News Briefs

1940s

Frank Elkouri (‘47) and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri, made a historic $6 million gift to the OU College of Law to support student scholarship programs.

Richard James (‘49) received the Stroud Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in March.

1950s

Sid M. Groom, Jr. (‘51), of the Groom Law Firm, relocated his Oklahoma City office to Edmond.

William G. Paul (‘56) has been awarded the 2011 Fellows of the American Bar Foundation Outstanding Service Award.

John Maley (‘59) was honored by the Okmulgee County Bar Association for 44 years of service as district judge and four years as county judge for Okmulgee County.

1960s

James A. McAffrey (‘64) spoke at the annual Commercial Law Update in Oklahoma City, presenting the latest developments in consumer law and auto finance.

Ed Abel (‘66) has been inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

G. Michael Lewis (‘67) has been named chairman of the litigation practice group of Doerner Saunders Daniel & Anderson in Tulsa.

W. Roger Webb (‘67) retired June 30 as president of the University of Central Oklahoma, a position he had held since 1997.

David L. Boren (‘68) began his 17th year as president of the University of Oklahoma in November, making him the second longest-serving OU president.

Von Russell Creel (‘68) retired from the faculty of Oklahoma City University School of Law, where he worked for 40 years, serving as chair of the faculty and being recognized as Professor of the Year by the Merit Scholars and the Student Bar Association.

Mike DeBerry (‘69), associate district judge in McCurtain County, was presented the Outstanding Elected Official Award for 2011 by the Oklahoma State Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force.

R.L. Hert, Jr. (‘69) has been appointed special district judge for the Ninth Judicial District with his primary duties in Logan County while handling a domestic docket in Payne County.

Frank Keating (‘69) was named president and CEO of the American Bankers Association.

1970s

Stephen Bonner (‘70), associate district judge in Cleveland County, was recognized by the Oklahoma Court Appointed Special Advocates Association as the 2011 Judge of the Year.

Bruce Day (‘72) joined Crowe & Dunlevy as a director, serving as the chair of the securities litigation practice group, based in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Richard Goodwin (‘72) became of counsel to the Oklahoma City firm of Mee Mee Hoge & Epperson but will maintain his office in Edmond.

Earl A. Skarky (‘72) was elected as a fellow of the American College of Bond Counsel.

Harry Birdwell (‘75) joined Epworth Villa Retirement Community in Oklahoma City as vice president of development and marketing.

Gary M. Chubbuck (‘75) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

James Kaufman (‘76), with the Groom Law Firm, relocated his Oklahoma City office to Edmond.

Curtis L. Smith (‘76) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

Robin Cauthron (‘77) was honored in February as a Distinguished Alumna of the OU College of Arts and Sciences.

Rick Esser (‘77) established a new law firm, the Law Center of Akers & Esser, in Bartlesville.
Doug Gabbard ('77) retired from the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals on March 31 after more than 26 years of judicial service.

Kevin Kuhn ('77), who practices with Denver-based Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell LLP, gave a presentation titled “Voir Dire” at an American Trial Lawyers CLE seminar in Colorado.

Linda A. Wilkins ('77) became a founding partner of Wilkins Finston Law Group LLP in Dallas.

Michael C. Wofford ('77) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Noma Gurich ('78) was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in January to fill the vacancy left by the death of Marian Opala.

Cynda Ottaway ('78) was elected president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Foundation for 2011-2012.

Annette Prince ('78) was named 2011 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Oklahoma Chapter.

John Canavan ('79) was appointed district judge for the 23rd Judicial District in Pottawatomie County in December.

Graydon Dean Luthey, Jr. ('79) was honored by the Islamic Society of Tulsa at the Goodwill Appreciation Awards for excellence in exemplary encouragement and protection of rights. He also was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

1980s

Jari Askins ('80) was appointed associate provost for external relations at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Martha Rupp Carter ('80) was appointed as a Tulsa County special district judge in December.

John R. Hargrave ('80) was selected to serve as president of his alma mater, East Central University in Ada.

Gene Haynes ('80) retired as district attorney for Rogers, Mayes and Craig counties after 20 years of service and established a private law practice in Claremore.

Gretchen G. Harris ('81) joined Scoggins & Cross PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Doneen Douglas Jones ('81) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Bert Marshall ('81), president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, was profiled as one of Oklahoma’s most-admired CEOs by The Journal Record in February.

