



Briefcase

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2015-2016 ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The OCBA Nominations & Election Committee, chaired by President-Elect Angela Ailles Bahm, announces the results of this year's election:

Judge Barbara Swinton, President Elect

David A. Cheek, Vice President

Sonya L. Patterson, Law Library Trustee

2018 Directors - Judge Don Andrews, Timothy J. Bomhoff, Judge Richard C. Ogden, Sheila D. Stinson, Judge Cassandra Williams and Ray E. Zschiesche.

Adam C. Hall and Elisabeth E. Muckala will each serve a one-year term as 2017 Directors to replace two vacancies.



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Judge Barbara Swinton,
District Judge for the Oklahoma
County District Court



VICE PRESIDENT

David A. Cheek,
Cheek & Falcone, P.L.L.C.



LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Sonya L. Patterson,
Legal Aid Services
of Oklahoma, Inc.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION KEEPS BUSY IN 2014-15

By Justin D. Meek

The Oklahoma County Young Lawyers ("YLD") have been busy in the community once again this year. The YLD directors are comprised of solo practitioners, in-house legal counsel, and attorneys from small and large firms in Oklahoma County. Our goal has been to make a difference in Oklahoma County beyond what we do as a profession through volunteer opportunities, charitable giving, and service to the community. Throughout the last year, the YLD has given many hours of community service and also met its goal of donating \$20,000.00 to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. I am extremely proud of the YLD's accomplishments over the last year and look forward to the YLD continuing to make a difference in the community under the leadership of Curtis Thomas.

In the last few months, the YLD has sponsored a reception for new members of the Oklahoma County Bar, assisted the Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center with renovations to its facilities, and are currently planning our annual OCBA

"Striking Out Hunger" Bowling Tournament.

YLD Reception for New Members of the Oklahoma County Bar Association

In June, the YLD hosted a reception for new members of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. The purpose was to encourage involvement from young lawyers in the YLD and in Oklahoma County. We had approximately 20 new attorneys attend the reception and the response was enthusiastic. Several new lawyers will be joining the YLD Board of Directors and serving the community through our various projects. We are excited about the increased involvement and look forward to the contributions of the new members. A special thanks to Judge Patricia Parrish and Robert Nelson for taking the time to impart their knowledge and wisdom to the young lawyers and encouraging involvement with the Oklahoma County Bar Association.

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2015 OCBA Dinner Dance – September 4

Be sure to get your tickets for this year's Annual Dinner Dance taking place at the Skirvin Hotel Grand Ballroom on September 4. A social hour, with cash bar, will begin the evening at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is slated for 7:30 p.m. As promised, there will be no long speeches, just introductions of Incoming Young Lawyers Division Chair, Curtis Thomas, and Incoming President, Angela Ailles Bahm. Entertainment will be provided by the incomparable duo of The Elderly Brothers!

Tickets are available by going online to www.okc-bar.org and clicking on the Events page or by calling the bar office at 236-8421.

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Profiles in Professionalism: SID DUNAGAN

By Amy Stipe

Few Oklahoma attorneys are held in such high regard as Sidney G. Dunagan. The man has done it all – and with such dedication, integrity, professionalism and heart. I consider myself very fortunate to have been his right hand for the past sixteen years. To many others, Sid has been a wonderful mentor, zealous advocate, formidable opponent and a dedicated and tireless servant of the Bar, all while maintaining the very definition of professionalism. This recurring feature in the Briefcase, profiling the most professional of Oklahoma's attorneys, begs to be written about Sid Dunagan.

Sid moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma from Illinois when he was ten years old. He became an Eagle Scout at the early age of 12 and, in high school, he ran track and cross country. As an undergraduate studying political science and history, Sid attended the University of Tulsa on a partial track scholarship and, later, an academic scholarship. While in college, Sid delivered the morning and afternoon newspapers for the Tulsa World and Tulsa Tribune. Sid was the Chapter President of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and served as President of the Intrafraternity Council, foreshadowing his future as a committed and successful leader. The Perry Mason television show inspired Sid to attend law school at the University of Tulsa, during which he worked as a law clerk making \$1 per hour for the firm he would years later help manage, Gable Gotwals.

