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Staff changes

► New faces and titles



Elizabeth Base ('94) was named director of the Office of Career Development in June after serving as the associate director for two years. Prior to joining the College of Law, she served as the pre-law adviser for OU undergraduates after practicing law in Norman for 15 years.



Autumn Lockett was promoted to director of admissions in October. In this position, she oversees all aspects of recruitment and admission of students. She has worked at OU Law for two years, previously serving as an admissions counselor.



Autumn Hobbs began in August as assistant to the associate dean for academics and dean's suite receptionist. Before coming to OU Law, she served as director of social services for Bridges, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to homeless high school students living in Norman, Oklahoma.



Trudy Sickles returned to the College of Law staff in December as the associate director of admissions. From 2004 until 2009, she worked as staff assistant in the Office of Career Development.



Becky Lucas was named registrar and study abroad coordinator in August. Before assuming these responsibilities, she worked at OU Law for four years as assistant to the associate dean for academics and dean's suite receptionist.



Ashley Streight ('09) began in August as the associate director of the Office of Career Development. She joined the staff after working as a title specialist at Chesapeake Energy Corporation and an associate at Ryan Whaley Coldiron Shandy PLLC in Oklahoma City.



Shannon Overstreet came to the College of Law in July as a financial associate. She has been employed at OU since 1999, and prior to joining the OU Law staff, she worked at the Cognitive Science Research Center, overseeing the financial and personnel matters.



Jessica Jones ('09) became the director of communications in February. Before attending and graduating OU Law, Jessica spent six years as an anchor and reporter in Wausau, Wisconsin, and El Paso, Texas.



Lisa Ross joined the OU Law staff in August as the executive assistant to Dean Joe Harroz. She previously worked in the OU Office of Legal Counsel, where she served as assistant to the general counsel for 13 years, which includes the period Harroz served as general counsel.

► **State judges meet in Coats Hall**

Members of the state judiciary met at the OU College of Law July 17 to kick off the 2013 meeting of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference. Judges from around the state gathered in the Bell Courtroom for the first day of the three-day educational and training meeting, held for the first time in Norman, Oklahoma. The opening day of the event closed with a reception in the Sneed Lounge and Boren Atrium, sponsored by OU Law and the Cleveland County Bar Association.



Pictured at the reception for the state judiciary are Michael Evans ('73), administrative director of the courts; William C. Hetherington Jr., Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals judge; and John Blake ('74), retired Garvin County associate district judge.

► **Bolivian indigenous law scholars visit College of Law**



The Bolivian students and professors participate in a workshop led by OU Law Professor Lindsay Robertson and Adjunct Professor Alvaro Baca.

Ten Bolivian professors and students were guests of OU Law in August. The group participated in workshops, interacted with Native American Law Program students and professors, and visited interesting sites around Oklahoma.

Professors Lindsay Robertson and Taiawagi Helton coordinated the 10-day visit, which culminated with the signing of an academic cooperation agreement between the OU College of Law and the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés Faculty of Law and Political Sciences in La Paz, Bolivia.

- ▶ Orientation and academic convocation

Welcome first-year students

August 15-16



► CDO presents Lunch and Learn events for students

The Office of Career Development (CDO) coordinated 12 Lunch and Learn events for students during the fall semester. Speakers provided information about a variety of possible employment opportunities, including the energy industry, the health care industry, government positions and different types of law practice.

The CDO will continue providing these educational events for law students through the end of the academic year. Fifteen Lunch and Learn programs are scheduled for the spring semester.



Employment law was the Lunch and Learn topic on November 20. Michael F. Lauderdale ('90), shareholder, director and co-leader of the McAfee & Taft labor and employment law group, talks to students about the focus of his practice.



Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt tells students, "We're hiring and we want you to consider being part of our team at the Attorney General's Office."



CDO staff members welcome Chesapeake employees to the College of Law. Pictured above are Chesapeake recruiting coordinators Tanzeena Francka and Addie Triska; Chesapeake attorney Teresa Baumann ('12); CDO Associate Director Morgan Hager; CDO Director Elizabeth Base ('94); CDO Associate Director Ashley Streight ('09); and Chesapeake attorney Corinne Simon ('09).

