Briefcase

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Serving Those Who Served

By Erin L. O'Roke

This Veterans Day, on November 11, beginning at 1:11 p.m. CST, Americans across the country paused to observe two minutes of silence in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the nation's history.

Formerly known as Armistice Day, the holiday originally commemorated the armistice that went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, effectively ending World War I. On the first anniversary of the armistice, Americans and others around the world gathered to observe a moment of silence at 11 a.m. on November 11 to remember the war effort, which had claimed the lives of 20 million military personnel and civilians and wounded another 21 million.

The tradition continued for many years and, on 1938, Congress formally declared Armistice Day a national holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace.

Unfortunately, world peace proved elusive, and in 1954 — after another world war and the Korean War — the holiday was renamed Veterans Day at the urging of veterans' organizations. In contrast to Memorial Day, which honors service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, Veterans Day is set aside to thank and honor veterans who have served honorably in the military, whether in war or peacetime.

This year, as we collectively pause to remember and thank our veterans, many of us may wonder whether a moment of silence is enough.

Of course, there are many charitable organizations devoted to veterans that could use contributions (the Gary Sinise Foundation and the Fisher House Foundation are two examples with A or better ratings from Charity Watch). But there are also many opportunities for lawyers to serve veterans directly, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Bar Association.



sleepyb0y via depositphotos.com

The OBA's Oklahoma Lawyers for America's Heroes Program was launched on Veterans Day 2010 to provide legal advice and assistance to those who honorably served this country and are unable to afford to hire an attorney. Through this program, Oklahoma lawyers give legal advice and assistance to qualifying veterans, retirees, active duty enlisted servicemembers, guard members, and reserve members. The program's mission is to offer free one-on-one legal advice and assistance to Oklahoma's service members, past and present, who

See Veterans page 7

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This year the seminar will be moving to the beautiful LaFonda On the Plaza with great room rates of $249 per night*. Spread out through three days, enjoy **6 hours of diverse CLE** provided by experienced practitioners! Then, spend your afternoons on the slopes or visiting the amazing sites and shops of Santa Fe.

*Group room rates include complimentary Wi-Fi, concierge services, free water, Nespresso machine, complimentary art & history tours 4 days a week. To book reservations contact the hotel directly at 800-523-5002 or 505-982-5511 between the hours of 8 am – 5 pm (MT), 7 days a week. **Group Code: 1066397 or Event: Oklahoma County Bar Association CLE Winter Seminar.** Register for all 6 hours of CLE – only $250 – by going online to the OCBA website www.okcbar.org and click on the Events Tab or call the bar office at 405-236-8421.

Questions? Feel free to contact Seminar Co-Captains: Justin Meek jmeek@46legal.com or Michelle Edstrom medstrom@edstromlaw.com.

Inside

2022 CHRISTMAS BOOK REVIEWS
Page 3

OCBA SPONSORS LOCAL ELECTION FORUM
Page 4

From the President 2
Stump Roscoe 3
Bar Observer 7

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THE BRIEFCASE

November 2022

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From the President

A Call to Action: Harvest Food Drive Efforts

Driven by OCBA Young Lawyers' Division



By: Cody J. Cooper
President, OCBA

With all of the political fundraising and elections, our Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is lobbying for its own very worthwhile cause to raise funds to donate to the Harvest Food Drive for the Regional Food Bank. Each year, the OCBA YLD pledges to raise and donate $20,000 to support the Regional Food Bank through its Harvest Food Drive. The YLD's efforts are driven by its individual members' efforts to contact local firms and attorneys in order to raise these funds to donate to this needed cause. And the need for this donation has never been greater.

The Regional Food Bank serves 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma. For over 40 years, the Regional Food Bank has been providing food and resources to feed chronically hungry children, seniors, and hardworking families trying to make ends meet. Oklahoma is the fifth hungriest state. The deteriorating economic conditions and rising inflation have greatly exacerbated the needs of Oklahoma's at-risk groups and, now more than ever, your help is needed.

By the time you're reading this article, you or your firm have likely already received a request from one of our many excellent YLD member seeking ***tax-deductible*** donations to the Harvest Food Drive. For nearly 25 years, the YLD's partnership with the Regional Food Bank has been made possible by generous donations from local attorneys, businesses and law firms. The YLD has already done a great job this year and is close to its goal, but your help is necessary to meet and exceed that yearly pledge.

