

Sooner Lawyer Archive

Volume 2012 | Issue 2
Fall 2012/Winter 2013

2012

Faculty News

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Recommended Citation

(2012) "Faculty News," *Sooner Lawyer Archive*: Vol. 2012: Iss. 2, Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/soonerlawyer/vol2012/iss2/10>

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Faculty changes

► New faces and titles



Steven S. Gensler became associate dean for research and scholarship at the end of the 2012 spring semester. Gensler joined the OU law faculty in 2000. He also serves as the director of the Oxford Summer Program and is the Welcome D. and W. DeVier Pierson Professor of Law.



Kit Johnson came to the College of Law in August after four years of teaching at the University of North Dakota College of Law. She teaches Immigration, Federal Courts and Trial Techniques. Her scholarly interests lie in the area of immigration and, specifically, the intersection of U.S. immigration law and U.S. business interests. Prior to

teaching, she practiced general commercial litigation with a Los Angeles law firm and clerked for two federal judges. Johnson earned her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, and her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.



Brenda H. Barnes ('99) was named assistant professor of clinical legal education July 1. Barnes teaches and supervises legal interns in the civil and criminal divisions of the OU Legal Clinic. Her legal career began in private practice, where she handled a diverse caseload representing individuals in family law, juvenile law and criminal

law. She served as the defense attorney on the Cleveland County Juvenile Drug Court Team and was the recipient of the OU College of Law Kelly Beardslee Criminal Defense Award in 1999 and the Cleveland County Outstanding Service to the Community Award in 2006.



Erin Means ('09) is an assistant professor of Legal Research and Writing. She previously practiced law in Enid, Oklahoma, where she focused on litigation involving oil and gas matters, construction law, commercial law, negligence, contract disputes and property disputes. She also served as a research and editorial assistant for the

Federal Judicial Center, where she assisted with case law citation verification and editorial work for the *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence*, Third Edition. Means earned her law degree from the OU College of Law, where she served as note editor for the *Oklahoma Law Review*.



Sarah Burstein joined the OU Law faculty in August and teaches Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II and Copyright. She previously worked as a law clerk to a federal judge in Iowa and an intellectual property litigation associate in a Chicago law firm. Her scholarship focuses on the legal protection of product design, with a

particular emphasis on design patent law. Burstein received her law degree from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in art and design from Iowa State University.

Faculty honors

► Oklahoma Bar Association honors Wattley



Cheryl Wattley receives the OBA Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award from Justice Noma Gurich ('78).

Cheryl Wattley was selected by the Oklahoma Bar Association Diversity Committee to receive the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award. She received the award October 18 at the inaugural OBA Diversity Awards Luncheon and CLE at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City.

Wattley is the director of clinical education and associate professor of law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She paid tribute to the accomplishments of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher by researching her life and writing a play about her legal battle for equality as an OU law student. "I'll Do It!" has been performed multiple times across the state with OU Law students as cast members.

Under Wattley's leadership the Legal Clinic has implemented a mediation training program, a clinic that allows students to participate in federal jury trials and argue before a federal appellate court and a human rights clinic, in which students

travel internationally to investigate human rights issues and file reports with the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Wattley also serves as the faculty adviser for OU's chapter of the Black Law Student Association. She coaches the moot court and mock trial teams and hosts a number of diversity initiative events which her students are invited to attend.

► American Law Institute elects Maute and Robertson

The American Law Institute elected professors Judith Maute and Lindsay Robertson to its membership in September. Only 38 lawyers, judges and law professors in the state of Oklahoma are members of the prestigious organization.

"We tend to want to improve the law as it applies in everyday life or in the courts," ALI Deputy Director Stephanie Middleton said. For this reason, most ALI members have distinguished careers in the legal field, Middleton said, and many have a practical bent that provides them familiarity with the real-world legal problems ALI seeks to solve.



Judith Maute

Maute is the William J. Alley Professor of Law, as well as a President's Associates Presidential Professor. She teaches Professional Responsibility, Gender-based Discrimination and Feminist Jurisprudence and writes and lectures on legal ethics, legal history, contracts and dispute resolution. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1978 and received her LL.M. from Yale University in 1982.

Maute is enthusiastic about working on a new ALI project to revise the Model Penal Code on Sexual Assault Crimes. "I am excited about working on this important issue from the ground up. It dovetails with my new service on the board of directors for Bethesda Inc., which provides treatment to survivors of childhood sex abuse," she said.



Lindsay Robertson

Robertson is the Judge Haskell A. Holloman Professor of Law and the Sam K. Viersen, Jr. Presidential Professor. He teaches Federal Indian Law, Comparative Indigenous Peoples Law, Constitutional Law and Legal History. He holds a J.D. and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Robertson is faculty director of the OU Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy and serves as special justice on the Supreme Court of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes.

Middleton indicated ALI is currently beginning a project on American Indian law. Due to Robertson's expertise in this area, he may be able to provide valuable insight for this project, she said.

► ABL recognizes Wattley and Harroz



The Oklahoma City Association of Black Lawyers presented its annual Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award to Cheryl Wattley November 17 during the Black Tie Gala at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. The award is presented annually to a person or entity championing the cause of diversity in the legal field.

The ABL also recognized Dean Joe Harroz for his commitment to diversity in legal education. The Award of Excellence was presented to spotlight OU Law's continuing efforts to maintain an environment of diversity to benefit all of its students.

Former assistant dean Stan Evans ('03) congratulates Cheryl Wattley on being honored by the Oklahoma City Association of Black Lawyers.

