lawyer & Young Lawyer
(in practice less than 10 years)

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $175
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $225

+ Spouse/Guest

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $275
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $325

+ Family

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $300
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $350

Judge
(Full-Time)

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $115
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $150

+ Spouse/Guest

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $215
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $250

+ Family

Early Bird – Before March 1, 2019 $275
Late Registration – After March 1, 2019 $310

Break-out Session Selection

(Mark using 1 & 2 which sessions you want to attend):

A. Oklahoma County Judges Panel __________
B. U.S. Federal Judges Panel __________
C. Best Practices in Mediation __________
D. What You Should Know About Oklahoma County Drug Court __________

Extracurricular Activities

Wine Tasting ................................................................. $30
Professional Sommelier Heather Ezell

Hiking ............................................................................... $5
Includes refreshments, snake-bite kit & prizes.

Golf Tournament ............................................................... $30
Includes golf balls, fees, refreshments & prizes.

Other activities available on your own – horseback riding, bike trails, fishing, disc golf & near-by Fort Gibson.

Spouse/Guest/Family Attendee Names:

Spouse/Guest: __________________________________________________________________________

Family: ________________________________________________________________________________

Family: ________________________________________________________________________________

Family: ________________________________________________________________________________

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ __________________________

Check should be made payable to OCBA.

CARD #: __________________________________________ CCV#: ________ EXPIRATION DATE: ________________

Mail Registration Form to: OCBA, 119 N. Robinson, Ste. 240, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
OR Fax to 405/232-2210.

Cancellations will be accepted at anytime on or before March 15, 2019 for a full refund; a $50 fee will be charged for cancellations on or after March 15, 2019.
December Donations

The Community Service Committee, courtesy of Judge Kendal Minmier and the Tawwater Law Firm, provided blankets for residents at the Edwards Redeemer Nursing Home.

The Young Lawyers Division provided necessities for the Children’s Center Rehabilitation Hospital in Bethany.

Family Law Section members brought in diaper donation for the Infant Crisis Center.

OAMIC Introduces Employed Lawyer Policy

Considering Professional Liability coverage as an Employed Lawyer?

We now have a policy for you!

Coverage includes pro bono legal services with employer’s written permission.

Exposure to regulatory compliance issues, HIPPA, & other areas makes this well worth the expense.
By Bill Gorden


There seems to be a recent trend in the print and visual arts to interweave several stories in a work, not just as to the story parts themselves, but as to time. The recent movie Dunkirk is an example. One story interfaces with another, but with sometimes big time and space differentials, until at the end they all come together. This is not the old mechanism of flashbacks. It is a method of showing us the meaning of one story as it impresses itself on another, and a third story doing the same on both the others. It can be at times confusing, but it has the happy end of keeping us alert and involved.

So it is with this novel. One story starts a thousand years ago. Another starts eight hundred years later, and a third begins with a Narrator’s youth and includes the present. The common threads are one family, and a “lost” Torah scroll. The Watchmen carry on a tradition of a Muslim caretaking a Synagogue. Hence, the family. This is an intriguing concept in and of itself. Then there are two lively characters, twin sisters in search of a Torah scroll which is, was, or might be in the attic of the Synagogue. The Narrator is trying to sort out his own life, future, and his relationship to the past. Or, is that the present?

As may be expected, there are different endings for each of the perspectives. This makes the book fun, and every time a chapter opens one must scramble to find out the time and place. That is almost like another character. It is all carried off well.

This might be a chapter-at-a-time read, but if you don’t like to have to check back a few pages to re-acquaint with the other story, it could be a problem. It is not as easy as re-winding the movie.
Lloyd T. Hardin, Jr. named Fellow of Construction Lawyers Society of America

Lloyd T. Hardin, Jr., a veteran real estate and construction lawyer with McAfee & Taft, has been selected a Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America. The CLSA is an exclusive, invitation-only honorary association composed of preeminent lawyers specializing in construction law and related fields, with fellowship limited to 1,200 practicing attorneys from the United States and internationally.

Fellows are selected following an extensive evaluation process that incorporates both internal research and peer reviews of the candidates’ legal achievements and contributions to the field of construction law and litigation, as well as their ethical reputations.