After law school, Sid was one of few direct commissioned officers for the United States Army where he spent five years of distinguished and decorated service with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Sid served with the First Infantry Division and the First Field Force, north of Saigon along the South China Sea, and later spent three years in Frankfurt and Heidelberg, Germany. Sid tried dozens of cases while in the JAG Corps, prosecuting and defending drug, assault and murder cases. Sid was awarded the Bronze Star on two separate occasions, as well as the Meritorious Service Medal.

Sid returned home to Tulsa in 1973 and joined the Gable Gotwals law firm as an associate. As a young lawyer, Sid worked on a variety of civil litigation matters and had some amazing mentors and colleagues along the way, including Ellis Gable, Charles Gotwals, Doug Fox, Jim Sturdivant, Judge Joe Morris, Chuck Baker, John Barker and many other Gable Gotwals leaders. Sid was always revered as very smart, hard-working and focused. So focused, that Sid's very thorough preparation for an oral argument once got the best of him. While arguing a case in 1976 before Judge Dale Cook, Sid raised his arm and with a pointed finger said, "Therefore comma ..." He froze mid-sentence and then went right on with his argument.

Throughout his career, Sid has handled cases in nearly every area of the law, including pipeline strikes, airplane crashes, contract disputes, banking matters, employment class actions and, like many of the Oklahoma attorneys of his vintage, the 1982 failure of Penn Square Bank. I often tease Sid when he begins a story with, "Back in the Penn Square Bank days ..."; though, from what I understand, those years provided many Oklahoma lawyers with a lot of experience, proficiency and, of course, billable hours. Sid has also dedicated



Clockwise from above: Sid Dunagan with his family, wife Sherry Wood, daughter Janna Gau and son Hugh Dunagan; Sid D. in Viet Nam during JAG days; Sid Dunagan & Amy Stipe.

much of his time to handling pro bono cases, including his work with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children.

As if he was not doing enough practicing law full time and raising, with his late wife Lynn, two wonderful children, Janna Dunagan Gau and Hugh Dunagan, Sid was tirelessly serving the Oklahoma and American Bar Associations. Sid served on the Oklahoma Bar Association Board of Governors from 1984-1986 and as OBA Vice President in 1987. In 1994, Sid enjoyed a productive and successful year as President of the OBA. He also served as President of the Tulsa County Bar Association (1990-1991), a TCBA Foundation Director (1991-1997), and was State Chair of the Oklahoma Fellows of the American Bar Foundation (1989-1991). Sid was also an Oklahoma Bar Foundation Trustee (1992-1993) and a member of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. Sid was selected as the Outstanding Senior Member of the TCBA in 1992. In addition to his state and county bar association leadership positions, Sid has served in the ABA House of Delegates (1993-1994) and has been a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 1989. He also taught bar review courses for twenty years and has presented dozens of Continuing Legal Education lectures and papers during his career. Throughout this time frame, Lynn served alongside Sid and was highly involved in the Tulsa and Oklahoma County Bar Auxiliaries and served as President of the American Lawyers Auxiliary (now American Lawyers Alliance).

In 1995, Sid moved his family and law practice to Oklahoma City to establish and then manage the new Gable Gotwals office here – committing to stay for only two years with a plan to return to Tulsa. In fact, Sid did not even sell his home in Tulsa when he moved. Sid opened the Oklahoma City office with partners Eric and Linda King, and was soon joined by Rob Robertson and David Kearney. Following a law firm marriage, then "divorce", with the Mock, Schwabe, Waldo, Elder, Reeves and Bryant law firm, the new Gable office was established and growing, adding Steve Barghols as a partner and me as the first (and only) full-time associate. The rest, as they say, is history. Twenty years later, the Gable Gotwals Oklahoma City office now has 25 tremendous attorneys and a fantastic staff supporting them. I would not want

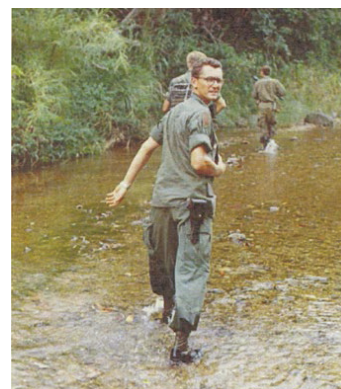
to work anywhere else.

