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From the Dean

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From the Dean

Dear Friends,

It has been an extraordinary year at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. This year, we hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; two days of hearings by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit; Judge Jeff Sutton, with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit; and numerous dignitaries for a dialogue on the White House National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct Abroad. Our students would not have such opportunities without the invaluable support of alumni and friends like you.

This issue of *Sooner Lawyer* celebrates four remarkable alumni inducted into the Order of the Owl Hall of Fame this Spring (p. 22). The contributions of Judge Robin Cauthron, Dean Emeritus Andrew M. Coats and Reggie Whitten are extraordinary, and it was a privilege to honor them. Each with very different careers, they are perfect representatives of OU Law with one common and defining characteristic – service to others. The evening was full of laughter and meaning, and it was clear to all in attendance that OU Law is special.

I hope you enjoy the feature on Justice Sonia Sotomayor's memorable visit to OU Law (p. 2). She delivered her address in the Dick Bell Courtroom and engaged in a question-and-answer session with our students. As she answered questions, she left the stage and weaved among the rows of the stadium-seated students, stopping to take photographs with as many as possible. Her time with the students was followed by lunch with 200 alumni in the Sandy Bell Gallery of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. She made an indelible impression on us and promised to return to visit us again soon.

This year, the OU College of Law was the first law school in the nation to launch a college-wide Digital Initiative designed to prepare students for success in the digital world (p. 8). We believe tomorrow's most talented lawyers must be proficient with technology at the inception of their legal career. As the foundation to this initiative, every single student at OU Law received an iPad, at no cost to them. The students are then trained to use the iPads in academic and professional settings through a series of workshops and integrated curriculum. OU Law students will graduate technologically advanced with a distinct advantage in the job market.

A cornerstone of legal education is commitment to service. From the first day of orientation, OU Law impresses upon students that service to society is both an honor and an obligation that comes with being a member of our noble profession. Our students are responding to the call of service beyond one's self. This year, 97 percent of our incoming class pledged to perform 50 or 100 hours of pro bono service during their law school career. You can read more about OU Law's commitment to public service on page 16.

OU Law deeply appreciates the role each of you play in making it one of the nation's premier law schools. We thank you for continuing to be such an important part of our success.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz Jr.
Dean and Professor
Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law