For more than 40 years, Hardin has focused his practice on the representation of clients, both domestic and international, in all phases of real estate law, including construction and development, sales and acquisitions, exchanges, financing and refinancing, commercial leasing, and real estate management. He is particularly regarded for his work on high-profile commercial projects that include nationally recognized hotels and resorts, golf courses, and office complexes from coast-to-coast.

Hardin is also an elected Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and has been perenniably recognized by many of the legal industry’s leading publications, including Chambers USA Guide to America’s Leading Lawyers for Business, The Best Lawyers in America, and Oklahoma Super Lawyers.

Hall Estill Represents US Beef in Monumental Sale of 368 Arby’s Restaurants

United States Beef Corporation, the largest Arby’s franchisee in the country, announced last week the sale of all 368 of its Arby’s restaurants. A team of attorneys from Hall Estill law firm, led by Sarah E. Hansel and Robert F. Dougherty, represented United States Beef Corporation and its affiliates in this significant sale.

U.S. Beef sold the locations to RB American Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Flynn Restaurant Group, with a portfolio that now represents $2.3 billion in sales and approximately 50,000 employees in 33 states.

The Davis family created U.S. Beef in 1969 and grew the company from a single franchise to one of the country’s top 10 franchises with more than 8,000 employees. They owned Arby’s locations in nine Midwest and western states including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Idaho, Illinois, Wyoming, and Colorado.

McAfee & Taft elects eight new shareholders for 2019

The shareholders of McAfee & Taft have elected attorneys Elizabeth Bowersox, Philip R. Bruce, Danae V. Grace, Sean S. Hunt, Richard D. Johnson, Zachary A.P. Oubre, Julia A. Palmer and Patrick L. Stein as fellow shareholders, effective January 1, 2019. The announcement was made by managing director Michael Lauderdale.

Elizabeth Bowersox is a labor and employment lawyer who represents management exclusively in all phases of employment litigation and arbitrations. In addition to representing private employers, she also represents municipalities in all areas of labor relations, including union negotiations, grievance and interest arbitrations, and unfair labor practice proceedings.

Philip R. Bruce is a trial lawyer whose practice is concentrated on the representation of employers exclusively in all aspects of labor and employment law and litigation. A portion of his practice is devoted to complex business litigation, including breach of contract cases, breach of confidentiality cases, and cases involving Lanham Act violations.

Danae V. Grace is a transactional lawyer whose practice encompasses a broad range of commercial and business matters, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, real estate, healthcare, contract drafting and negotiations, and general business transactions.

Sean S. Hunt is an corporate attorney whose practice encompasses a broad range of business and commercial matters, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate organization and governance, real estate, commercial lending transactions, and general business transactions. He is also the co-author of Oklahoma Limited Liability Company: Forms and Practice Manual, a two-volume practice manual containing forms and explanatory text and analysis for lawyers, accountants, tax specialists, estate planners, and real estate professionals.

Richard D. Johnson is a transactional and tax attorney who focuses his practice on a wide range of legal issues, including business acquisitions and financing, economic development and business incentives, tax credit financing, ad valorem taxation, tax litigation, and general corporate governance and operations. He also counsels clients in all aspects of estate planning, probate and estate administration, settlement of complex estate matters, and settlement of litigation of disputes regarding wills and trusts.

Zachary A.P. Oubre is a trial lawyer whose broad practice encompasses the areas of intellectual property law and commercial litigation. A large portion of his practice involves the resolution of disputes in federal and state courts across the nation involving trademark, patent, and copyright infringement, as well as claims of trade secret misappropriation breach of non-competition and non-solicitation agreements deceptive trade practices, and unfair competition.

Julia A. Palmer is a trial lawyer whose state and federal litigation practice is nationwide in scope. A large portion of her practice is devoted to defending product liability cases, including class actions, on behalf of automotive manufacturers and leading manufacturers of commercial and consumer products.

Patrick L. Stein is a trial lawyer whose practice includes a broad range of litigation matters in state and federal courts, with a particular emphasis on representing clients engaged in the agriculture and energy industries. A significant portion of his practice involves the defense of class actions and other complex business litigation, particularly in federal courts.