If you are able to do so, please donate to aid the YLD in fighting hunger in Oklahoma. Every dollar donated matters and goes to help the young and old alike. The YLD is honored to work with the Regional Food Bank and represent the OCBA with good works in our community. If you would like to donate to the YLD's Harvest Food Drive, please give that pesky, young lawyer a call back, or contact the OCBA at (405) 236-8421.

Please join me in supporting this worthwhile cause and the amazing efforts of our Young Lawyers Division. The YLD is working hard to receive all donations by December but will continue to accept donations throughout the holidays. To learn more about the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank and volunteer opportunities, please visit the website at **www.regionalfoodbank.org**.



DID YOU KNOW….The Lawyers for Learning Committee co-sponsors a Little Library at Adams Elementary School with the Foundation for OKCPS. ReadOKC has established little libraries at the majority of Oklahoma City Public Schools which allows students to take books home and share them with their families and friends. If you are interested in donating new books for this effort, Adams Elementary students range from Pre-K to 4th grade. Contact Pam Bennett, pam@okcbar.org.



Gary Chilton presented Rebecca Cusher with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children a check in the amount of $3,000. This represents the profit from the 2022 OCBA Golf Tournament thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors.



Another Great Accomplishment: Community Service Committee members refurbished the flowerbeds and landscaping around Palomar Family Justice Center on Sunday, November 13. Please take time to go by their offices at 1140 N. Hudson and check out their gardening skills. A big shout out to all the volunteers!

Stump Roscoe

By Roscoe X. Pound

Dear Roscoe: *Ever heard of the Shaggy Defense? Sounds like the hippy kid on the Scooby-Doo cartoons.* ***S.B., OKC.***

Dear S.B.: I too enjoyed the antics of Scooby and Friends. Well, not so much Shaggy. If the defense did in fact derive from Scooby's apparent owner, it would mostly consist of running away. I really lost faith in him when I noticed he occasionally shared Scooby Snacks with the stalwart Dane which were, after all, dog biscuits. Nowadays, in my more "woke" maturity, I realize how ageist the show was given the culprits so often turned out to be "Old Man Whomever."

Fortunately, the source of the Scooby defense derives not from our animated slacker pal but the rap/ reggae star Shaggy. More specifically, it's inspired by that singer's Y2K hit "Wasn't Me." Essentially, when someone is caught committing a crime (mainly one sexual in nature, but it can refer to all crimes), with overwhelming evidence to prove they did it; in their defense, the culprit denies that they were the one caught doing the crime. To my knowledge, rapper R. Kelly first, or at least most famously, employed the defense in his 2008 child pornography case.

More recently, a federal judge in Virginia used the term in an opinion denying a Motion for Summary Judgment. *Preston v. Morton*, case No. 4:09CV00030, (W.D. Va. May. 24, 2010). In that case, a man was struck by a tractor trailer while installing traffic lights. The accused driver's defense: It wasn't me. Judge Jackson Kiser declared that "the so-called 'Shaggy defense' [was] inappropriate for a summary judgment motion." More specifically:

"In the present case, I do not mean to suggest that the case against Defendants is as clear cut as the case against the adulterer in the song (as part of the song's "charm" is the absurdity of such a claim by someone in the narrator's situation). I use this term merely to illustrate the defense — claiming the offending party was someone else."

As to the use of the defense as a matter for summary judgment, the court held:

"While Defendants are free to assert, at trial, that they were not the negligent party, the question is obviously one of disputed, material fact. Whether the named defendants actually committed the acts complained of is the sine qua non of virtually all civil actions. Simply because Defendants disagree with Plaintiff's evidence does not give me the right to take the issue of fact away from the trier of fact. As such, this issue is not grounds for summary judgment."

