

Sooner Lawyer Archive

Volume 2013 | Issue 1
Spring/Summer 2013

2013

Class Notes

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



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2013) "Class Notes," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2013: Iss. 1, Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2013/iss1/7>

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.

News briefs

1950s

Richard Steed ('52) was honored in March by the Pottawatomie County Bar Association for 60 years of membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association.

George Lindsay Peters ('53), of Shawnee, Oklahoma, was recognized for 60 years of membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association at a March event hosted by the Pottawatomie County Bar Association.

Mickey D. Wilson ('56) was selected for induction into the Tulsa Historical Society Hall of Fame. He served on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma from 1983 until his retirement in 1997.

1960s

C. Wayne Falkenstein ('60) joined RGG Law as of counsel attorney in the firm's Oklahoma City office. His practice is focused on Social Security disability.

Ralph G. Thompson ('61) was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Oklahoma at the 2013 commencement ceremony. He served for 32 years as a U.S. district judge for the Western District of Oklahoma and has held a variety of leadership positions within the federal judiciary and the university.

Norman A. Lamb ('63) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Cameron University Alumni Association. He served in the Oklahoma Senate from 1971 until 1988. In 1995, he was appointed as the Oklahoma secretary of veteran affairs, a position in which he served until 2011.



Tom A. Lucas ('64) retired August 1 as district judge in Oklahoma Judicial District 21, which includes Cleveland, McClain and Garvin counties. Prior to being elected district judge in 1994, he was in private practice for 30 years and also served as a municipal judge for the City of Norman, Oklahoma.

Sheppard F. "Mike" Miers Jr. ('66) received the Rick Kells Outstanding Tax Professional Award from the Oklahoma Society of CPAs. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals, where he works in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office. His areas of practice include tax law, employment law and estate planning.



Joel Jankowsky ('68) was named to *The National Law Journal* list of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." He is a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, based in Washington, D.C., where he represents clients on a variety of public policy matters, with an emphasis on entertainment, telecommunications and technology-related issues.

E. Elaine Schuster ('68) received the 2012 Sweet Briar College Distinguished Alumna Award. She practices law in Oklahoma City.

Charles G. Tate ('68), of Ardmore, Oklahoma, was appointed to the Oklahoma Historical Society board of directors. He is president of Hatak Shawi', a company that performs historical research for the Chickasaw Nation. He has previously been in private practice and served as a special judge in Carter County.

John D. Groendyke ('69) was selected for induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Groendyke Transport Inc. in Enid, Oklahoma.

1970s

Greg Meier ('73) was elected secretary-treasurer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association. He is the managing partner of Meier & Associates in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where his practice focuses on litigation and Indian law.

Steven A. Novick ('73) associated his practice as of counsel at the law firm of Smolen, Smolen & Roytman PLLC, Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice focuses upon plaintiff's employment matters, disability rights, plaintiff's civil rights cases and plaintiff's personal injury.

G. Blaine Schwabe III ('74) joined GableGotwals in the firm's Oklahoma City office. His practice areas include business litigation, bankruptcy and commercial law.

Robert D. Long ('78) was appointed to the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners representing the fifth judicial district. He is a partner in the Ardmore, Oklahoma, firm of Fischl, Culp, McMillin, Chaffin, Bahner & Long LLP.

Charles Rogers ('78) was named a senior assistant attorney general. He has served as a prosecutor in Oklahoma for 28 years, serving as an assistant attorney general in the Oklahoma attorney general's office, as well as an assistant district attorney for Payne, Logan and Oklahoma counties.

Lee Wilkins ('78) received the 2013 Grahovac Award for his commitment and service to Meritas, a professional services global network of business law firms. He is the partner-in-charge of the Dallas office of Cantey Hanger LLP, where he practices corporate, real estate and banking law.

Graydon Dean Luthey ('79) was elected a general member of the International Masters of Gaming Law. He is a shareholder of GableGotwals, based in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.



Edgar "Jed" C. Morrison Jr. ('79) was selected for inclusion in the 2013 edition of the *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* guide. He is a partner at Jackson Walker LLP in San Antonio, Texas,

where his practice focuses on health care law.

1980s

Mark D. Christiansen ('80) joined McAfee & Taft and will practice in Oklahoma City as co-leader of the firm's energy and oil and gas group.

Reggie N. Whitten ('80) was selected for induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He is a partner in the Whitten Burrage Law Firm in Oklahoma City.



Kenneth R. Farley ('81) was named associate district judge for McCurtain County. Prior to his appointment, he was in private practice in Idabel, Oklahoma, and served as assistant district attorney in McCurtain County.

