

# Sooner Lawyer Archive

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Volume 2013 | Issue 2  
*Fall 2013/Winter 2014*

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2013

## From the Dean

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### Recommended Citation

Harroz, Joseph Jr. (2013) "From the Dean," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2013: Iss. 2, Article 2.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2013/iss2/2>

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Sooner Lawyer is published two times per year by the University of Oklahoma College of Law. This publication, printed by University Printing Services, is issued by the University of Oklahoma. 10,100 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of 31 cents per copy to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

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## From the Dean

Dear Friends,

As Oklahoma's premier law school, it is appropriate and important that OU Law is flourishing as a national leader in Native American law. This issue of *Sooner Lawyer* showcases a number of the important pieces that comprise our comprehensive program. Woven into the fabric of the College, Native American law is central to our

strategic vision and an integral part of our curriculum.

Our feature story focuses on the Chickasaw Nation's historic gift this fall to establish the Chickasaw Nation Native American Law Chair, the first of its kind in the United States. This chair will allow OU Law to attract and retain, as a permanent faculty member, the most outstanding scholar in Native American law. The national reputation of this scholar will elevate and enrich the prominence of the OU College of Law Native American Law Program. This gift is truly remarkable, and we are grateful to the Chickasaw Nation for its generosity.

In this issue, you will find updates on a few of our recent Native American Law Program graduates who have embarked on important careers in this field. You will also see a focus on OU Law faculty who specialize in this notable area of law.

There is a wonderful highlight of the James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection, one of the most important private collections of Native American art in the United States. OU Law is privileged to host over 300 pieces from this extraordinary collection which now adorn the grand spaces of the Donald E. Pray Law Library and the hallways of all three floors of the College of Law. You can view several photographs of the collection in this edition of *Sooner Lawyer*, but we invite you to visit the College so that you may see this impressive collection in person.

This past fall, we hosted the third Order of the Owl Hall of Fame Dinner. In this issue, we feature the four alumni inducted into the Order of the Owl Hall of Fame: Michael Burrage, Kathy Taylor, Ralph Thompson and Lee West. The induction dinner was filled with laughter and tributes as we recognized their exemplary leadership and accomplishments. OU Law is honored to have these four alumni inducted into our most prestigious society.

Finally, this summer is the 40th anniversary of OU Law's partnership with Oxford University. To celebrate, we are hosting a four-day alumni celebration, July 6-10, at Oxford. On page 16, you can read about our wonderful Oxford summer program and consider joining us for this special reunion. Whether you attended Oxford while in law school – or wish you had – this is going to be a remarkable alumni event.

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