Kathy Taylor ('81) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Tom Colbert ('82), vice chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Keith McFall ('82) has been named the leader of the McAfee & Taft corporate and commercial transactions practice group, based in the Oklahoma City office.

Natalie Shirley ('82), former Oklahoma secretary of commerce and tourism, has been selected by Oklahoma State University as president of OSU-Oklahoma City.

Robert Hudson ('83) joined the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General as first assistant, after serving for almost 15 years as district attorney for Payne and Logan counties.

David B. Lewis ('83), vice presiding judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.
Renée DeMoss ('84) was elected to a three-year term on the Oklahoma Bar Association board of governors. She was also recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Deirdre Dexter ('84) joined the Tulsa law firm of Barrow & Grimm PC as a preferred shareholder.

Michael D. Duncan ('85) opened a new practice, Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC, in Oklahoma City.

Ellen Caslavka Edwards ('85) has been named assistant general counsel to the Oklahoma Insurance Department, where she has worked since 1986.

Joel Harmon ('85) has been named a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, working in the Oklahoma City office.

Susan Dennehy Conrad ('87), assistant general counsel for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Oil and Gas Conservation Division, spoke to the Capital Association of Division Order Analysts on the commission’s new rules for horizontal drilling.

Jeffrey A. Curran ('87) has been named of counsel with GableGotwals in Oklahoma City.

Patrice Dills Douglas ('87) was re-elected for a second term as mayor of Edmond. In addition, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women honored her with the 2011 Kate Barnhard Award, which recognizes women who have contributed to the state through public service.

Charles Greenough ('87) has been named leader of the McAfee & Taft business restructuring, workouts and bankruptcy practice group, based in the Tulsa office.

Laura McConnell-Corbyn ('87) was recognized by Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc. with the William G. Paul Oklahoma Justice Award.

Phillippa Tibbs Ellis ('88), partner with Atlanta law firm Owen Gieleon Egan Jones & Sweeney LLP, spoke on “Considerations of Similar Accidents/Events in Product Safety” at the Defense Research Institute’s Product Liability Conference in New Orleans.

Don Shandy ('85) was elected to serve on the Norman Public Schools Board of Education.

Darlene Cypser ('86) published The Crack in the Lens, a historical novel about eight months that changed 17-year-old Sherlock Holmes’ life forever.

Joe Cassity Jr. ('87), who spent 29 years teaching at the college level in Taiwan, opened a law practice in Ponca City.

Scott Meacham ('88) joined Crowe & Dunlevy’s Oklahoma City office.

Sarah A. Hall ('89) was appointed as bankruptcy judge in the Western District of Oklahoma last August, becoming the first woman to serve in that capacity in the district.

Dennis Morris ('89) was elected district judge for the 20th Judicial District in Carter County in November.

Sherry Abbott Todd ('89) is serving as special judge of the District Court of the Chickasaw Nation.

Michele Nill Tunnell ('89) has been named administrative law judge for the state of Kansas.

Craig Lilly ('90) joined Greenberg Traurig in their East Palo Alto, California, office.

Timila S. Rother ('90) has been named to the 2011 executive committee of Crowe & Dunlevy.

Ryan S. Wilson ('90) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Sam R. Fulkerson ('91) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Sharon Voorhees ('91) spoke in Oklahoma City at a National Business Institute seminar on “Marshalling, Valuing and Disposing of Assets and Debts.”
Glenn Coffee (’92) has been selected by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve as secretary of state.

David A. Trissell (’92), FEMA attaché to the U.S. Mission to the European Union, delivered a presentation at the Ahr Valley Civil Protection Days Conference in Bad-Neuenahr, Germany, on the use of social media in disasters.

David B. Coffin (’93) has announced the formation of his law firm, David Coffin PLLC, in Grapevine, Texas.

Judy Copeland (’93) was named general counsel to Gov. Mary Fallin.

Pete D’Alessandro (’93) joined Heroux & Helton PLLC in Tulsa as an associate.

Keith F. Givens (’93) returned to the Rainey Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

Melissa McLawhorn Houston (’94) joined the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General as an assistant attorney general in the general counsel unit.

Bryan K. Walkley (’94) joined the Shelton Voorhees Law Group in Oklahoma City.

Chris Davis (’95) of Johnson & Jones PC in Tulsa was appointed to serve as the 2011 chairman of the litigation section of the Tulsa County Bar Association.

Andy Johnson (’95) was elected president of the Tulsa law firm of Johnson & Jones PC.

