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## From the Dean

Joseph Harroz Jr.

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Pictured clockwise on cover are  
Dean A. Strang, Tracey L. Meares

and Jonathan Rapping



## From the Dean

Dear Friends,

The OU College of Law has much to celebrate during a time when the landscape of legal education has fundamentally shifted. We have adapted and innovated and are enjoying remarkable success. This can be seen in a myriad of ways. None is more important than the quality of our incoming class. Most law schools have shrunk in size and contracted in quality. We have maintained healthy class sizes, and this year we have seen the number of students who want to attend OU Law rise dramatically. We are excited to welcome yet another class of

high-achievers and are eager to equip and prepare them for success in the legal profession.

One of the ways we do this is by providing unique programming designed to enhance the overall curriculum. This year, we welcomed many distinguished guests and in this issue of *Sooner Lawyer*, you will read about their visits.

For our lecture series, we focused on the theme of criminal justice reform, bringing in a trio of leading voices who provided distinct and challenging perspectives for our students: Professor Tracey L. Meares of Yale University, a member of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing; Jonathan Rapping, MacArthur Foundation Fellow and founder of Gideon's Promise; and Dean Strang, best known for his role as one of Steven Avery's defense attorneys in the Netflix docu-series "Making a Murderer." I hope you enjoy reading about the impact of our guest lecturers in our cover story on page 2.

Our second feature (page 6), spotlights another distinguished guest's visit to the OU College of Law this year. Earlier this spring, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Flora D. Darpino joined students for a Lunch and Learn session. Darpino is the first woman to hold the position of Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Army. She offered inspiring advice and insights for our students from her many experiences of shattering glass ceilings as a female in the military.

Our celebration continued this year with the induction of our fifth class into the Order of the Owl Hall of Fame. Many of you joined us in March to honor four remarkable inductees who have devoted their lives to service. We were thrilled to welcome Bill W. Burgess, Jr. ('80), Justice Tom Colbert ('82), Jim Gallogly ('77) and Justice Noma D. Gurich ('78) to the Order of the Owl Class of 2016. Turn to page 8 to learn more about each of them and their many accomplishments.

You will note in the OU Law Updates section on page 25 that last academic year also gave us cause for celebration when it came to our rise in the rankings and the many achievements of our students and faculty. We are fortunate to have such a strong and engaged OU Law community. Thank you for helping make OU Law one of the nation's great public law schools.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz Jr.

Dean and Professor

Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law