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## Faculty News

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## Faculty changes

### ▶ New faces and titles



**Kristen van de Biezenbos** began this fall as associate professor of law, teaching in OU Law's strategic areas of energy and oil and gas law. Her scholarship primarily focuses on energy and maritime law.

She came to OU from Texas Tech University School of Law, where she taught energy law, oil and gas, international business transactions and admiralty law. Prior to that, she taught at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and worked in private practice. She earned her law degree from Tulane University Law School.



**Liesa Richter** was named associate dean for research and scholarship. Joining the OU Law faculty in 2001, Richter is a Thomas P. Hester Presidential Professor of Law and teaches evidence and civil procedure. Her research focuses on federal evidentiary policy and rule-making.

## Faculty honors

### ▶ Robertson selected as American Bar Foundation Fellow



Professor **Lindsay Robertson** was elected by the board of the American Bar Foundation to membership in The Fellows, an honorary organization of attorneys, judges, law faculty and legal scholars. The group supports the research of the American Bar Foundation and sponsors seminars and events relevant to the legal profession. Membership is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction.

## Beyond the classroom

### ▶ Aswad speaks on protecting human rights online



In October, Professor **Evelyn Aswad** spoke at a conference hosted by Stanford University School of Law about a human rights framework that information and communication technology companies can use to protect freedom of expression in their operations.

Later that same month, she spoke at the annual meeting of the Freedom Online Coalition in San Jose, Costa Rica, about a regional online speech code and her concerns about its risks to freedom of expression. The coalition is a partnership of 30 governments seeking to protect fundamental freedoms online. "I was grateful for the opportunity to be part of the global conversation on the pressing issue of how to protect human rights online," said Aswad.

### ▶ Henderson testifies on use of drones



Professor **Stephen Henderson** testified in September before the Oklahoma State Senate's Public Safety Committee on the use of drones. The committee is investigating a possible state policy on drone usage and the implications for constitutional rights.

### ▶ Aswad, Robertson promote international engagement at Governor's Mansion

Professors Evelyn Aswad and Lindsay Robertson attended the 2016 Consular Summit Luncheon hosted in October by Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin. Consuls general from Germany, Spain, Panama, Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan were in attendance, along with state and tribal government officials; business leaders; and academics. The Oklahoma Governor's International Team periodically hosts consuls general from around the world to strengthen economic and other ties between Oklahoma and other countries.



Monika Ehrman



Steven S. Gensler



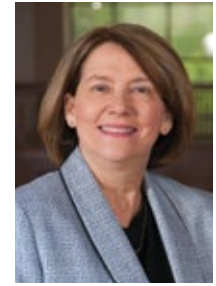
Erin Means



Gail Mullins



Daniel Nicholson



Connie Smothermon

▶ **Gensler travels to Florida to speak on e-discovery**

In October, Professor **Steven S. Gensler** visited the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he was the Fall 2016 Distinguished E-Discovery Speaker. His talk was titled “How E-Discovery Brought All Discovery Back to Its Senses.”

The E-Discovery Speaker Series at the Levin College of Law is one element of the college’s E-Discovery Project. According to its website, the E-Discovery Project is a multidisciplinary endeavor enhancing litigation competence through electronic discovery law courses, research, the development of information retrieval method and tools, and offering electronic discovery skills training for practicing attorneys and litigation support professionals through public conferences and continuing legal educational offerings.

▶ **ABA taps Smothermon and Means for service**

Professor **Connie Smothermon** was reappointed as the American Bar Association Law Student Division co-chair of the National Competitions Committee, which oversees the administration of the four ABA student competitions. Smothermon has served on the committee for eight years, including three years as chair.

In addition, Smothermon and Professor Erin Means were selected to write problems for some of the ABA national competitions. Professor Means is writing the fact patterns for the regional and national negotiation competition and Smothermon is co-authoring the regional and national client counseling fact patterns.

▶ **LRW faculty speak on use of technology at national conference**

This past summer, Legal Research and Writing professors **Gail Mullins, Erin Means, Daniel Nicholson** and **Connie Smothermon** presented at the National Legal Writing Institute’s 17th Biennial Conference in Portland, Oregon. The conference theme, “Thriving in a Time of Change,” centered on approaches to legal writing and research that answer the call for innovation and change in legal education.

The OU Law professors led a presentation and discussion titled “Incorporating iPads into the 1L Legal Writing Curriculum.” The presentation stressed the importance of using today’s tools to educate today’s students in interviewing, note-taking, oral reports and professional self-reflection.

▶ **Ehrman sits on Yale panel**

In October, Professor **Monika Ehrman** participated in “A Century of American Conservation,” a Yale University series featuring panels focused on celebrating the centennial of the National Parks. The series is co-hosted by the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and the Yale Center on Environmental Law and Policy. Ehrman served as a panelist at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies for the discussion titled “Conflict and Cooperation: Energy Development on Public Lands.”

## ► Gensler plays lead role in “Rules Roadshow”



Professor Gensler interacts with the audience during the Atlanta program.

Professor Steven S. Gensler traveled the United States from coast to coast, north to south and back again in an effort to familiarize lawyers and judges with recent changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure focused on discovery and case management. Gensler served as a moderator, along with Lee H. Rosenthal, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, in the 17-city tour of the program “Hello ‘Proportionality,’ Goodbye ‘Reasonably Calculated’: Reinventing Case Management and Discovery Under the 2015 Civil Rules Amendments,” known fondly as the “Rules Roadshow.”

Presented by the American Bar Association Section of Litigation and the Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies, the program was expanded, due to its popularity, to include four more stops beyond the 13 cities originally planned for the tour. Gensler, who served as a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules for six years, was one of the leaders from the rules amendment process who walked attendees through the changes. In addition, panels of local federal judges, magistrates and practitioners discussed the practical implications of the changes.

“Chief Justice John Roberts called upon leaders of the legal profession to ‘step up to the challenge of making real change’ by implementing the Rules in ways that will help engineer ‘a change in our legal culture that places a premium on the public’s interest in a speedy, fair and efficient justice,’” explained Beth Kaufman, co-chair of the Rules Roadshow for the ABA Section of Litigation, and a senior partner at Schoeman & Kaufman LLP in New York.

“Professor Gensler’s commitment to realizing that vision, through his contribution to the Roadshow, was extraordinary and invaluable,” Kaufman said. “Ever the excellent educator, he took the ideas and suggestions of the diverse judges and lawyers on every panel in every city and synthesized them in a way that made sense to the hundreds of people in the room at each venue. This created an understanding and excitement about innovation and creativity in litigation practice that every participant – judge or lawyer – took back with them to their own chambers, their own practices, their colleagues, and that, in the end, will lead to the more efficient and effective administration of justice.”

“Gensler achieved a lifetime ambition and became Phil Donohue, taking a microphone into large audiences and engaging in one-on-one animated conversations about the topic,” commented co-moderator Rosenthal. “He should not, perhaps, give up his day job as a law professor and scholar, but he might have a second career option to consider! The exchanges he instigated greatly enriched, enlivened, and entertained. The discovery rules came to life in ways we don’t usually experience.”

Emphasizing that the series of programs took six months to organize and another six months to present, Kaufman concluded, “The Roadshow could not have been done without Steve.”