Tracy Schumacher (’95) was formally sworn in as district judge for District 21 (Cleveland, Garvin and McClain counties) by Court of Civil Appeals Judge William C. Hetherington on February 24.

Katherine E. Thomas (’95) has been appointed special district judge for the Ninth Judicial District with her primary duties in Payne County.

Jeremy Tubb (’95) has been selected to serve as an administrative law judge by the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

Craig Adkins (’96) president and member of the board of directors for Bank 7, was honored by the OU College of Arts and Sciences with a Distinguished Service Award for his service as the chair of its board of visitors.

T. Michael Blake (’96) received the Mona Lambird Service to Children Award from the Oklahoma Lawyers for Children organization.

Eric S. Fisher (’96) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Darin S. Rohrer (’97) joined Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green LLP as an associate in the Oklahoma City office.

Kyle Sweet (’97) spoke at the Texas Society of Medical Staff Service Specialist annual conference in San Antonio on legal issues of interest to health care providers.

Nikki L. Baker (’98) rejoined the Las Vegas law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as a shareholder.

Vickie J. Buchanan (’99) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft and is based in the Oklahoma City office.

2000s

Matthew A. Caves (’00) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Andrews Davis as an associate.

Adam Childers (’00) has been selected to serve as an administrative law judge by the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

Layla J. Dougherty (’00) has been named an associate of Mock, Schwabe, Waldo, Elder, Reeves & Bryant PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Steven Goodspeed (’00) joined Taylor Burrage Foster Mallett Downs Ramsey & Russell in Claremore.

J. Todd Woolery (’00) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.
Randy Grau (’01) joined Cheek & Falcone PLLC of Oklahoma City as an of counsel attorney. He also represents Edmond in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Dustin P. Rowe (’01) has been appointed Chickasaw Nation district court judge.

Heather Burrage (’02) of Durant was appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission, becoming the second woman to serve as a lawyer member of the commission.

Jacob Diesselhorst (’02) was recognized for Leadership in Law by The Journal Record.

Rusty N. LaForge (’02) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, working in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Keith Daniels (’03) joined the law firm of Love, Beal & Nixon PC in Oklahoma City.

Tricia L. Everest (’03) has been named of counsel with GableGotwals.

Monica J. Hoenshell (’03) joined the Calvert Law Firm in Oklahoma City.

Sheila R. Benson (’04) was named a partner in the Edmonds Cole Law Firm PC in Oklahoma City.

Sarah Brune Edwards (’04) became an associate with Crowe & Dunlevy in the firm’s Oklahoma City office.

Spencer W. Haines (’04) has been named a shareholder of McAfee & Taft, working in the Oklahoma City office.

Robyn R. Baker (’05) has been named an associate of Mock, Schwabe, Waldo, Elder, Reeves & Bryant PLLC in Oklahoma City.

Casey L. Saunders (’05) joined Wyatt, Kingery, Hale & Associates as an associate.

R. Gene Stanley (’05) has been named partner in the Oklahoma City law firm now known as Rife Walters Bruehl & Stanley LLP.

J. Brian Brandes (’06) joined Rhodes Hieronymus in Tulsa as an associate.

J. Miles McFadden (’10) joined Titus Hillis Reynolds Love Dickman & McCalmon in Tulsa as an associate.

James Mills (’10) has been named assistant to the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner.

Nicole Ruble Metcalf (’06), an associate in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker LLP, was selected by Thomson Reuters as one of its 2011 Rising Stars.

Stacey S. Chubbuck (’09) joined the Oklahoma City firm of Chubbuck Smith & Duncan PC as an associate.

Leigh Ann Smothers (’09) has been named Outstanding Juvenile Prosecutor for 2010 in Tulsa County.

2010s

Clint A. Claypole (’10) joined Field, Trojan & Long, PC of Enid as an attorney.

Conor P. Cleary (’10) joined Hall Estill in Tulsa as an associate.

Kristen Evans (’10) joined Best & Sharp in Tulsa as an associate.

J. Miles McFadden (’10) joined Titus Hillis Reynolds Love Dickman & McCalmon in Tulsa as an associate.

Casey L. Saunders (’05) joined Wyatt, Kingery, Hale & Associates as an associate.

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We Remember

1930s

Mike A. Caruso ('38) of Mountain View, died August 18, 2010. He was born in Fort Cobb on September 20, 1916.

