

Sooner Lawyer Archive

Volume 2013 | Issue 2
Fall 2013/Winter 2014

2013

Faculty News

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Faculty News," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2013: Iss. 2, Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2013/iss2/10>

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Faculty changes

► New faces and titles



Evelyn Aswad joined the OU College of Law in August as professor of law and the Herman G. Kaiser Chair in International Law. She teaches courses in International Human Rights Law, International Law Foundations and International Business Transactions, as well as an Arab Spring seminar. Her

current research interests focus on the fundamental freedoms of expression, religion and assembly.

Aswad serves on the Advisory Committee on International Law to the U.S. Department of State Office of the Legal Adviser. She also has been appointed to serve as the U.S. substitute member on the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law, which issues opinions on a variety of international human rights, constitutional justice and rule of law matters to governments as well as international organizations.

Prior to joining OU Law, Aswad served for about 14 years as an attorney in the Legal Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, most recently as the head of the Office of Human Rights and Refugees. In previous legal positions at the State Department, she worked on non-proliferation as well as employment law matters. She also taught international human rights law and multilateral negotiations to U.S. diplomats at the Department's Foreign Service Institute. She taught international courses as an adjunct professor at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service as well as its Law Center. Prior to joining the State Department, she worked at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Arnold & Porter and clerked for the Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C.



Maria Kolar is a visiting assistant professor of Legal Research and Writing, having joined the OU College of Law faculty in August.

She graduated from Yale Law School in 1995, where she was an editor and served on the Admissions Committee for *The Yale Law Journal*. She was also

an editor on the *Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities*. In her

third year of law school, she was a research assistant and co-taught a Legal Research and Writing course.

Following law school, Kolar served as a law clerk for the Honorable Joel M. Flaum on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She then moved to Oklahoma and worked in private practice as a litigation associate at McAfee & Taft and Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville. Kolar was actively involved with the Young Lawyers Division of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and served on its board of directors. In 2000, she received the Oklahoma County Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Kolar served as a law clerk for the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals for nearly 13 years, first for the Honorable Charles S. Chapel and later, for the Honorable Clancy Smith. She also served as a law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, working solely on capital habeas corpus cases.



Rhett Larson joined the OU Law faculty in August. He teaches Property, Administrative Law, Water Law, and other courses in the field of natural resource law.

Prior to joining the faculty, Larson taught at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Previously, he practiced environmental and natural resource law in Phoenix for several years and studied water science, policy and management at the University of Oxford as a Weidenfeld Scholar.

Larson's scholarship focuses on water law and policy, particularly the security and international aspects of water resource management. His most recent paper, published in the *Utah Law Review*, uses the example of desalination in international river basins to propose reforms to international law to encourage the responsible development and implementation of new technologies to facilitate water security.

Faculty honors

▶ Aswad appointed to Venice Commission

In June, Professor Evelyn Aswad was appointed to serve as the United States substitute member on the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law, which is better known as the Venice Commission. The Venice Commission was established in 1990 to assist emerging Eastern European democracies in drafting constitutions. Experts appointed to the Commission serve in their independent capacity.



Professor Evelyn Aswad listens intently during the Istanbul Process conference in Geneva.

The Venice Commission now provides advice on human rights and rule of law matters to a wide variety of countries. At the June meeting of the Venice Commission, Aswad participated in consideration of Egypt's draft NGO (nongovernmental organizations) law. She provided recommendations on a variety of matters, including Tunisia's constitution, at the October meeting.

Also in June, Aswad participated in an Istanbul Process conference held at the United Nations in Geneva. As an international human rights expert, Aswad was invited to speak

to U.N. member countries on the state of international law with respect to freedom of expression and incitement to imminent violence.

The Istanbul Process is an initiative launched by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others to combat religious intolerance throughout the world. The Process implements a landmark U.N. Human Rights Council resolution that sets forth an action-oriented approach to combatting

religious intolerance while promoting freedom of expression, freedom of religion and non-discrimination.

"I believe the Istanbul Process has the potential to build bridges in the international community on one of the critical issues of our time," Professor Aswad said.

▶ Anderson honored by alma mater

Professor Owen Anderson, a recognized expert in international petroleum transactional law, was honored as an outstanding alumni of the University of North Dakota at the school's homecoming in October. He was named a recipient of the Sioux Award, the highest honor given by the UND Alumni Association and Foundation at a ceremony in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in 1971 and a law degree from UND.

Anderson is the Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil, Gas and Natural Resources, a George Lynn Cross Research Professor, and director of the John B. Turner LL.M. Program in Energy, Natural Resources and Indigenous Peoples Law.

Professor Owen Anderson (second from right) accepts the University of North Dakota Sioux Award from Dr. Robert Kelley, UND president; Dr. Debbie Storrs, dean of Arts and Sciences; Kathryn Rand, dean of School of Law; and Tim O'Keefe, chief executive officer/executive vice president of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation.



Beyond the classroom

▶ Tisdal recognized at Kuntz Conference



Mart Tisdal and his wife, Marian, pose for a photo with the 2013 Eugene Kuntz Award.

Mart Tisdal ('76) was named the recipient of the 2013 Eugene Kuntz Award at the annual Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy held in Oklahoma City November 8. Established in 1993 to honor Eugene Kuntz, a national expert on oil and gas law, former dean, and oil and gas law professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, the award is presented annually to an attorney who has made major contributions to the field of natural resources law and policy.

The Kuntz Award is one of the most respected awards given to attorneys in the field and is a highlight of the annual conference co-sponsored by OU Law, OU Outreach and the Energy and Natural Resources Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association. The conference provides updates on current law and policy in the oil and gas industry for attorneys, landmen and other industry professionals.

Tisdal is a partner in Tisdal & O'Hara PLLC, and practices in the firm's Clinton, Oklahoma, office. His practice areas include oil and gas law and complex civil litigation in the areas of ad valorem taxation of energy-related property, business law, commercial disputes, and county government representation.

▶ OU Law announces new agreement with German university

Professor Lindsay Robertson, faculty director of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy, has entered into an academic cooperation agreement with Mita Banerjee, director of the Center for Comparative Native and Indigenous Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. The universities agreed to strengthen their relationship and explore the joint production of scholarship.

"This partnership will create a unique, international opportunity for students, allowing for further expansion in their studies of indigenous peoples," Robertson said.

▶ OLR symposium features scholars from across the nation



OU Law Professor Stephen Henderson opens the 2013 *Oklahoma Law Review* Symposium held November 15 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. Two panels of law professors discussed "Law Enforcement Access to Third Party Records." Much of their discussion centered on the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Standards.