Deirdre O. Dexter ('84) formed Deirdre Dexter PLLC in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. Her practice includes alternative dispute resolution, employment law and human resource issues.

Richard D. Nix ('85), shareholder of McAfee & Taft, was elected by the firm's board of directors to a third term as the firm's managing director. Based in the Oklahoma City office, his practice focuses on employee benefits.

G. Calvin Sharpe ('85) was named a shareholder of Phillips Murrah PC in Oklahoma City. His trial practice focuses on medical malpractice and personal injury cases.



Angela Ailles-Bahm ('86), of Oklahoma City, was elected vice president of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. Her firm serves as in-house counsel for State Farm.

Kyle E. Goerke ('86) was promoted to brigadier general in the Oklahoma National Guard, where he serves as assistant to the judge advocate general of the U.S. Army. As a civilian, he practices law in Watonga, Oklahoma.

Bill J. Hart Jr. ('86) joined Mayer Brown as a banking and finance partner in the firm's Houston office. He was previously a partner with Baker Botts in Houston.



Kim Korando ('86) was recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* guide for labor and employment law. She is a partner at the Raleigh, North Carolina, firm of Smith Anderson, where she leads the employment, labor and human resources practice group.

Tom Q. Ferguson ('87) was named to the executive committee of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson LLP. Based in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office, his practice emphasizes civil and commercial litigation in state and federal courts.

Rob Robertson ('87) was named a director of GableGotwals. Based in the Oklahoma City office, his practice primarily consists of complex litigation in a wide variety of areas.

Scott Meacham ('88) was named president and chief executive officer of iZE Inc., an Oklahoma City not-for-profit corporation focused on growing technology-based Oklahoma companies. He continues as a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, where he represents banking and financial clients.

Debbie Maddox ('89) was named general counsel for the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. She previously served as assistant general counsel for the Oklahoma Bar Association and attorney with the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System.

1990s

Robert L. Garbrecht ('90) was elected to the board of directors of McAfee & Taft. Based in the firm's Oklahoma City office, he is a commercial transactions attorney who previously served as leader of the firm's real estate group.

Paula Inge ('90) was appointed district judge for Atoka and Coal counties. She previously practiced law in Atoka, Oklahoma, and was chief financial officer for Mathis Brothers Furniture.



Catherine L. Campbell ('91) was named a shareholder of Phillips Murrah PC in Oklahoma City. She focuses on state and federal appellate practice.

Richard M. Carson ('91), of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was elected to serve as secretary of GableGotwals. His clients consist primarily of public energy companies, large and small businesses in various industries, and financial institutions.

Malinda S. Matlock ('91) was elected president of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. She is a partner at Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green LLP, based in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

Sharon Voorhees ('91) was elected 2013 chairperson for the Oklahoma Community Service Commission, on which she has served since 2002. She is a partner in the Shelton Voorhees Law Group in Oklahoma City.

Paul E. Vrana ('92) was elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a partner in Jackson Walker LLP, based in the firm's Fort Worth, Texas, office, where he is co-chair of the energy practice group.

Michael McBride ('93) received the inaugural Justice Rudolph Hargrave prize for outstanding scholarly article at the Oklahoma Supreme Court Sovereignty Symposium in Oklahoma City. He is a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, and chair of the Indian law and gaming practice group in the firm's Tulsa, Oklahoma, office.

Carrie L. Palmer ('93) was elected secretary of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. She practices in Oklahoma City with Resolution Legal Group, focusing on general business litigation and general business consulting, strategic planning and crisis management.



Christine "Chris" Larkin ('94) was named vice president and general counsel of A. H. Belo Corporation, a Dallas-based newspaper publishing company. She previously worked for an affiliated television broadcasting company as assistant general counsel and was a partner in a Dallas law firm.

Todd A. McKinnis ('94) joined the Edmond, Oklahoma, law firm of Rubenstein & Pitts PLLC. His areas of practice include real estate, commercial law and charitable and nonprofit organizations.

Nicole Scott ('94) was inducted into the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding service to rural America and the continued conservation of natural resources. She is the majority staff director of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee.

Becky Dias Borthwick ('95) was appointed as a municipal court judge in Springfield, Missouri. She is a managing partner with insurance defense firm Franke, Schultz & Mullen, based in the Springfield office.

Steven J. Johnson ('95) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. He is a member of the Oklahoma City firm of Foliart Huff Ottaway & Bottom.

Kathryn D. Terry ('96) was named a shareholder of the Oklahoma City firm of Phillips Murrah PC. Her practice includes insurance coverage, labor and employment, and civil rights defense.

