

Sooner Lawyer Archive

Volume 2017 | Issue 2
Fall 2017/Winter 2018

2017

OU Law Updates

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2017) "OU Law Updates," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2017: Iss. 2, Article 8.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2017/iss2/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sooner Lawyer Archive by an authorized editor of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.



Leslee Roybal, who joined the College of Law in 2015, has been named clinical legal education assistant. Previously, she worked in the faculty support office and coordinated the Legal Assistant Education Program.



Kenton Brice ('09) was promoted to director of technology innovation. In this role, he will focus more of his time on the Digital Initiative, including overseeing the new OU Law Center for Technology and Innovation in Practice, which formally brings together and expands the elements of the Digital Initiative.



Brent Dishman ('05) joined the College of Law in November as assistant dean of students and director of student services. He has served in the U.S. Air Force, including both as a JAG prosecutor and defense attorney. When he completed his active duty, he founded the military defense firm Dishman Military Advocates, where he represented service members nationwide.



Amy Pepper, assistant professor of clinical education, 3L Brayden Jennings and Lori Ketner pose with the barn Jennings made to commemorate Ketner's years at OU Law. The inscription reads: "Thank you for helping us soar."

Lori Ketner retired as the clinical legal education assistant in December. During her 33 years of service to the College of Law, she has worked in several departments, ranging from the copy/mail room, to the Admissions Office, the Prisoners' Rights Clinic and ultimately, the OU Legal Clinic. Whatever the job, she always loved working with students. Ketner looks forward to spending more time with her seven grandchildren and finally completing numerous projects around her house.

► Orientation, academic convocation welcome Class of 2020





▶ Cookout kicks off semester



All students were welcomed to the 2017 fall semester with a cookout on the William J. Ross Courtyard.

▶ Kansas federal judge visits OU Law



Judge J. Thomas Marten of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas (center) joined Dean Joe Harroz and Professor Liesa Richter October 2 in the Kerr Student Lounge for a fireside chat on the topic of civility.

▶ Students provide pro bono service to soldiers



OU Law students Jarod Harsha and Dan Sloat are pictured with Pfc. Barrick at the Oklahoma Lawyers for America's Heroes August event.

OU Law students participated in the Oklahoma Bar Association program Oklahoma Lawyers for America's Heroes, assisting Oklahoma National Guard men and women who had recently returned from the Ukraine. Working with Stan Evans, assistant dean, the students assisted the soldiers with legal issues that had arisen during their deployment overseas.

During the August event, Dan Sloat, Katie Wilmes, Jarod Harsha and Stephan Owings spent a Saturday advising soldiers and taking data for follow-up by Oklahoma volunteer lawyers. The students' service will count toward their commitment for pro bono service hours. The OBA program provides many opportunities for law students to assist soldiers, veterans and their families.

► Reception marks Indigenous Peoples Day



As part of the commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day on October 9, the OU College of Law hosted a reception on the north patio of Coats Hall. Special guests were the Apache Club Crown Dancers from the Riverside Indian School, located north of Anadarko, Oklahoma. The school is the largest and oldest off-reservation boarding school of the Bureau of Indian Education.

► OU Law FBA and Federalist Society sponsor ‘Women in the Judiciary’ panel

Three judges shared with students their experiences as women in the judiciary and provided advice on judicial careers. Organized by the OU Law Student Divisions of the Federal Bar Association and the Federalist Society, the October 5 event was held in the Dick Bell Courtroom and was open to the public.

The “Women in the Judiciary” panel discussion featured Judge Diane S. Sykes, 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; Chief Judge Janice Loyd, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; and Judge Cindy Truong, Oklahoma County District Court.



Judges Cindy Truong, Janice Loyd and Diane Sykes share a laugh during the Women in the Judiciary panel presentation.

► 2017 Henry Lecture Series features Ross E. Davies

Noted legal history scholar Ross E. Davies presented “Five Little Lessons in Lawyering from Thurgood Marshall” as the keynote speaker of the 2017 Henry Lecture Series in October.

“The Henry Lecture Series is our premier annual speaker event, bringing the brightest legal scholars and talent in the nation to OU Law,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “It is an honor to continue this tradition that creates such unique learning opportunities for our students, this year featuring the witty and brilliant Ross Davies.”