Dear Roscoe: *How long a time between an event and a witness' statement about the event must pass before it ceases to be a present sense impression.?* ***S.K. OKC.***

Dear S.K.: "Present sense impressions" as the name implies, definitely have a shelf life. The rule allows the admission of "[a] statement describing or explaining an event or condition made while the declarant was perceiving the event or condition or immediately thereafter." Let's consider a hypothetical. Domestic abuse victim obtains VPO against ex-boyfriend. In violation of the Order, Mr. X shows up at her house brandishing a knife, uttering threats and demanding entry. Victim calls 911 and tells the operator that " a man is trying to break into the house, is armed, and is either drunk, high, or crazy." 911 dispatcher passes the information to police. Officer arrives less than ten minutes later. X has already left. At trial, prosecution introduces evidence of what the 911 dispatcher told him based on the statements made to the operator by the victim, as well as what the victim told him upon his arrival. Victim does not testify at trial. Defense objects based upon hearsay.

"The idea of immediacy lies at the heart of the exception, thus, the time requirement underlying the exception is strict because it is the factor that assures trustworthiness." *U.S. v. Green,* 556 F.3d 151, 155-56 (3d. Cir. 2009). Here, although the victim's statement to the 911 operator was made while the victim "was perceiving the event or condition or immediately thereafter," her later statement given to the responding officer was not sufficiently contemporaneous with the event to come within the present sense impression exception to the hearsay rule. Sharp-eyed readers will also take note that in the admissible portion of the 911 tape, victim does not identify Mr. X by name. See also *United States v. Bates,* 960 F.3d 1278, 1291 (II) (C) (11th Cir. 2020): "While the statements [appellant] made on the 911 call were made while or immediately after [he] perceived the event, the later statement to [a federal agent at the scene] is simply too far removed to be a present sense impression;" *U.S. v. Manfre,* 368 F.3d 832, 840 (II) (B) (8th Cir. 2004): Holding that statement was not a present sense impression when, "[a]t the very least, there was an intervening walk or drive" between the event and the time of the statement.

*****

The meeting at La Luna broke up in short order. I hadn't checked in on Tommy Iannacone in a while. They had moved him St. Mary's to the Burn Center in Livingston. He had a private room. A guy with a five o'clock shadow that made his face look like a lunar eclipse in progress sat in a folding chair off to the side between the door and the bed. He contorted somewhat to place whatever he carried in his cross-draw holster within easier access. Kinda made me wish I'd brought Junior upstairs with me.

"It's okay," I said. "I'm a friend."

"I don't know you, friend," he replied.

He stood up, towering over me. Not the easiest thing to do. From the neck down he resembled a door from an industrial meat locker – square-shouldered, thick, and solid. As for his face – well, if his body was the meat locker door, his visage stored the cold. He had a look similar to Ernie's with a possible hint of "I hope there's no trouble" around the eyes.

"Never mind that stuff, Gil. Roscoe's a pal."

Gil seemed a bit relieved. He nodded and returned to his seat. I took the visitor's chair near the bed.

"Works for Johnny's construction outfit," Tommy said with a gesture towards Gil.

"As what?" I asked.

"Human Relations."

"Of course," I said. For his part, Gil might as well have been mute.

Tommy adjusted his position, trying to sit up straighter. The effort made him wince.

"Pain?" I asked.

"Nah, I got enough. Pedal it next door."

I guess he liked that one. He chuckled a bit which produced more winces. We chatted a bit, covering everything from the odds on another Subway Series in 2023, House of the Dragon (loves Matt Smith's character, Paddy Considine's not so much) and how Giuliani must have had one hell of a staff to shut down the mob as USDA cause he sure as hell didn't do it on his own. Ultimately, we landed on the subject of current events and Koleka. Someone had kept him pretty well up on the progress or lack thereof. He did find my description of the summit at La Luna very interesting, theorizing that Tony and his brothers must be pretty well spooked to bring in outside families. He went on about how he wouldn't have done that because there's no way to gauge where their loyalties really lie (might even be with Kaleko) and what the final bill would look like.

"Something I don't understand, though," he said.

"What's that?"

"Well, apparently Kaleko is, as the good Fathers say, 'covetous of Paddy Hughes' franchise.' That explains why he's messing with him."

"Okay."

"Now, Tony and his brothers, along with you, all but run him outta town the last time, so that explains the Jones he's got for you guys."

"Fair enough."

"Now, FBI, NYPD, and Secaucus PD also joined in that effort. Now, he hasn't really gone after the yet, but we like him for these weird-ass unsolved crimes which help them look stupid, not that they need any help."

"Yeah, so?"

"So what about Stepanic?"

"Stepanic?"

