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From the Dean

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Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health-care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university's academic programs except health-related fields. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,600 full-time faculty members, and has 20 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 157 majors at the master's level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 28 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 28 graduate certificates. The university's annual operating budget is \$1.5 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. (2/13)

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From the Dean

Dear Friends,

As the law school begins the spring 2013 semester, this issue of *Sooner Lawyer* looks back on the previous two semesters. In each edition of this magazine, we endeavor to update our alumni and friends on the excitement and activity occurring at the OU College of Law and provide a window into the many accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. Our goal is to capture and

communicate a sense of the people, programs, activities and events that make the OU Law experience exceptional.

One important factor in making OU Law an exceptional experience was recognized in the September issue of *National Jurist*. **OU Law was ranked as one of the top 15 "Best Value" law schools in the country – receiving a grade of "A+."** We are gratified by this national recognition and believe that being a best value law school, combining excellence and affordability, is central to our mission as the state's premier law school.

The attributes of excellence and affordability are necessary, but not sufficient. Given our special role, we must also graduate students who understand the fundamental importance of service under the law, the concept at the core of our noble profession. To continue to produce lawyers who lead the state, nation and world, we must infuse this obligation into all elements of our education. We begin this message before the students' first day of classes, with the Owl Ceremony and Academic Convocation, and continue it throughout their time at OU Law.

The lead feature of this *Sooner Lawyer* highlights one important example of our shared commitment to service, telling the story of OU Law graduates in the military. These stories are a sampling of the many OU Law alumni whose military careers have helped shape and advance our nation's armed services.

Brad Carson ('94), whose impressive record of public service includes military service, is the subject of the next story, which tells of his presidential appointment to serve as the general counsel of the Department of the Army.

This edition also highlights five outstanding alumni, inducted as the second class of the Order of the Owl Hall of Fame in November. A story about the induction ceremony explains how service and leadership were instrumental in their selection for this honor.

Chief Justice Tom Colbert ('82), of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and Presiding Judge David Lewis ('83), of the Court of Criminal Appeals, were each the first African-American appointed to serve on their courts. They made history again when they were sworn-in as the leaders of Oklahoma's highest courts.

Also included in this issue is a pictorial feature showcasing the first group of OU Law students who participated in our new Chinese Law Summer Program. Our students participated with students from four other universities in the program based at Renmin University Law School in Beijing.

Our alumni and friends are so important to us. Please keep us informed of your professional news we can share as a news brief in the Class Notes section of upcoming issues. Thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Harroz, Jr.
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