

Sooner Lawyer Archive

Volume 2015 | Issue 1
Spring 2015

2015

Faculty News

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



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2015) "Faculty News," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2015: Iss. 1, Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2015/iss1/9>

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.

Faculty changes

▶ New faces and titles



Gail Mullins ('93) was named director of the Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy Program in which she has taught full time since 2002. Prior to joining the College of Law faculty, Mullins was in private practice and served as a lobbyist to the Oklahoma Legislature.



Joel Wegemer was promoted to deputy director of the law library, where he has served in various capacities for 18 years. He continues to lead the library's research service and has assumed additional responsibilities in library collection and budgeting issues. Wegemer is an adjunct professor of law, teaching legal research in the Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy Program as well as specialized legal research classes.

Faculty honors

▶ Forman, Bogan inducted as fellows of American College of Employee Benefits Counsel



Jonathan Forman

Professors Jonathan Forman and Donald Bogan were inducted as fellows of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel in recognition of their contributions to the advancement of the employee benefits field. The awards were presented to the two during the organization's 15th Annual Induction Dinner held in October in Washington, D.C.

"As one of the nation's premier public law schools, we strive to attract and retain the nation's top faculty," said Dean Joe Harroz. "Professor Forman's and Professor Bogan's years of dedication to the field of employment benefits law make them very deserving of this award."

Forman is the Alfred P. Murrah Professor of Law, and teaches courses on tax and pension law. He served in Washington, D.C., as the professor in residence for the Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel for the 2009-2010 academic year, and was a member of the board of trustees of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System from 2003 through 2011.

Forman has lectured around the world, testified before Congress, and served on numerous federal and state advisory committees. He has more than 300 publications, including his 2006 book, *Making America Work*.

Bogan holds the Thomas P. Hester Presidential Professorship, and teaches courses on health law, alternate dispute resolution and practical skills.

Bogan practiced law in Greensboro, North Carolina, for 15 years, specializing in consumer litigation, with an emphasis on health law, ERISA and insurance law issues. He has written numerous articles on various ERISA issues, with particular focus on ERISA's preemption of state laws regulating health insurance.



Donald Bogan

▶ Strickland receives literary award



Rennard Strickland, senior scholar in residence, received the 2015 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book within the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Presented during an April 11 ceremony, the award recognized Strickland’s body of work and his contributions to Oklahoma’s literary heritage.

Strickland, who is Osage and Cherokee and a citizen of the Cherokee nation, has led a distinguished career as a law professor, law school dean, author, art collector and legal historian. He is considered an authority on American Indian law. He has long been involved in legal education in the classroom and through participation and leadership in the Association of American Law Schools and the Society of American Law Teachers.

Books Strickland authored, or co-authored, include *Building One Fire: Cherokee Thought and Tribal Creativity* (2009); *The Lawyer Myth: A Defense of the American Legal Profession* (2008); *Grandfather Was a Good Witch: Growing Up Cherokee* (2006); *Tonto’s Revenge: Reflections on American Indian Policy and Culture* (1997); and *Sharing the Heritage: American Indian Art from Oklahoma Private Collections* (1994).

Beyond the classroom

▶ Aswad joins State Department group



Professor Evelyn Aswad was invited by the U.S. State Department to join its sub-working group on religion and conflict mitigation. The group will develop and present proposals to Secretary of State John Kerry about initiatives the United States should pursue at the United Nations to reduce religious violence around the world.

Aswad, the Herman G. Kaiser Chair in International Law, will be assisting the group with her expertise in international legal frameworks involving human rights, genocide and crimes against humanity, as well

as her experience negotiating at the U.N. General Assembly in New York and the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva.

“Given the atrocities happening in the Middle East, this is a timely and worthy endeavor, and I’m pleased to help out,” said Aswad. “I am hoping that students who have pledged to work a certain number of pro bono hours will dedicate some of those hours to helping me research and brainstorm about these timely issues.”

▶ Forman speaks in Poland



Professor Jonathan Forman (front center) traveled to Poznań, Poland, in October to speak at a conference on social security systems and demographical challenges. He delivered his paper, “Tontine Pensions: A Solution to the Chronic Underfunding of Traditional Pension Plans,” at the event held at Poznań University of Technology.

▶ Ragavan speaks at World Health Organization workshop



Professor Srividhya Ragavan spoke in August at a World Health Organization national consultation workshop on “Trade, Trust and Technology in Times of Universal Health Coverage.” Representatives from around the world gathered in India in an effort to build public understanding of issues impacting universal access to essential drugs, diagnostics and medical devices.

Ragavan gave presentations on voluntary licensing and compulsory licensing, and the issues presented by each, as they relate to universal health access.

She explained that as an increasing number of nations commit to universal health coverage, one of the most important challenges they face is ensuring access to drugs, diagnostics and medical devices. This has always required active government intervention in the form of public procurement and distribution, price controls, and quality assurance. Now, there are requirements for nationally and internationally coordinated positions within governments on trade, innovation and intellectual property regimes.

“The challenge for government is to ensure that access to medicines remains affordable,” said Ragavan. She added that “voluntary licenses are a step forward because it has the potential to increase access. But the need is for a robust license jurisprudence with adequate standards instituted to ameliorate or at least minimize the ill effects of inherent bargaining imparities with the patent owners.”

▶ 2014 Kuntz Conference draws record crowd



Michael Decker (center) is the recipient of the 2014 Eugene Kuntz Award. Pictured with Decker at the luncheon award ceremony are Kuntz family members, Travis Maloy, Karen Kuntz Maloy and Alicia Maloy Maddocks; and Owen L. Anderson, conference chair and Eugene Kuntz Professor of Oil, Gas and Natural Resources at OU Law.

The annual Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy was held November 7 in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center. The event, the third-largest energy conference in the nation, drew approximately 500 attorneys, landmen and other industry professionals interested in learning of recent developments in oil and gas industry law and policy.

The highlight of the annual conference is the presentation of the Eugene Kuntz Award, recognizing an attorney who has made major contributions to the field of natural resources law and policy. Michael Decker, director of administrative proceedings for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, received the 2014 Eugene Kuntz Award.

▶ **OLR symposium focuses on immigration law**



David A. Martin, former general counsel to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and principal deputy general counsel of the Department of Homeland Security, speaks at the symposium. Martin is a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law.

The *Oklahoma Law Review* and the College of Law annually host an academic symposium on a current legal issue. This year's symposium, "*Chae Chan Ping vs. United States: 125 Years of Immigration's Plenary Power Doctrine*," concentrated on Congress's plenary power to make determinations about who to admit into and exclude from the United States.

The November 14 event featured six legal scholars from around the country discussing immigration reform against the backdrop of the 1889 U.S. Supreme Court decision. Following the symposium, each of the scholars will write an article on the topic to be published in the fourth issue of the 2015-2016 *Oklahoma Law Review*.



Kevin Johnson, dean and professor at the University of California, Davis, School of Law, makes a point as OU Law Professor Michael Scaperlanda looks on. The *OLR* symposium, held in the Dick Bell Courtroom, featured two panels of immigration experts and was approved for CLE credit.