Jennifer R. Annis ('98) was elected president-elect of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. She is a partner at Atkinson, Haskins, Nellis, Brittingham, Gladd & Carwile PC, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Julie Bays ('98) was appointed chief of the public protection unit in the Oklahoma attorney general's office. She previously served as an assistant attorney general in that unit.

Jason B. Cagle ('99) was named chief financial officer of United Surgical Partners International. He has been with the company more than 10 years and most recently served as senior vice president, general counsel and head of acquisitions.

Amy Stipe ('99) was named a director of GableGotwals. She works in the firm's Oklahoma City office, where her practice focuses on civil litigation.

2000s



Adam Childers ('00) was named to the board of directors of the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Employer Council. He is a director at Crowe & Dunlevy and co-chair of the firm's labor and employment section.

Erik Johnson ('00) was named assistant district attorney for Coal County. He previously was in private practice in Ada, Oklahoma.

Caroline Drummond ('01) joined Drummond Law PLLC and is based in the firm's Pawhuska, Oklahoma, office. Her practice is focused on general civil, domestic and criminal defense law.



Leah T. Rudnicki ('01) joined Reed Smith LLP in its Houston office as a partner in the commercial litigation practice group. She previously practiced with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

W. Joseph Pickard ('02) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. He is managing partner of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, office of Sweet Law.

Lindsay J. McDowell ('03) was elected to the board of directors of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. She is an associate with Rhodes Hieronymus in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Spencer B. Housley ('04) founded Housley Law Group PLLC in Oklahoma City. The firm's practice will focus primarily on personal injury, medical malpractice and family law.

Adam J. Strange ('04) was named director at Jones, Gotcher & Bogan PC in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice includes litigation, commercial transactions and construction law.



Daniel P. Johnson ('05) was named a director of Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm's Oklahoma City office. Focusing on employment litigation, he represents employers in work-related matters.

David B. Mahaffey ('05) was elected shareholder of the Oklahoma City firm of Mahaffey & Gore PC. His oil and gas practice includes title examination, probate and commercial transactions.



Rania Nasreddine ('05) became a shareholder of GableGotwals. She works in the Tulsa office, where her practice focuses on litigation, real estate and energy, oil and gas law.

Matthew D. Jankowski ('06) was elected as a new shareholder at Mahaffey & Gore PC in Oklahoma City. His practices focuses on title examination and oil and gas transactional matters.

Justin Pybas ('06) was named partner of Conner & Winters. He works in the firm's Oklahoma City office representing financial institutions and corporate clients.



Rick L. Warren ('06) was named partner with Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville of Oklahoma City. His practice includes business law, private placement securities offerings and sports franchises.

Andre Caldwell ('08) was named to the board of directors of Positive Tomorrows, a private, tuition-free elementary school in Oklahoma City that works to meet the educational and social service needs of homeless children and their families. He is an associate at Crowe & Dunlevy.

Kristin Huffaker Greenhaw ('08) was named associate general counsel for Sonic Corp. of Oklahoma City. She previously worked as a senior attorney for AT&T and as an associate with Crowe & Dunlevy.

Brent S. Howard ('08) was appointed as a member of the board of regents of Western Oklahoma State College in Altus. Areas of focus for his Altus law practice include estate planning, business planning, real estate and tax return preparation.

Jeff Virgin ('08) was named special judge for McClain and Garvin counties in Oklahoma Judicial District 21. He previously worked as an assistant district attorney in the same counties.

James Wylie ('08) joined the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Regulations in Washington, D.C. He previously worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing Division in Washington, D.C.

Richard D. Johnson ('09) joined McAfee & Taft in the Oklahoma City office, where his practice will focus on business and commercial transactions. He previously worked as a state and local tax accountant for a large oil and gas company and maintained a private law practice.

Blake Lynch ('09) co-founded Wagner and Lynch, a law firm with offices in McAlester and Wilburton, Oklahoma. He has practiced law in that area of the state since graduating from law school.

Megan Brooke Tilly ('09) was named chief of the Oklahoma attorney general's Oklahoma multicounty grand jury unit. Prior to working in that unit as an assistant attorney general, she served as an assistant district attorney for Logan and Payne counties.

2010s



Sofia Nagda ('10) was named to the "Lawyers of Color Hot List," which recognized junior or mid-level attorneys in the legal profession. She is an associate with Fellers Snider in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where her

practice focuses on general litigation, utility regulation and employment matters.

Aaron C. Parks ('10) joined the Edmond, Oklahoma, law firm of Rubenstein & Pitts PLLC as an associate. His practice includes civil and business litigation, real estate and corporate law.