"Yeah, your restauranteur pal from Cliffside. Wasn't he a key player way back when?"

"He was."

"So how come a hard rain's not fallin' on him as well?"

"I gotta go," I said.

"Yeah, you better. I'll just drop my bill in the mail."

2022 Christmas Book Reviews

By: Jeffery W. Massey
Asst. Dist Atty.

Nothing says avarice like a good preplanned book/gift. Especially if you read the book before you gift it…but don't spill anything on it.

Here are a few book reviews and potential gift ideas for the lawyer/historian in your life. Some are old, some are new, some are rare, some are true!

He Buys Organs for Churches, Pianos for Bawdy Houses (1976)

How to Win Elections Without Hardly Cheatin' At All (1983)

Oklahoma's Legal Graft, Illegal Graft and Just Plain Stealin (1992)

All three books are by the late Martin Huan, a Democratic activist in the 1950s-70s. and were published by Midwest Political Publications in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma Governor Johnston Murray and Governor Raymond Gary both chose Huan to serve as their Press Secretary. Huan held numerous national Democratic positions, including Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Democratic National Convention. These books are very inciteful from a political junkies perspective.

At War with Corruption – A Biography of Bill Price US Atty Western District of Oklahoma by Michael J. Hightower (2021), Two Cities Press

This book details the life and careers of local attorney turned prosecutor Bill Price. It was Price who, as U.S. attorney, prosecuted some of the most corrupt politicians in Oklahoma in the 1970s-80s. Price was a prosecutor with a servant's heart as he relentlessly pursued restoration of public faith in the county commissioner form of government.

The Oklahomans - Story of Oklahoma and Its People Vol 1 (2016) and Volume 2 (2021) by John J. Dwyer, Red River Press

These books are not exclusively about politics, but there is much here to digest. If there is a "must have" list on Christmas morning, these volumes are both on it. Both books are expansive tomes of colorful pictures and timeless history. It is a magnificent, illustrative epic of the unique history which is Oklahoma. Dwyer's knowledge of Oklahoma and its many stories makes this a GREAT gift. Both volumes can be purchased online or ordered directly.



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IN MEMORIAM

Marvin "Mike" Arnett

By: Benjamin Grubb

Marvin Michael ("Mike") Arnett) passed away at his home in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, September 28. Mike was born on November 18, 1953, in Guthrie to Marvin Arnett and Zela Arnett (Storm). Mike graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1976 and was a huge Cowboys fan. Mike was especially proud when his daughter, Taylor, followed in his footsteps and graduated from his alma mater in 2014. After graduation, Mike went on to work as a journalist for KWTV-News 9 from the late 70's-80's. He then attended night law school at Oklahoma City University where he earned his law degree in 1986.

Mike opened his own law firm in 1994 and had been running that ever since. Mike was a talented practitioner and experienced trial lawyer. Mike may best be remembered for his easygoing nature, zealous advocacy for his clients, and devotion to our shared profession. One of Mike's biggest accomplishments was his involvement with AA; he recently celebrated 30 years of sobriety. Mike was also active in OBA's Lawyers helping Lawyers, Sierra Club and Promise Keepers, and he was an avid member of his previous churches' Boards of Elders.

Mike's giving spirit was evident in all facets of his life, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin & Zela Arnett of Guthrie, OK.

Mike leaves behind treasured memories with his wife, Misty Arnett of Oklahoma City; daughter, Taylor Arnett of Tulsa; son, Tyler Arnett of Oklahoma City; and many other beloved family members, friends, and colleagues. Mike will be sorely missed.

OCBA Sponsors Local Election Forum

By: Todd Blasdel

On October 14, the OCBA sponsored a judicial and district attorney forum at the downtown Oklahoma City library. Oklahoma County candidates participating in the event included Judge Richard Kirby, Angela Singleton, Judge James Siderias, Judge Kathryn Savage, Vicki Behenna, and Kevin Calvey. The forum was moderated by attorney Ron Shinn.

The forum was highlighted by its civility and professionalism. Candidates were each given equal opportunity to present their qualifications and respond to questions posed by Mr. Shinn and audience members. Candidates discussed personal and professional experience, achievements, and changes/improvements they intended to bring to the respective positions.

Special thanks to the OCBA Bench and Bar Committee and OCBA administrative staff for hosting such an informative public event.