1940s

Ralph Lorne “Scoop” Jones ('40) of Roanoke, Virginia, died April 22, 2011. He was born July 12, 1915, in Haileyville, Oklahoma. He attended OU as an undergraduate and for law school. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1945 as a gunnery officer. He practiced law in New York City and, in 1985, retired as a senior partner of Brown and Wood after a 40-year career.

Jasper David “J.D.” Nance ('41) of Broken Arrow, died December 7, 2010. He was born July 7, 1919, in Henryetta. He served in the U.S. Army and as an attorney, working in the petroleum industry.

Thomas Frederick “T. Fred” Collins ('48) of Ardmore, died February 19, 2011. He was born in El Reno on October 26, 1923, and earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from OU. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as business manager for the Naval Flight Cadets Recreation House on the OU campus. He practiced law in Ardmore for more than 62 years, working since 1982 with his son, Lorenzo Collins ('82), in the firm Collins and Collins.

Hazel Howard LeVally ('48) of Ardmore died February 26, 2011. She was born May 4, 1920, in the Ringling-Claypool area. After earning a B.A. from OU in 1942, she taught math at Wilson High School for several years before returning to OU to earn her law degree in 1948. She practiced law in Healdton, retiring in 1974.

B. Don Barnes

1924 – 2011

B. Don Barnes ('49), retired chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, died March 3, 2011, at the age of 86. He was born on Christmas Day in 1924 in Tulsa. He grew up in Tulsa, graduating from Tulsa Central High School in 1942. He began college at the University of Oklahoma, where he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. Eighteen months later he was activated and assigned to duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

When his naval career ended in 1946, he returned to OU and studied engineering. He was an avid Sooner fan and loved to follow OU football. He met Jean Merrill, daughter of OU law professor Maurice Merrill ('19) and Orpha Merrill ('54). The couple went on their first date to an OU football game and married on July 20, 1946, five days after his discharge from the Navy.

Barnes changed his major from engineering to law, following the Merrill family tradition, and received his law degree in 1949. The couple moved to Sulphur, where Barnes established a private law practice.

In 1951, Barnes began his career of public service as the Murray County attorney. He later re-entered private practice in Okmulgee for two years. In 1954, he was elected superior court judge and was re-elected to that position for four terms until 1972, when he was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court by Gov. David Hall. After this appointment, Barnes and his family moved to Edmond.

He retired as chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1985 after 30 years on the bench. Barnes became counsel with the Oklahoma City law firm of Stack & Barnes, working with his nephew Robert Barnes ('74). He retired from private practice in 1992 and served as an active retired judge, director of the Oklahoma Supreme Court Settlement Conference and an arbitrator. Barnes’ love of golf allowed him to transfer his well-honed skills developed in the judicial arena to the golf greens when he served as a marshal at Oak Tree Country Club.

During his career, Barnes served as president of the Judicial Conference of Oklahoma and the Okmulgee County Bar Association. He was presiding judge of the East Central Administrative District and of the Appellate Division of the Court on the Judiciary. Barnes served as vice president of the Council of State Court Representatives for the National Center for State Courts and served on its board of directors from 1972 until his retirement from the Supreme Court.

Barnes was preceded in death by his parents, Smith and Ann Barnes, and his brother, Bill N. Barnes. He was survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean; his son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Brenda Barnes ('99), of Norman; his son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Debbie Barnes, of Tulsa; his daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Steve Hall; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; his brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Michelle Barnes, of Michigan; and his sister-in-law, Mary Lou Barnes, of Yukon.
Sidney P. Upsher ('48) of Oklahoma City, died November 28, 2010. He was born July 31, 1923, in Oklahoma City and earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the OU. He served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. During the Korean Conflict, he was recalled to duty in the U.S. Air Force, where he served at the Pentagon. Upon return to civilian life, he served as general counsel for Lee Way Motor Freight for 25 years and as CEO of Mistletoe Express until 1987. He later served as of counsel to McAfee & Taft until he retired in 1999.

James Edward Work ('53) died on April 18, 2011, in Oklahoma City. He was born January 16, 1927, in Wewoka. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as a member of the Naval Expeditionary Force stationed in the Philippines. He earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from OU. He began his legal practice in 1953 at the Oklahoma City firm of Gilliland, Withington and Shirk and continued for 57 years at the Shirk Law Firm until his death.

