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## OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice: Continuing the Commitment to Innovation

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# CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN PRACTICE

Continuing the commitment to innovation

BY MELISSA CAPERTON AND JONELLA FRANK



The evolution of **OU Law's** groundbreaking **Digital Initiative** continues with the launch of the **OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice**, formally bringing together and expanding the components of the Digital Initiative.

"Three years ago, OU Law was the first law school in the nation to launch a college-wide Digital Initiative, immersing our students in technology from day one," said Dean Joe Harroz. "The results of our initiative have become clear: the demand for technologically savvy law graduates has never been higher, and OU Law graduates are seeing remarkable benefits. The creation of the OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice captures our successes in this sphere, allowing the college to capitalize on opportunities for our students."

The new center encompasses the existing elements of the college's Digital Initiative, which is built around three core elements:

- the common platform of iPad Pro with Apple Pencil, given to all students at no cost, for hand-writing notes and annotating documents;
- a digital training curriculum that educates OU Law students to use technology for productivity in law school and in practice; and
- the Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center, a state-of-the-art space that allows students to become familiar with how technology can be used to collaborate on projects.

The OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice also includes technology certifications and opportunities to explore new law practice technology.

Students can earn certifications through the Legal Technology Core Competencies Certification Coalition (LTC4), a nonprofit that has established legal technology core competencies and certification that all law firms can use to measure ongoing efficiency improvements.



## KENTON BRICE

As director of technology innovation, Brice leads OU Law's technology efforts, building on the college's reputation as a national leader in legal technology education. Brice joined the law library in 2015 as its first digital resources librarian. In addition to teaching legal research in the Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy Program, he also assists in administering the Digital Initiative at the College of Law.

Prior to joining the College of Law, Brice practiced as an associate attorney with Christman Kelley & Clarke PC in Highland Village, Texas, where he gained extensive experience in courtrooms and boardrooms, handling various litigation and transactional matters for the firm. In addition to his legal work, he administered all of the firm's technology to enhance the firm's efficiency in all aspects of professional and legal work. Brice brings his professional and technical experiences to the College of Law to help educate students on how to utilize technology to become more effective researchers, lawyers and professionals.

# INNOVATION RECEIVES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

OU Law's Digital Initiative has garnered national recognition for the College of Law as a cutting-edge law school equipping students for the 21st-century legal profession. In October, the College of Law was named one of "20 Most Innovative Law Schools" by *preLaw*, a *National Jurist* publication.

In compiling the list, *National Jurist* took a look at schools across the country utilizing innovative approaches to provide their graduates a competitive edge in the legal marketplace. OU Law's Digital Initiative was highlighted in the publication for its integration of technology and digital tools in the legal educational experience at OU Law.

The Digital Initiative also was the subject in a segment of the podcast "The Digital Edge," sponsored by the American Bar Association Law Practice Management Section. In that interview, Darin Fox ('92), associate dean and director of the

In addition to training students on the use of current technologies, the center is investigating new and emerging technologies for use in the law school curriculum as well as in law practice. The center is exploring virtual, augmented and mixed-reality use scenarios in law practice, as well as implementing artificial intelligence tools in legal research and document drafting.

Future offerings through the center may include an incubation program, which could provide recent OU Law graduates with the foundational technologies, training and tools that all start-up law firms need to succeed in today's legal market.

"When we started the Digital Initiative over three years ago, we had the framework of a plan, knowing that the nature of technology advancements would require us to adapt," Harroz said. "As opportunities for the use of technology in the legal profession grow, we will continue to adjust our approach. In the years to come, no matter how technology has impacted

law library, discussed how the recession spurred the use of legal technology and provided examples of potential uses of technology in the courtroom. That podcast has subsequently been featured in legal websites, blogs and newsletters hosted by other law-related organizations.

In August, Kevin O'Keefe, founder and CEO of LexBlog, visited OU Law and hosted a Facebook Live tour of the new Inasmuch Collaborative Learning Center, led by Fox and Kenton Brice ('09), director of technology innovation. The CLC also was the focus of an article in the May issue of *AALL Spectrum*, published by the American Association of Law Libraries.





the practice of law, our students will be ready to take charge of the technological demands of the profession.”

With the support of OU Law Associate Dean Darin Fox ('92), Director of Technology Innovation Kenton Brice ('09) spearheads the center's efforts in advancing OU Law's offerings in the digital realm. Brice brings a unique blend of legal practice experience and expertise in utilizing leading-edge technology to the job. Learn more about Brice's background and experience in the inset on page 3.

“The practice of law has evolved to the point where attorneys must engage with technology and innovate their practices to serve the next generation of clients,” Brice said. “Creating the Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice provides

## OU LAW RECOGNIZED AS APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

The OU College of Law has been named an Apple Distinguished School for 2017-2019 in recognition of its groundbreaking Digital Initiative, which prepares OU Law students to become technologically savvy lawyers who understand the tools needed to research, organize, communicate and present in the 21st century.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership and educational excellence that use technology to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning and teaching and have documented results of academic accomplishment.



OU Law with a platform to expand the foundation of the Digital Initiative to prepare our students for the modern practice of law. From learning basic technology skills attorneys use on a daily basis to exploring innovative initiatives that could possibly reshape the profession, our students will be poised to excel in practice throughout their entire careers.”

The OU College of Law is now home to four centers focused on facilitating further study and appreciation of key strategic academic areas, furthering the study of law beyond the traditional classroom experience.

**Center for International Business and Human Rights**

**Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy**

**Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center  
(ONE Center)**

**Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice**

“We are positioning the OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice to engage with academics, policymakers and industry experts to research and implement the practical use of technology in legal education,” Harroz said. “The new center will take law practice technology instruction to the next level, benefiting OU Law alumni and other lawyers in Oklahoma and beyond through improved efficiency and productivity.” |SL|