IN MEMORIAM

My Friend, Ashley Altshuler

By: Shanda McKenney

Ashley Altshuer was an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the time of his passing on September 28, 2022 at the age of 52. He was a graduate of both OU and the OCU College of Law and was employed as an Assistant District Attorney for Oklahoma County when I began working for the Public Defender's Office in 2000. Although we hadn't spoken to each other for some time prior to his death, he is an integral part of my memories as a legal intern and "baby" lawyer and he never failed to liven up whatever room he happened to occupy.

Ashley and I were both assigned to Judge Jerry Bass's courtroom, where he was the "Drug D.A." for that team. Through innumerable discussions - sometimes arguments - about the merits of my client's character or the harshness of his sentencing recommendation, there was not one instance where he exhibited a lack of professionalism. He always maintained his capacity to understand the human condition. He had huge empathy for those less fortunate, which often caused him some turmoil when determining what he thought an "appropriate" plea recommendation might be.

But my strongest memories of Ashley have little to do with the courtroom and more to do with after hours shenanigans. One evening in particular there was a shin-dig at "The Library" – a bar in the basement of the Robinson Renaissance building that was frequented by lawyer-types most nights of the week. A lawyer we all knew had a side business as a DJ and he was all set up for everyone to take turns singing karaoke. I thought it would be hilariously ironic to challenge Ashley to perform "Cocaine" by Eric Clapton, and he was so enthusiastic about the ridiculousness of the suggestion that I felt obligated to join him in a duet. Judge Bass was on the front row laughing uncontrollably, of course.

On more than one occasion I witnessed Ashley playing peacemaker between people who allowed their legal arguments to become personal. He never failed to have a wry smile at the ready, which perfectly matched his dry sense of humor and sometimes painfully blunt observations of fact. I never heard another attorney say anything disparaging about Ashley, which is a huge rarity in criminal law circles. Ashley had mental health struggles for most of his adult life, which he dealt with quietly and nobly, but despite his best efforts, it finally caught up with him. He will be terribly missed by not only his family (Mother Jeriann and brother Braddon and his family), but by all of his friends and colleagues, as well. Rest easy, friend.

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In Memoriam of the Grand Old Man

Dr. James G. Caster

By: Jeffery W. Massey
Asst. Dist. Atty

Jim Caster, renowned scholar, lecturer, instructor, Colonel USAR (Ret'd) and ardent patriot, passed from this life during the summer of 2022. Prior to his passing, Jim had just received his 70-Year Membership Pin from the Oklahoma County Bar Association. While Jim was not a practicing attorney, he did a tremendous amount of work for young lawyer-wannabes while teaching at Oklahoma City University and the University of Central Oklahoma (Central State, as it was known back in the day). Caster's discipline and knowledge created a vibrant atmosphere of academic excellence for students of all ages.

Caster taught courses on American National Government, U.S. Constitutional Law, and a special seminar titled "Espionage and Military Intelligence in the Modern State." Caster ran the Bureau of Governmental Services, which helped small towns codify their municipal ordinances. He conducted political polls for state legislators and political candidates and oversaw student internships with state agencies.

As UCO Pre-Law advisor, he was very active in the process of getting students into the state's law schools. He sponsored the Pre-Law Club, the UCO Young Democrats and, for three years, the 300-strong Nigerian Student Union. He published over two dozen articles in learned journals and one instructor's manual for a well-known American Government textbook. He retired in 1992 at the rank of full professor.

As part of the Pre-Law Club, Caster greatly influenced many young minds in the pursuit of law. Caster wielded great influence with law school admissions and afforded several opportunities to students that might not have otherwise been admitted to law school.

It was Caster's penchant for historical storytelling that always endeared him to his audiences. He was the annual speaker for the **General Stand Watie Military History Society** for over 30 years. Jim also had his mischievous side, which culminated in the annual meeting of the Ancient and Beneficent Order of the Red Red Rose. A key part of the ceremony was the regaling of the exploits of the Grand Old Man. If you, dear reader, are member of the Red Red Rose, It Is Well!