► Legal Clinic hosts dinner for area judges

Each semester, the OU Legal Clinic hosts a dinner to introduce clinic students to judges from Cleveland and McClain counties, where they will be representing clients. The event provides students with an opportunity to network and interact with the judges in a professional, yet informal, setting. Pictured at right, at the August 26 dinner in the Sneed Lounge, are 2L Rebecca Ross, Cleveland County District Judge Lori Walkley ('94) and 2L Daniel Buran.



▶ Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville hosts 1L networking event



Len Cason ('72), partner in Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, welcomes first-year students to the September 12 networking reception.

Less than a month after starting classes, more than 100 first-year students attended a networking reception at the downtown Oklahoma City law office of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville. Students visited with attorneys, learning about the firm's practice areas and clients. Firm members explained their specific legal career paths and offered tips for students desiring a similar type of practice.

"This is often a student's first exposure to a law firm and interacting with attorneys," said OU Law Dean Joe Harroz. "Hartzog provides an incredible opportunity for these students to learn about the operations of a firm and to begin establishing network contacts with legal professionals. We are truly grateful for the firm's commitment to mentoring the future of the legal profession."

▶ Recent grads sworn in as attorneys



OU Law graduates take the Oath of Attorney during the Oklahoma Bar Association Admission Ceremony on September 25 in the House of Representatives Chambers at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Bar Association

► **Fellers Snider helps orient first-years students**

The Fellers Snider law firm joined with the Office of Career Development on October 2 for the annual 1L orientation and reception. The incoming class learned about the services available to them from the CDO, and got advice from practicing attorneys about the importance of internships and other career development opportunities. Following the orientation in the Bell Courtroom, students and Fellers Snider attorneys had an opportunity to visit at a reception hosted by the firm in the Boren Atrium.



Fellers Snider attorneys Lance Leffel ('02), Sofia Nagda ('10) and Nicholas Merkley ('04) participated in the 1L orientation in the Dick Bell Courtroom.



Students and attorneys visit at a reception in the Boren Atrium following the orientation session.

► **OU Law named a "Best Value" law school**

The University of Oklahoma College of Law was ranked number 16 out of 200 law schools nationwide in the 2013 *National Jurist* list of "Best Value" law schools. The list ranks the Top 20 law schools based on placement in legal jobs, bar passage rates and amounts of student debt, among other criteria, and provides letter grades for schools below the Top 20.

OU Law is one of two law schools in the Big 12 to make the list and the only law school in Oklahoma to be included. This is OU's second consecutive year in the Top 20.

"OU Law is honored to be recognized again as a Top 20 Best Value Law School by *National Jurist*," said Dean Joe Harroz. "Our ranking reflects that we are providing an unsurpassed legal education at a reasonable price. In the last three years, OU Law has more than tripled the number of employers recruiting at OU Law; added three world-class, full-time faculty; and doubled its scholarship endowment. We are pleased that national publications are recognizing the exceptional value of the OU Law degree."

► 2Ls win Calvert Moot Court Competition



Second-year students Kelsey Frobisher and Blake Johnson won the 2013 Calvert Moot Court Competition.



The judges congratulate both teams at the conclusion of the final round of the competition.

On October 18, second-year students Kelsey Frobisher and Blake Johnson were declared the winning team in the 2013 Calvert Moot Court Competition. Also competing in the final round was the team of Joe Trail and Mahtab Doty, also second-year students.

“All of these students did a tremendous job,” OU Law Dean Joe Harroz said. “The distinguished panel of judges complimented both sides on their preparation and professionalism.”

Joining Harroz on the judging panel were Noma Gurich ('78), Oklahoma Supreme Court; Douglas Combs, Oklahoma Supreme Court; William C. Hetherington Jr., Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals; Stephen Friot ('72), U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; David Russell ('65), U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; Wayne Alley, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma (retired) and jurist in residence; and Rick Tepker, Floyd & Irma Calvert Chair in Law and Liberty Professor of Law.