► Backus returns to China on Fulbright Grant

After spending a month in China with the eight OU Law students participating in the summer program at Renmin University Law School in Beijing, Mary Sue Backus returned home for a few weeks, packed up her family of four and returned to China. The family will be in China for an academic year while Backus teaches as a Fulbright Scholar at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou.

In China, a law degree is an undergraduate degree. Backus is teaching two sections of a class, Anatomy of the American Jury Trial, and one section of Introduction to American Evidence Law.

Of her students, Backus said, "I am absolutely in awe of these students. I cannot imagine being able to take a Chinese law class in Chinese and yet most of these students function very well in my classes in English."

"Although I enjoy interacting with my students in class, I really love getting to know them outside of class," stated Backus. "They are so appreciative of having a foreign teacher – it's quite an ego boost! They have been incredibly warm and welcoming in every way. "

Her husband, Scott Backus ('08), taught English during the first semester, but will teach law classes second semester. Their daughters, Anna and Amelia, are attending an international school.



Mary Sue and Scott Backus, pictured on the Great Wall of China with their daughters Amelia and Anna, enjoy taking in the sights and learning about the Chinese culture. The family is in Guangzhou, where Mary Sue is teaching as a Fulbright Scholar.

► OBA president presents special award to Swank

David Swank was surprised at the November 14 OBA Annual Luncheon when Cathy Christensen, OBA president, presented him a President's Award recognizing his dedication and commitment to assisting bar association members serving the legal profession and the public.

Christensen said she came to know and respect Swank when they both served on the OBA Bench and Bar Committee. "I didn't even attend the OU College of Law and I have as much respect, admiration and appreciation for Professor David Swank as any Sooner," she said.

"This year David took many calls from me, especially in the last few months as issues of judicial independence rose to the surface," Christensen explained. "We would talk about retention elections and judicial evaluations and he would offer guidance and advice."

Christensen called Swank "one of the best of this profession" as she thanked him for his advice and assistance with legal research.



OBA President Cathy Christensen presents David Swank with a President's Award at the OBA Annual Meeting.

Beyond the classroom

► Boren honored at Kuntz Conference



OU President David L. Boren (center), the 2012 recipient of the Eugene Kuntz Award, is pictured with the former dean's family (from left) Travis Maloy, grandson; Karen Kuntz Maloy, daughter; Alicia Maloy Maddocks, granddaughter; McKinzi Maddocks, great-granddaughter; and Owen Anderson, holder of the Kuntz Chair.

OU President David L. Boren was the 2012 recipient of the Eugene Kuntz Award and the featured speaker at the Eugene Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law and Policy held November 2 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Established in the early 1990s, the award honors Eugene Kuntz, a former dean and oil and gas law professor at OU, as well as a national expert on oil and gas law.

OU Law Professor Owen Anderson organized and moderated the conference. Co-sponsored by the OU College of Law, OU Outreach and the Energy and Natural Resources Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the conference is designed for mineral law attorneys and petroleum landmen who are interested in learning the most current law and policy in the oil and gas industry.

► OU Law hosts human rights meeting



Chandra Bhatnagar, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Human Rights Program, speaks during one of the sessions of the two-day meeting.

The College of Law and the International Indian Treaty Council co-hosted the southwest regional meeting of the U.S. Human Rights Network October 19-20 in Coats Hall. The event provided an opportunity for human rights and social justice advocates from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to come together to share experiences and strategies.

The meeting focused on the mechanics of using the international human rights system to protect human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples. Speakers included Francisco Cali Tzay, vice president of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

► Judge speaks on intelligent design decision

A landmark decision barring the teaching of intelligent design in public schools was the subject of a presentation December 6 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. Judge John E. Jones, III, of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania discussed his 2005 decision in *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*. He reflected on the Constitution's enduring protection against government establishment of religion and responded to questions from the audience.

The public lecture was co-sponsored by the College of Law and the Presidential Dream Course, "Mind-Bending Religion, Law, and Science." The class is designed to provoke critical thinking by comparing, contrasting and exploring the power and limits of three great traditions in human thinking: law, biology and religion. OU Law's Joe Thai taught the interdisciplinary class with Douglas Mock, biology professor, and Tom Boyd, professor of religious studies.



Judge John Jones is welcomed to the College of Law by Professor Joe Thai.

Leo Howard Whinery, Sr. 1926 - 2012



Leo Whinery

Professor Emeritus Leo Whinery died November 11, 2012. He was born September 20, 1926, in Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from high school there and later served in the Army Air Corps from 1945 to 1946.

Whinery received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and an LL.M. from Columbia University. He served as a

faculty member at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks before coming to the OU College of Law.

He taught at OU Law from 1959 until 2003, when he retired from full-time teaching status. He taught courses on evidence and forensic evidence. Widely published, Whinery was often a speaker on the topics of evidence and sentencing.

He was also on the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, from 1973 until his death.

Whinery served as a judge of the Norman Municipal Court from 1960 to 1978 and was presiding judge from 1970 to 1978.

A man of many interests, Whinery played the violin and was a skilled equestrian. He was active in breeding Trakehner horses at his farm in southeast Norman, Oklahoma, and served as founding president and chairman of the board for the American Trakehner Association, which promotes the East Prussian riding horses in North America.

Whinery is survived by his wife, Doris, and three sons, Leo H. Whinery, Jr., Michael A. Whinery and Webster P. Whinery, Sr.



Following a service celebrating Whinery's life at First Baptist Church of Norman on November 17, a reception was held in the Boren Atrium of the OU College of Law.