A professor of law at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, Davies teaches administrative law, contracts, employment discrimination, legal history, legal profession and torts. He joined the faculty in 2002 after clerking for a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and practicing law at the Washington, D.C., firms of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP and Shea & Gardner (now Goodwin Procter).

Davies also serves as the editor of *The Green Bag* and *The Journal of Law*, among others. He also is the creator of *The Green Bag’s* signature line of Supreme Court bobble heads, which have become well-known for their light-hearted representations of the personalities and passions of the justices of the Supreme Court.

Davies earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School and a bachelor’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis.



Ross Davies poses next to a display case of Supreme Court bobble heads following his keynote address for the 2017 Henry Lecture Series.



Audience members each received a Thurgood Marshall bobble head.

► **Students participate in annual Calvert Competition**



Student competitors stand as the judges enter the courtroom for the final round of the competition.

During the 2017 Calvert Moot Court Competition, 36 student-competitors argued a case currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court – *Masterpiece Cakeshop Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. The case involves a Colorado baker who refused, based on his religious beliefs, to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

The competitors researched the case and presented oral arguments before tournament judges in preliminary, elimination, quarter-final and final rounds. Sponsored by the OU Law Board of Advocates and the Floyd and Irma Calvert Fund for Law and Liberty, the competition process concluded with the final round on October 19 in the Dick Bell Courtroom.

Connor Bourland and Kellie Laughlin (3Ls) won first place and 2Ls Taylor Ledford and Joya Rutland were named runners-up. Eleanor Burg (3L) was selected as best individual speaker.

Judges for the final round were Jerome Holmes, 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; Bernard Jones, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; Patrick Wyrick ('07), Oklahoma Supreme Court; Brian Goree, Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals; Leah Edwards ('02), Garvin and McClain counties; Michelle Kirby-Roper, Beckham County; Jeff Virgin ('08), Cleveland County; Zachary West ('11), Office of the Attorney General of Oklahoma; and Rick Tepker, OU College of Law.



Finalists join judges for a photo after the competition.

► Palk confirmed to serve on federal bench



Assistant Dean Scott Palk's nomination to serve as a district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma was confirmed by the U.S. Senate October 26.

"Everyone at the OU College of Law is very proud of our friend and colleague, Scott Palk," said Dean Joe Harroz. "He is a person of remarkable character and judgment, and I am confident he will serve as a fair and honorable judge for the Western District of Oklahoma."

Palk was first nominated in 2015 by then-President Obama; however, his confirmation did not receive a full vote on the Senate floor. Palk was again nominated in May to the position by President Trump.

Palk joined the OU College of Law as assistant dean of students in 2011 after serving nearly 20 years as a prosecutor. He was assistant district attorney for Cleveland County, where he prosecuted a variety of crimes and death penalty cases and coordinated the Multi-County Drug Task Force. He later served as an assistant U.S. attorney, prosecuting violent crimes, gangs and domestic terrorism.

► Burg recognized as outstanding 3L

Eleanor Burg, named OU Law's outstanding senior law student, currently serves as the managing editor of the *Oklahoma Law Review* and as the director of the 1L Moot Court Competition. She has participated in advocacy competitions since her first year in law school.

Burg also is a member of the Business Law Society and the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law. During her second year, she served as the lead mentor to first-year students, working directly with students in the Class of 2019. Burg received the J. Marshall Huser Scholarship and the John B. and Elizabeth B. Cheadle Scholarship for outstanding service to the law school.

Burg has interned with the OU Office of Technology Development, the OU Office of Legal Counsel, McAfee & Taft and Phillips Murrah. After graduation, she will start her legal career as an associate at McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City.



Eleanor Burg receives the Outstanding Senior Law Student Award, presented by Lane Neal ('08), during the OU Law Alumni Luncheon at the Oklahoma Bar Association Annual Meeting.

► **M.L.S. students share on-campus experience**

Students enrolled in the Master of Legal Studies in Oil, Gas and Energy Law program participated in multiple events November 12-17 for an on-campus experience. The M.L.S. in Oil, Gas and Energy Law is offered primarily online to increase its flexibility and accessibility for working adults, so for some attendees, the event marked their first visit to the OU campus.