The winning team is flanked by members of the judging panel.

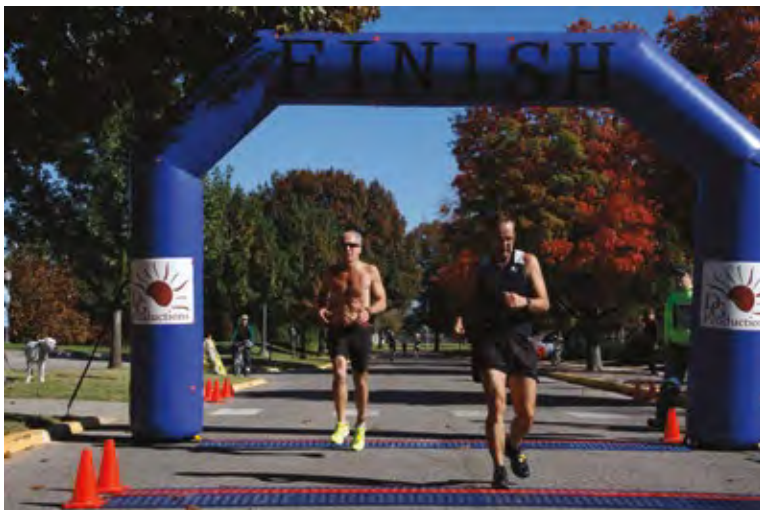
▶ **2013 Race Judicata receives certification**

The 2013 Race Judicata was held November 2. For the first time in the history of the race, the event was certified by USA Track and Field. Race Judicata is a 5K run and one-mile walk hosted by the Student Bar Association to raise funds for the Cindy Foley Memorial Scholarship Fund. The event is held in honor of the late Cindy Foley, a faculty member at the College of Law who dedicated her life to public service.

The family-friendly event, where children, dogs and costumes were welcomed, drew participants and spectators from the College of Law and the community.



Professor Steve Knippenberg checks in for the race.



Race Judicata runners cross the finish line.

▶ **OAWL Auction marks 25th anniversary**

The Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law held the 25th Annual OAWL Charity Auction benefiting the Norman Women's Resource Center October 24 at O'Connell's Irish Pub and Grille on Campus Corner. The event raises awareness of the work done by the WRC and has become an important source of funding for the nonprofit.

"Over the past 25 years, the OAWL annual donation has not only grown in size, but in significance to the mission and continued vitality of the Resource Center," said Mary Sue Backus, OAWL faculty adviser. "We can be very proud of the law school's long-standing relationship and unflagging support of this important community resource."



As a result of the auction, OAWL was able to donate \$11,000 to the Norman Women's Resource Center. Mehronissa Modgil, OAWL president, and Caroline Lewis, auction chair, present a check to JoAnn Smith, WRC executive director.

▶ Harold Koh visits OU Law

Harold Hongju Koh, an international law professor at Yale Law School, spoke to a packed house at the College of Law November 21. Koh first began teaching at Yale Law in 1985, and served as dean from 2004 until 2009, when he left to join the U.S. Department of State as legal adviser. He returned to Yale in January 2013 after nearly four years of service with the U.S. Department of State.

Koh's presentation, "Obama Global Legal Strategy," explained the concept of using an international law "smart power" approach in dealing with international affairs complicated by the inability of governments to react to evolving societies and circumstances. Through engagement, translation and leverage, Koh believes some of the tension between 20th-century laws and 21st-century problems could be eased.



Harold Koh discusses "smart power" during a visit to OU Law.

▶ Competition teams rack up successes

The Competitions Program at the College of Law is comprised of three major components: in-school competitions, traveling team competitions and an intercollegiate mock trial competition. The moot court portion of the program was recently recognized as a Top 20 program by the Berkeley Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston. In its 2013 Moot Court Program Ranking, OU Law's moot court program was ranked as number 19 among all moot court programs in the nation.