To list the legal honors Sid has received would take more space than allotted for this article so I will just list a few. Sid was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1989; he has been named one of the Best Lawyers of America for twenty years; he was honored by the Oklahoma Bar Association with the Earl Sneed Award in 1981 and the John E. Shipp Award for Ethics in 2007; he received the Outstanding Senior Alumnus Award from the University of Tulsa in 2005; he also has been named one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Oklahoma and an Outstanding Senior Lawyer by the TCBA in 1991-92.

I have many great stories about working with Sid for so many years – like the dealings we had with Gerry Spence (of Silkwood fame) in a pipeline explosion case; the fact he waited to tell me he was color blind until after I had spent many hours putting color coded demonstrative exhibits together for a trial; the time the whole office pitched in to purchase Sid some blue jeans for casual Fridays as a joke (I think he wore them once just to be nice); the time I discouraged Sid from titling a proposition in a Daubert brief, "Oops" (Sid kept the title and we won the argument); the time we deposed a Spanish speaking eye witness to a plane crash while standing in a cow pasture in the heat with an interpreter from the Latin Grammy award show (the witness testified that he had twins "born one month apart" – causing even the interpreter to chuckle); and the time we stood on the courthouse steps in Norman after winning a week long jury trial only to hear the jury foreman discuss how he had done internet research regarding that case during the trial.

One of my favorite stories about working with Sid is probably the one where he and I went up in an airplane with our expert witness to simulate some of what took place right before the crash of a King Air airplane in a case we were defending. When we were pretty high up, the pilot expert asked Sid and I to close our eyes, then he took his hands off the controls and let the airplane drift. We began in a downward "death" spiral – eyes closed. I was literally green in the face. Sid did quite well. This ironically occurred on the same day the Associate bonuses were being decided at the law firm.

Sid is an incredible attorney, colleague,



mentor and friend. He has taught me almost everything I know about practicing law and he has helped make me into the attorney I am today. We have spent sixteen years chasing all over the country for different clients on many different cases. I have seen Sid hold his own against the best in the legal field, go head to head with the most recognized experts across the country, charm the socks off a jury in a very down to earth way, convince the highest courts of our legal positions, and build Legos with my kids on my living room floor. He is very hardworking, dedicated, thoughtful and engaged, and has been a great example by serving in various leadership roles. In fact, Sid strongly encouraged me to serve on the Gable Gotwals Board of Directors, like he did for many years. While I could never fill his shoes, I believe the things I have learned from Sid, both in law and leadership, will help me continue to grow as a lawyer and a leader.

I am not alone in holding Sid in such high esteem. Sid has been described as a very hard worker, a great mentor, a brilliant mind, a dedicated professional, honest, principled, an accomplished advocate for his clients, a consummate gentleman, and a good friend. These comments from some well respected legal professionals are very telling:

- "Through Sid's service to the bar, his community involvement and his professional demeanor, Sid has undoubtedly become a role model for many attorneys in their personal and professional lives. Sid treats everyone with equal courtesy and respect. His character and personal integrity are beyond reproach. Personally, Sid's influence has positively impacted my professional career and, in my opinion, Sid Dunagan exemplifies the finest of our Oklahoma attorneys." Cathy M. Christensen, Cathy M. Christensen PC.

- "Sid is a gentleman and a scholar who has practiced with the highest standards for many years. I know of no one who thinks otherwise." Reid Robison, McAfee & Taft.

- "As I look back on my career, and I

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think of the many great lawyers I have had the pleasure to work with (and against), Sid stands apart as the complete lawyer: a brilliant strategist, a zealous and yet fair advocate, a tireless worker for his clients, the most generous friend and team-mate who always treats everyone with respect, and a true professional dedicated to the improvement of the practice. Stated simply and with heart-felt sincerity, Sid is my professional role model and the one lawyer I most admire. ... I pay him the highest honor and compliment any lawyer can receive -- I am a better person as a result of having Sid as a colleague and friend." Brian Duffy, Shareholder and Co-President of Greenberg Traurig, Denver, CO.