M.L.S. students were welcomed to the College of Law November 12 with a tour of the building, a reception in the Sneed Lounge and dinner in the Chapman Reading Room.

The following day, after a full day of classes, the group toured the University of Oklahoma campus and surrounding area.

Other after-class trips for the next three days included visits to the OU Oklahoma Geological Survey Core and Well Cutting Research Facility, the Mewbourne Exxon Practice Lab and Devon Tower in Oklahoma City. On the final day, students attended the Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City and capped off their week with a closing dinner at Cattlemen's Steakhouse.



The M.L.S. students gather in front of Boyd House before beginning their tour of the main campus.



Dean Joe Harroz welcomes students at a dinner in the Chapman Reading Room.



Professor Darin Fox, associate dean and director of the law library, shows the M.L.S. students the Inasmuch Foundation Collaborative Learning Center.



The M.L.S. group continues the on-campus experience at the OU Oklahoma Geological Survey Core and Well Cutting Research Facility.

▶ Securities industry is topic for NALSA, OUTlaw event



Vince Logan speaks to OU Law students about the securities industry and his varied professional experiences.

OU Law alumnus Vince Logan ('84), senior adviser for Permanens Capital's Tribal Wealth Practice, returned to his alma mater in September to speak to students on "The Securities Industry: Regulatory, Compliance and Enforcement." The event was hosted by OU Law's Native American Law Student Association and OUTlaw.

Logan talked to students about his professional background, particularly his experience in the securities industry. Earlier in his career, Logan worked in New York specializing in both asset-based financing and asset management. As a lawyer, he practiced in aircraft, shipping and equipment finance at Schulte, Roth & Zabel. As an investment adviser, he focused on institutional asset management at the Merrill Lynch Private Bank and his own firm, The Nations Group LLC.

Logan also spoke on his recently finished public service as special trustee for American Indians at the U.S. Department of the Interior, and discussed leadership practices with students.

▶ Hamrin appointed to Access to Justice Commission



Rebecca Hamrin, associate director of the Office of Career Development, was appointed by the chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court to serve on the Oklahoma Access to Justice Commission.

Hamrin joined OU Law as an associate director of the Office of Career Development in 2016. In this role, she also leads the pro bono programs and public service initiatives at the College of Law.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin Law School, Hamrin practiced commercial real estate law in Milwaukee for seven years. In addition to her legal practice, she was a member of the firm's recruiting committee and conducted numerous on-campus and call-back interviews.

Hamrin also was a member of the board of directors of the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in Milwaukee and the Ice Age Trail Alliance Inc. in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. In both of these roles, she completed many hours of pro bono service advising each organization on legal matters.

► **Competition traveling teams triumph**



Alex Sokolosky, Bryan Lynch and Josh Fanelli show off the awards they brought home from the regional rounds of the National Moot Court Competition.



The Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Team of Joshua Conaway, Hayley Parker, Benjamin Warden and Hannah Holmes strike a pose in a courtroom of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.



The ABA Employment Law Trial team of Doreen Appiah, Taylor Brown, Jacy Chafin and Alex Sullivan pose for a photo.

Both National Moot Court Competition teams excelled at the regional competition held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in November, advancing to the final four. The team of Katie Leach, Micah Mahdi and Collen Steffen competed in that round against the other OU Law team of Bryan Lynch, Josh Fanelli and Alex Sokolosky.

Director of Competitions Connie Smothermon reported the Lynch-Fanelli-Sokolosky team went on to win first place, best brief and best speaker (Lynch). The team will travel to the national finals in New York City in January. Assistant Dean Gail Mullins coached both teams.

Other successful traveling competition teams include the ABA Employment Law Trial team [Doreen Appiah, Taylor Brown, Jacy Chafin and Alex Sullivan with alumni coach Emily Mueller ('11)] which advanced to the final four round in Dallas; the ABA Arbitration team [Greg Friedman, Blaine Timonera, Abbe Adams and Dakota Parish with coach Rebekah Taylor ('07)] which advanced to the final four round at the University of Mississippi; and the ABA Negotiation team [Dillon Turner and Molly Clinkscales with coach Connie Smothermon] which placed sixth at the regional competition in Salt Lake City.