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Meet the Class of 2015

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Meet the Class of 2015

BY EVIE HOLZER

OU Law welcomes the class of 2015! Our incoming students come from near and far and represent a variety of interests and experiences. Learn more about these students and view other profiles on the OU Law website at www.law.ou.edu/meet-the-class.

Nicole Ajeh
Tulsa, Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma

“I previously worked on Wall Street in New York City as a financial analyst for Morgan Stanley. During this time, I was required by FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Inc.) to take and pass the Series 7 and the Series 63 exams to become a registered representative for a securities broker-dealer. These career tests have been considered to be among the most difficult; however, I successfully passed both of the certifications on the first try. This has been my greatest professional accomplishment.”

Brice Beckwith
Perry, Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma

“When deciding on which law school to attend, I spent a lot of time — too much really — researching every morsel of data, statistic, ranking and forum — anything even remotely associated with law schools — to objectively make the best decision I possibly could. However, in the end, I felt that those I had talked to from OU Law would genuinely always have my best interests at heart. That made the decision easier.”

Kim Beight
Amherst, Ohio
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

“A combination of my father and my travels inspired me to pursue a legal education. My father, whom I have secretly titled ‘the father of Socratic parenting,’ instilled in me a love for logic and precise language. Spending time in the Middle East has shown me what I am too young to have observed in my own country: widespread violence as a direct result of political unrest. Seeing the necessity of law and order firsthand has inspired me to become an active participant in our legal system.”

Robert Brossett
Rolla, Missouri
Truman State University

“While I was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I had the opportunity to serve as a platoon leader for a combat airborne engineer company. Our platoon’s primary mission was to manage Commander’s Emergency Response Program projects. These construction projects included road construction, bridge repair and other infrastructure repairs that benefited the people of Iraq. Our platoon had many successes in Iraq, but our greatest achievement was safely returning home with every soldier.”
Grant Carpenter
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Southern Methodist University

“As the capstone of my four-year concentrated study of voice performance, my one-hour senior voice recital featured the works of Stefano Donaudy, Francis Poulenc, Johannes Brahms and Ralph Vaughan Williams. I selected my own repertoire, which was performed entirely from memory. I expect the focus required to master music in multiple languages at the highest performance level will be helpful in the mastery of the law.”

Evan Chambers
Redmond, Washington
Oklahoma Baptist University

“I was inspired to pursue a law degree when I recognized the tangible, practical changes that could be accomplished in the world by legal work. Because the energy sector has such expansive effects on the environment, urban and rural spaces, governments and various people groups (some of who have little representation in policy decisions), I saw the opportunity a legal professional could have to create lasting, positive consequences for all stakeholders. I was inspired by the possibility of being able to work toward a better earth, a better life for people and a more thriving local economy fueled by creative and industrious individuals.”

Carly Haiduk
Panhandle, Texas
Kansas State University

“I interned at a nonprofit community learning center while in undergrad, where I helped develop and implement afterschool curriculum for ‘at-risk’ middle school students having problems at home or in school. I learned that an open mind is the first step when helping others. I learned to embrace diversity and, as a mentor, developed very special relationships. Although I have worked in the finance and government industries for three years post-graduation, my time spent with these students has been most influential on my professional development and future career goals.”

John Hammons
Muskogee, Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma

“I am a proud member of the Cherokee Nation. I have been very fortunate to have served two terms as mayor of the city of Muskogee, Oklahoma. First elected at the age of 19, I am among the youngest mayors in American history.”

“Seeing the necessity of law and order firsthand has inspired me to become an active participant in our legal system.”
“I was initially inspired to pursue a legal education as a result of a visit to Nigeria when I was about 13 years old. I was truly saddened by the fact that my family there could not experience the same qualities of life because of their corrupt government. While my initial plan was to overthrow the Nigerian government — I am not sure how successful that would have been at age 13 — I figured the best way to handle issues of injustice was to become involved in law and politics. I have not desired to do anything else ever since, and I am so happy to have found a program that will take me one step closer to accomplishing these goals.”

Kim Ikegbunam
Houston, Texas
University of Texas

“I figured the best way to handle issues of injustice was to become involved in law and politics.”

Skeeter Jordan
Latta, Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma

“My inspiration to pursue a legal education came from my younger sisters and brother, whom my parents adopted. In being exposed to the foster care system and seeing innocent children go through such troubling times, I want to do more.”

Kelbie Kennedy
Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma
Eastern Oklahoma State College and University of Oklahoma

“I chose OU Law because it offered the best programs in the two fields of law that I wish to pursue: Native American law and international law. After meeting with wonderful faculty and staff, I knew that OU was the best place for me.”

Eric Odom
Dimmitt, Texas
Texas Tech University

“I come from a family of entrepreneurs. While assisting with the set-up of our latest venture, I noticed the enormous amount of legalities that were associated with the process. This led to the inquisition of several individuals with J.D. degrees, both practicing attorneys and business people, concluding that no matter what I want to do in life, a legal education would be the greatest tool I could have.”
Ashley Schovanec  
Edmond, Oklahoma  
University of Oklahoma  

“Both my mother and uncle are graduates of OU Law, and it has always been my goal to attend law school at OU. I am very excited to continue the tradition of OU lawyers in my family. I know that with OU Law’s impressive faculty and curriculum, I will obtain the best legal education here.”

Meng Shi  
Beijing, China  
Northwest University of Politics and Law in Xi’an, China, and Cornell University  

“When considering where to pursue my J.D. education, I was tremendously fascinated by all the extraordinary resources and opportunities that OU Law has to offer. Its several core advantages include a dedicated and talented faculty of top-notch legal scholars and practitioners, a distinctive mix of intellectual pursuits and international scope, a commitment to the rule of law and social justice, an intimate community atmosphere and a larger environment of a huge dynamic public research university.”

Wyatt Swinford  
Okemah, Oklahoma  
Oklahoma State University  

“I was Oklahoma State’s mascot, Pistol Pete, and homecoming king in the same year. As a lifelong Cowboy fan, it is uncharted territory to not be thinking competitively of OU. I am looking forward to learning about the university and culture here.”

Marc Young  
Norman, Oklahoma  
University of Oklahoma  

“I am very proud of my work as an assistant insurance commissioner, especially in securing national media coverage — with outlets such as the “CBS Evening News” and USA Today — about several nationwide scams that had defrauded thousands across the country, including many Oklahomans. This public exposure protected many citizens from fraud and increased the scrutiny of prosecutors and law enforcement, accelerating the scam’s shutdown.”

“I was tremendously fascinated by all the extraordinary resources and opportunities that OU Law has to offer.”