The significance of participating in the OU College of Law Competitions Program was succinctly stated by one student competitor:

"Each year students from OU Law compete in various regional and national moot court, mock trial, arbitration, negotiation, and mediation competitions. These competitions are invaluable to students, as we hone important legal practice skills. Competitions are also an opportunity to represent OU Law on a national level."

— Elise Puma, 2L



Two OU Law teams coached by Professor Gail Mullins competed in November at the National Health Law Moot Court Competition in Carbondale, Illinois. Pictured at left are Elizabeth Isaacs, Elise Puma, Gail Mullins, Rachel Sibila and Justin Hedges.

The fall competition season was a busy one. Many students, faculty, staff and friends of the OU College of Law are involved in the numerous hours of preparation and practice required for each competition. A few highlights from the fall competitions are found below.

National Health Law Moot Court Competition

Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois

The teams of Elizabeth Isaacs/Elise Puma and Rachel Sibila/Justin Hedges were coached by Professor Gail Mullins. Isaacs/Puma advanced to the final round and placed second. Sibila/Hedges advanced to the quarterfinals and placed seventh.

American Bar Association Negotiation Regional Competition

Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth, Texas

The team of Zach Ryan/Taylor Jones advanced as top seed into the final rounds, finally placing second in the competition. The team will compete in the 2014 Negotiation Competition National Finals, which takes place during the ABA Midyear Meeting in Chicago in February. Professor Erin Means coaches the team.

▶ **John B. Turner LL.M. Program participants gain recognition**

Graduates of the John B. Turner LL.M. Program, as well as current LL.M. students have received recognition for their scholarly work.

Laís Palazzo Almada (LL.M. '13) co-authored "Oil Royalties Distribution in Brazil: From the Petroleum Law to the Brazilian Supreme Court Decision," presented at the Brazilian Congress of Energy (2013), held in Rio de Janeiro in October.

Almada also co-authored "Oil & Gas Industry in Brazil: A Brief History and Legal Framework," which was published in the 2013 issue of *Panorama of Brazilian Law*.

Carolina Araújo de Azevedo (LL.M. '13) co-authored "The Relationship between Corruption and Foreign Investments in Brazil: Some Responses Against Corruption" in the 2013 issue of *Panorama of Brazilian Law*.

Nicolas de la Plaza (LL.M. '13) published "The Agreement With Chevron Is a Good Agreement" in the Argentine online journal, *infobae.com*, on July 20, 2013. The article deals with the oil and gas concession agreement between YPF, the Argentine national oil company, and Chevron.

A follow-up article, "The Chevron Deal Is Still Good," was included in the October 24, 2013, edition of the same online journal. This article discussed some force majeure clauses in the agreement, previously disclosed in a story in *The New York Times*.

Current student **Hirdan Katarina de Medeiros Costa** published "Institutional Analysis and the 'Resource Curse' in Developing Countries" in the December 2013 issue of *Energy Policy*.

Costa also co-authored "Oil Royalties Distribution in Brazil: From the Petroleum Law to the Brazilian Supreme Court Decision," presented at the Brazilian Congress of Energy (2013), held in Rio de Janeiro in October.

In addition, Costa was recognized by the Brazilian Petroleum and Gas Association for having written the best 2013 doctoral tome in/on petroleum, natural gas and biofuels in the category law, economics, regulation and energy management.

Current student **Nawzad M. Yasin** received a \$5,000 summer research grant from the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators to interview Kurdish and Iraqi officials and to prepare research on possible solutions to the Iraq-Kurdistan oil impasse.

▶ **Russian law professors visit OU College of Law**



A group of law professors from Lobachevsky State University at Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation, were special dinner guests of the OU College of Law on September 30. The Russian delegation, hosted by Judge Stephen P. Friot ('72) of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, were in Oklahoma as part of the Open World exchange program.

▶ **Documentary film, book tell Sister Rosemary's story**



Reggie Whitten ('80), of Pros For Africa, Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and Dean Joe Harroz pause for a photo at a special brunch presentation November 25 in the Sneed Lounge. Sister Rosemary's work at St. Monica's vocational school in Gulu, Uganda, is the subject of *Sewing Hope*, a 2013 documentary film and book.