YOUR CLIENT NEEDS A GOOD DOCTOR

Minutes matter when it comes to auto accident pain. What happens in those few minutes can make the difference in getting claims approved promptly or getting denied. Our doctors and staff specialize in getting your clients the care they need in a responsible and compassionate manner.

- Walk-ins Accepted
- Same Day Exams
- No Out Of Pocket
- Xray / MRI
- Medications
- MD Care
- Pain Injections
- Specialty Referrals

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We’d love to meet you personally and discuss how we can best serve your clients. Call us today! Call (405) 259-7711

Old News

Excerpts from OCBA News:

FEBRUARY 1979, PART 2
The Image Is In The Blade

By OCBA President Robert J. Turner

The legal profession is confused and overly concerned with its public image. Recent attacks are nothing new. As Charles Dickens sharply noted:

If there were not bad people there would be no good lawyers.

Lawyers are not popular and never will be. The very nature of our profession prevents it. We are the centers of controversy, the “eye of the storm.” Hired to take sides like the professional gun fighter, as brother is pitted against brother in probate, husband against wife in divorce, neighbor versus neighbor, etc. And the legal search for the truth cuts deeper than any sword, opening wounds from which pain, anguish and anger flow. An experience no one enjoys. There are “losers” and “winners,” and controversy develops over who should have won and how the battle was fought. In our higher order of man, aroused emotions will continue to exist as we attempt to replace fists and clubs with rhetoric and reason, and there is no alternative for a civilized people. If lawyers are necessary and respected it matters little whether we are liked.
The OCBA has many opportunities to volunteer with their Community Service Committee, Law Related Education Committee, Lawyers For Learning Committee and Voices for Children Committee. However, this new monthly column will list other opportunities for our members to help the community. If you know of something that should be listed here, please contact the Bar Office at 236-8421 and we will add it to this new monthly Briefcase column.

OLFC holds its annual Celebrating Families 5K and Block Party which celebrates families reunified through the deprived process, adoption and guardianship. Group Volunteers

OLFC provides legal representation for the abused and neglected children in our community. Volunteer dockets are coordinated by OLFC Paralegals who are able to access juvenile cases assigned to OLFC online and provide the volunteer placement information, OKDHS worker contact and other vital information to assist the volunteer in providing exceptional legal representation for the abused and neglected children in our community.

OLFC's Annual Venetian Ball is its signature event run by volunteer committees to meet OLFC’s fundraising goals for the year!

OLFC hosts several events during the year that benefit children and families in the Juvenile Justice System. In May we hold an annual picnic for foster children, families and workers that provides a day of good old fashioned fun in the country, with a cookout, fishing, hay rides, horseback riding and face painting! In June, OLFC holds its annual Celebrating Families 5K and Block Party which celebrates families reunified through the deprived process, adoption and guardianship. Group volunteers can make up a team to run the 5K, help with setup/takedown, provide a family friendly activity for the Block Party and more! Groups can also organize a book or toy drive for OLFC. OLFC maintains the bookshelf in the JJC lobby that offers free books to children at the JJC. OLFC provides an average of 45-60 books per week to children. Toy drive: Children appear in court all year around and each of the 5 juvenile judges maintain a toy basket behind their bench so that every child that must appear in court has a toy to help make that experience a little less scary. OLFC Ambassador: Invite friends and colleagues to attend OLFC’s “Walk in a Child’s Shoes Tours” © held at the Juvenile Justice Center every other month to learn more about the needs of deprived children in our community. OLFC’s Annual Venetian Ball is its signature event run by volunteer committees to meet OLFC’s fundraising goals for the year!

OLFC Associate Board to apply contact MHarrah@americanbus.com or go to https://www.OLFC.org/associateboard and fill out the application online! : Love the mission of the organization but the other programs just aren’t for you? Join the OLFC Associate Board which is one of the most dynamic young professional’s boards in the metro! Young lawyers and non-lawyer professionals join together in friendship and fellowship to support the mission of OLFC in a variety of ways.
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