Adam L. Wilson ('10) became an associate at Robinett Murphy & Shrier of Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice will focus on civil litigation.

Kayna Stavast-Piper ('11) joined the Office of the Attorney General of Texas as an assistant attorney general in the antitrust section of the consumer protection division in Austin, Texas. She previously served as staff attorney in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Isaac B. Helmerich ('12) joined Newton, O'Connor, Turner & Ketchum PC, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, as an associate attorney. His practice focuses on business and corporate law, estate planning and commercial transactions.

Hailey Hopper ('12) became an associate of Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green LLP. She works in the firm's Oklahoma City office, focusing on general civil litigation and insurance defense law.



Anne Sickles Maguire ('12) joined Latham, Wagner, Steele & Lehman PC in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her areas of practice include Workers' Compensation defense and Workers' Compensation self-insurance.

Mitch McCuistian ('12) joined the law firm of Evan & Davis as an associate in the Edmond, Oklahoma, office. His practice focuses on general civil litigation, estate planning and business organization and succession planning.

Jessica Speegle ('12) joined Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green LLP as an associate in Oklahoma City. Her areas of practice include general civil litigation and insurance defense law.

Trista E. Wilson ('12) joined Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc. as a staff attorney in the Norman, Oklahoma, office. Her area of practice is foreclosure defense.

Ashley Powell ('13) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville. She previously served as a summer associate for the firm.



► Luncheon honors Colbert and Lewis

OU Law alumni, faculty and students gathered for a luncheon April 18 at Devon Tower to honor Tom Colbert ('82) and David Lewis, who have made history through their judicial service on Oklahoma's highest courts.

In January, Colbert was sworn in as the first African-American chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and Lewis was sworn in as the first African-American presiding judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. Each was

the first African-American to serve on their respective courts when they were appointed, Colbert in 2004 and Lewis in 2005.

"We are honored to count Chief Justice Colbert and Presiding Judge Lewis among our alumni," said OU Law Dean Joe Harroz. "Not only have they shaped history through their leadership, but also they exemplify the highest degree of public service."

Pictured (*above*) at the luncheon are OU Law Student Bar Association President Camal Pennington, Presiding Judge David Lewis, Chief Justice Tom Colbert and OU Law Dean Joe Harroz.



▶ Class of 1963 reunites

The Class of 1963 held a reunion April 26 and 27. On the first evening, class members enjoyed a reception and dinner in Monnet Hall, where they attended law school.

Twenty-eight members of the Class of 1963 pose for a group photo.



Pictured at the reception in Monnet Hall are classmates Tom McDaniel, W.F. Parrish, Brian Upp, Robert W. Collier, James Hardwick and Larry Derryberry.



The second evening of the event was held in Coats Hall, where class members and spouses attended a reception in the Sneed Lounge and Boren Atrium and dinner in the Chapman Reading Room of the Donald E. Pray Law Library. Here, Andy Coats, 1963 graduate and OU Law dean emeritus, addresses the group at the reception.

► **BLSA hosts alumni event**

The Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chapter of the Black Law Students Association invited alumni to return to the College of Law April 19 for a dinner recognizing four alumni. Honored at the Trailblazers Dinner were Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Colbert ('82), Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge David Lewis ('83), John E. Green ('57), former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma and Stan Evans ('03), former OU Law dean of students.

Following dinner in the Boren Atrium, the students and their guests moved to the Bell Courtroom for a performance of a play dramatizing Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher's struggle to be admitted to study law at OU.



Stan Evans, one of the alumni honored, visits with Jared Gaither and Courtney Hilliard at the BLSA Alumni Weekend Trailblazers Dinner.

We remember

Richard O. Battles ('50)

Kenneth R. Coe ('75)

J. William "Bill" Conger ('70)

Frantz C. Conrad ('50)

Sandee Coogan ('87)

Joel Kelly Crumpley ('79)

G. Howard Dearing ('51)

Alan Curtis Durbin ('72)

Frank Elkouri ('47)

Scott L. Graham ('63)

John C. Harrington Jr. ('55)

Margaret Ann Jones Bailey Hartzog ('74)

Ralph B. Hodges ('54)

Karen Elisabeth "Kay" Huff ('74)

Peter Michael Keltch ('71)

Warner Earl Lovell Jr. ('70)

Michael Raymond McKee ('71)

Lloyd G. Minter ('43)

Gary Lucas Neal ('75)

Michael Ronald Neda ('95)

Edwin Price Ramsey ('52)

Horace G. Rhodes ('55)

D.B. "Barry" Rooker III ('69)

John R. Smith ('59)

Thomas H. Trower ('42)

Rodney D. Watson ('83)

William J. Whistler ('55)