James Albert Peabody ('53), a lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, died November 30, 2010. He was born May 14, 1929. He graduated from Capitol Hill High School in 1947. He was a Rhodes Scholar and served as editor of the Oklahoma Law Review. He served as a military officer during the Korean Conflict and practiced for more than 50 years with Crowe & Dunlevy, retiring in 1991 and taking of counsel status.

Henry F. Featherly ('57) of Oklahoma City died December 26, 2010. He was born on August 10, 1930, in Stillwater. He graduated from Stillwater High School, Oklahoma State University and the OU College of Law. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1954 and attained the rank of captain. He practiced law for 50 years in Oklahoma City, retiring from the law firm of Lamun, Mock, Featherly, Keihling and Cunnyngham.

Joseph F. Glass ('57) of Tulsa died February 20, 2011. He was born in Tulsa on February 25, 1929. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Roosevelt during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He practiced with several firms in Tulsa and was a member of the ABA and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Bob Eugene Bennett ('58) of Ada died November 26, 2010. He was born February 13, 1930, in Holdenville. The Bronze Star recipient served in the 45th Division of the U.S. Army in Japan and the Korean War from 1950 to 1952, and he continued to serve until 1962. He practiced law for 50 years and served as the vice president and a member of the board of governors of the Oklahoma Bar Association. In 2008, the OBA awarded him the Joe Stamper Distinguished Service Award.

Charles Clark Green ('58) of Oklahoma City died March 16, 2011. He was born July 4, 1934, in Ada. He received both his B.A. and J.D. from OU. Upon graduating from law school, he spent three years in the U.S. Air Force and served as a JAG officer. He later returned to Oklahoma City, where he practiced law for 50 years.
1960s

Richard L. Bohanon (’60) of Oklahoma City, died January 18, 2011, at the age of 75. The retired bankruptcy judge was the son of the late U.S. District Judge Luther Bohanon and his wife, Marie Swatek Bohanon. He received his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and law degrees from OU and New York University. He served as law clerk for Chief Judge Alfred P. Murrah of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and later was an attorney for Gulf Oil. Thereafter, he was in private practice in Oklahoma City for 18 years. In 1982, he was appointed to the Bankruptcy Court for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, where he served until his retirement in 2010.

Charles Wayne Harris (’62) of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died on November 10, 2010. He was born February 11, 1937, in Cushing. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from OU and was an avid supporter of OU sports. He served in the U.S. Army as a judge advocate prior to joining a Fort Smith law firm, where he practiced law as a partner for 43 years. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Federation of Insurance Counsel and American College of Trial Lawyers.

Charles Gordon Humble (’63) of Bethany died January 27, 2011. He was born February 16, 1936, in Alberta, Canada, and became a naturalized citizen in 1946. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a municipal judge in Bethany for 25 years and as special district judge in Oklahoma County for an additional 22 years.

Terry Guy “Bulldog” Shipley (’65) of Noble died March 1, 2011. He was born November 2, 1938, in Oklahoma City. At the time of his death, he was practicing law in Norman.

Michael Mendel Goldberg (’68) of Edmond died April 14, 2011. He was born in McAlester on January 25, 1943. He served 20 years in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, retiring with the rank of commander. Following his military service, he worked for 21 years for the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals.

Clifford W. LeGate (’68) of Oklahoma City died December 24, 2010. He was born January 13, 1942. He was employed by the state of Oklahoma and was deputy commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture until his retirement. He also was co-owner of I-40 Auto Auction, Inc.

1970s

Jacob “Jack” Lehrer (’70) of Santa Rosa, California, died October 31, 2010. He was born November 12, 1928. He worked as a real estate broker and builder of homes and commercial properties for 50 years in northern California, Long Island, New York, and Antigua, West Indies.

Kenneth Wayne Elliott (’79) of Oklahoma City died November 5, 2010. He was born on September 6, 1953, in Houston. He earned his B.A. and J.D. from OU. He practiced law in Oklahoma City with the firm of Elliott and Pederson. He served on the Oklahoma Ethics Commission for 10 years and on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for 11 years.

1980s

James Edward Britton (’82) of Oklahoma City, died March 23, 2011. He was born June 9, 1946, in Roswell, New Mexico. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His law practice focused on transactional law and litigation.

2000s

Ted L. Ryals (’02) of Moore, died February 23, 2011. He was born in Oklahoma City on August 12, 1948. He was a graduate of U.S. Grant High School, Oklahoma City University, Northwestern University and the OU College of Law. In addition to maintaining a private law practice, he was also a minister of music for New Hope Christian Church in Oklahoma City.