In 1987, I asked Dr. Jim to write my letter of admissions to the OU College of Law. At that time, OU Law Professor (and future Associate Dean) Col. Robert



COL. (RET.) DR. JAMES GARLAND CASTER
APRIL 29, 1928 – JULY 19, 2022

Barr Smith was chair of the admissions committee. Col. Smith would be my Legal Research and Writing instructor. My packet was mailed in mid-January and, by early February, I had received the response: I was admitted to law school! I formed a fast friendship with Col. Smith after graduation, and he was a regular speaker at the Military History dinners and the Civil War Roundtable. Years later, after graduation, Smith and Caster would quip to each other about my admissions packet: Caster would snipe that he was uncertain if his letter could assist my applications, since I already had an uphill climb as a graduate from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. Col Smith would respond: Getting him into law school was never an issue, but getting him out, now that was another matter.

Caster was Editor-Historian Emeritus by the OKC Civil War Roundtable and was honored by the establishment of the annual Dr. James G. Caster Scholarship awarded to the outstanding pre-law student by the Political Science department of the University of Central Oklahoma. He was also honored by the establishment of the annual Dr. James G. Caster Civil War History Symposium by Randall University at Moore, Oklahoma.

His obituary read: "Dr. James Garland Caster, Jr., answered the final beckoning, full of years and honors, and went to join his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Church Triumphant in God's Heavenly Kingdom on July 19, 2022". You will be sorely missed, you Grand Old Man.

Those desiring to read Doc's full obituary can go to: https://www.oklahoman.com/obituaries/pokl0262535.



THE OCBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRESENTS A SPECIAL CLE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

One Hour Luncheon Seminar – December 15, 2022

MASTERING YOUR MIND FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Presenter: **Collin Walke,** Attorney at Law, Hall Estill

Tuition: $15 for Young Lawyers (in practice less than 10 years)
$35 for Members; $50 for Non-Members and Walk-In Registrations.
Advance Registration suggested due to limited seating.

Location: OCBA, 240 Robinson Renaissance, 119 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City

CLE Credit: This course has been approved by the OBA Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission for 1.0 Hour of MCLE **ETHICS** Credit.

PROGRAM

12:00 Noon Lunch Served

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YOU MAY REGISTER ONLINE @ www.okcbar.org, Events Tab

Bar Observer

KIMBERLY A. WURTZ JOINS PHILLIPS MURRAH'S OKLAHOMA OFFICE

Phillips Murrah is proud to welcome **Kimberly A. Wurtz** to our Firm as an Of Counsel attorney.

Kimberly Wurtz has dedicated her legal practice to assisting landowners while also striving to protect the land and our natural resources. Today, Kimberly practices property law, water law, and energy law, focusing on landowner property matters, water rights, and asset protection. Prior to entering the legal field, Kimberly worked as a landman in Midland, Texas, gaining over 15 years of experience in the Permian and Delaware Basins, while focusing on land operations and management.

Kimberly is a double graduate from the University of Oklahoma, receiving her bachelor's degree and her Juris Doctor from OU. While in law school, she received the American Jurisprudence Award for Energy Law and was named to the Dean's Honor Roll. Always in pursuit of learning and helping others, she now teaches Mineral Title Examination and Real Estate Transactions, and Oil and Gas Regulatory Practice at Texas A&M University School of Law.

As an Oklahoma delegate to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, she serves as the Vice Chair of the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Energy Resources, Research and Technology Committee. She is also currently serving on the Oklahoma NARO Board of Directors and the NARO Foundation Board of Directors and is a co-author for Patton and Palomar on Land Titles. She has published articles on groundwater, produced water and well interference and also enjoys presenting on these topics at various conferences.

Kimberly and her husband David have two children, and they currently call Norman home. In her free time, she enjoys reading, ocean kayaking, watching her Vegas Golden Knights play hockey, and spending time with her family.

VETERANS

continued from page 1

have honorably defended our freedoms, and who otherwise cannot afford or do not have access to the legal services they need. For more information or to volunteer, go to https://okbarheroes.org/.

The OBA Young Lawyers Division also offers legal assistance to first responders (many of whom are veterans) through the Wills for Heroes Program. This program provides estate planning documents to qualified first responders, including firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and corrections and probation officers. For more information or to volunteer, see https://www.okbar.org/willsforheroes/.

This Veterans Day, we can do more than observe a moment of silence. Together, we can put our collective talents to use to serve those who have so honorably served our country.

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