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From the Dean

Joseph Harroz Jr.

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EDITOR

JONELLA FRANK

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BRIAN KING

PHOTOGRAPHY

STEVE RICE

SHEVAUN WILLIAMS

NORMAN PARTY PICS

HUGH SCOTT

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

HALEY FULCO

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
COLLEGE OF LAW

DEAN

JOSEPH HARROZ JR.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMICS

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AND SCHOLARSHIP

STEVEN S. GENSLER

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENTS

SCOTT PALK

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CASEY DELANEY

CONTACT INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
COLLEGE OF LAW

300 TIMBERDELL ROAD

NORMAN, OK 73019-5081

ATTN: JONELLA FRANK

JFRANK@OU.EDU

(405) 325-5264

FAX: (405) 325-7474

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From the Dean

Dear Friends,

This issue of *Sooner Lawyer* is particularly meaningful to me as we celebrate the graduating Class of 2013. Three years ago, this class and I began at OU Law together. It has been a privilege to witness them grow from uncertain 1Ls to confident and talented graduates. And just as they have advanced our College, I am certain they will do much to benefit our noble profession. On May 11, we celebrated

their graduation with keynote speaker Jerry Stritzke ('85), who currently serves as the president and chief operating officer at Coach Inc. Stritzke left the graduates with a very important challenge, "Go out and change the world."

This issue is important because of its focus on philanthropy and scholarships. The generosity of our alumni and friends is essential to providing our students with an unsurpassed legal education, to thrive as the state's premier law school and to be one of our nation's great public law schools. In just the past three years, your generosity has more than doubled OU Law's scholarship endowment. And for the first time ever, this year OU Law will distribute more than \$1 million in private scholarships to our students. These scholarships enable our students to have a world-class legal education at a cost that enhances, rather than forecloses, opportunity.

I hope you enjoy the article featuring OU alumna Ginny Bass Carl, who has had an impressive legal career and now serves in the nonprofit sector. Ginny is committed to changing the world and knows what it is like to be a part of something larger than herself.

You will also see a fascinating feature on two alumni, a married couple, who after several years of practicing law in Oklahoma decided to move to Dubai. Michael Ridgeway now serves as general counsel of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This highly influential position focuses on a unique financial district inside the opulent desert city. One of the lessons learned early in this adventure was how knowledge of Native American law could be utilized in understanding legal issues in a foreign nation.

I am excited to share with you that OU Law is launching a number of new and exciting programs and degrees, detailed on page 13. OU Law J.D. students may now pursue a specialized certificate in one of three areas: Energy and Natural Resources, Business Entrepreneurship, and American Indian Law. These certificates are designed to give our students a further competitive edge as they enter the profession.

In addition, OU Law has created a new Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degree designed primarily for non-lawyers. Beginning this fall, the MLS degree will focus on one of two areas: Energy and Natural Resources Law and Indigenous Peoples Law. The MLS degree can be completed part time, and the Indigenous Peoples focus is earned online.

OU Law continues to be forward-thinking and anticipating the future needs of the legal market. We will keep our tuition low, seek outside scholarships, continue to add expert curriculum, focus on strong job opportunities and stay connected with our alumni.

We appreciate your continued support of the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Warmest regards,

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