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From the Dean

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From the Dean



Dear Friends,

This issue of *Sooner Lawyer* celebrates the inaugural OU Law Hall of Fame, the "Order of the Owl." At a special event attended by more than 400 alumni and friends, we inducted our first honorees: Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, Bill Paul, DeVier Pierson and Bill Ross. President David Boren also joined us to honor these exceptional individuals. As noted in our cover story on page 2, the Order of the Owl was created to highlight accomplished alumni and the legacy they leave for future generations of OU lawyers to follow. We were especially honored to induct Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, in memoriam, on the 60th anniversary of her law school graduation, a pivotal moment in American history.

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez is another history-making alumna featured in this issue (page 8). She was elected in 2010 as the first female governor of New Mexico and the first Latina governor in the nation. We are privileged to count Gov. Martinez among our alumni, and we know her passion for public service will continue to shape the Southwest.

Public service is an important aspect of being a lawyer, and our students gain invaluable, real-world experience through the OU Legal Clinic. October marked the 40th anniversary of the clinic, established in 1971 by professors Ted Roberts and David Swank (page 12). The clinic serves clients in the community who otherwise would not be able to have legal representation while giving students practical experience.

Perhaps no one knows the secrets of finding a job better than OU Law alumna Joi Gordon. As CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide, she leads an international organization that provides career counseling, professional clothing and other resources to women hoping to embark on new careers. The organization assists 50,000 women in 12 countries each year. As you will read on page 16, she has found great success in helping others succeed.

Judge Martin Moltz had a successful legal career well before he assumed the bench as associate judge of the First Municipal Division of Cook County in Chicago. While presiding as a judge is inherently serious, Judge Moltz (page 20) knows how to have fun outside of the courtroom. He is a rollercoaster enthusiast and has ridden every coaster in the United States, Canada, England and Whales. When he is not on the bench, he is probably on a ride, taking the twists, turns and drops of another thrilling rollercoaster. His story reminds us of the importance of making time outside of our professional duties to pursue our other passions. I hope you are able to do just that in 2012 and wish you all the best in the new year.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph Harroz, Jr.

Dean and Professor

Fenelon Boesche Chair of Law