- "Sid's many contributions to those of us that have the good fortune to practice with or around him have had a lasting effect on us and our profession. Sid was not only a fabulous mentor and teacher, but led by example in his professional and personal life." John Barker, Gable Gotwals, and Retired ONEOK, Inc. Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

- "Sid epitomizes the core values of our profession--service to the client, excellence in representation and, above all, integrity." Arthur R. Formanek, Retired Associate General Counsel for both Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and El Paso Natural Gas.

- "Sid's law practice has always been marked by the highest in professional ethics and civility." Andrew M. Coats, University of Oklahoma College of Law Dean Emeritus.

- "Sid's reputation of being a strong advocate for his clients, while maintaining the highest ethical standards of our profession, is known by large numbers of lawyers and judges across Oklahoma, and in many other states." Charles D. ("Buddy") Neal, Jr., Steidley & Neal.

- "Many Oklahoma lawyers know Sid not as a bar leader, but as an honest, principled, hard-working and accomplished advocate for

his clients." Steve Barghols, Gable Gotwals.

- "From the outset, Sid possessed a keen mind, guided by high principles of basic fairness and, perhaps begrudgingly, a healthy respect for the enacted laws of the State of Oklahoma. Sid, like so many of us TU alumni, adhered to the instruction of Colonel Kirkpatrick who taught us Ethics. Regardless of the dilemma, we learned early and often that 'When in doubt, don't do it!' This lesson, among many, has served us all, including Sid Dunagan, well. To paraphrase Colonel Kirkpatrick as to the recognition to be sought for Sid, 'There is no doubt, so do it!'" John R. Woodard, Coffey, Senger and McDaniel.

- "Sid Dunagan has an exceptional ability to see a case from a client's viewpoint. He plans the path for success which includes the work to be done by his associates and staff in helping to achieve positive results. It is his overall perception that makes him an outstanding attorney." Lynette Hamill, Gable Gotwals Paralegal.

- "Quiet, persistent integrity. That pretty much covers Sid for me." Joe Crosthwait, The Crosthwait Law Firm.

Today, Sid continues to practice law at Gable Gotwals in the Oklahoma City office, after 42 years of great service at the firm -- frankly, I will not let him retire. Sid and his wife Sherry Wood are having a ball traveling the world, visiting every continent and over thirty countries. Sid and Sherry recently completed a total remodel of an older home they purchased -- a task that may have been more stressful than the practice of law. Sid also currently serves as President of the Oklahoma City downtown Beacon Club.

Some of my favorite Sid-isms over the years include, "you can't fall out of a ditch," "don't screw it up" and "that's merely a wart on an elephant's behind." But my favorite is, "you've got this, kid." And, thanks to Sid's years of exceptional mentoring, leadership and encouragement, I would like to think that I do.

DIVISION from PAGE 1**Oklahoma County Juvenile Center Project**

Members of the Oklahoma County YLD recently participated in the makeover recently given to the Oklahoma County Juvenile Center. For our part, the YLD purchased various books, games, and furniture for the waiting area at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Center. We set up bean bags and other furniture in the waiting area to be used by the children appearing at the center. Our hope was to make a difficult situation more comfortable for the children appearing at the juvenile center.

Beyond our efforts at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Center, there are much bigger things happening under the direction of Judge Lisa Davis. Significant improvement has been made at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Center in many areas, including the meeting rooms for families and children. If you have not had the opportunity to volunteer for Oklahoma Lawyers for Children or otherwise appear at the juvenile center, I encourage you to see all the changes. The transformation has been truly impressive.

OCBA YLD Annual "Striking Out Hunger" Bowling Tournament

The YLD's next big event is the Annual "Striking Out Hunger" Bowling Tournament. The tournament is scheduled on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at Heritage Lanes in Oklahoma City. The tournament is

not limited to members of the YLD and we always enjoy having more seasoned lawyers enter the tournament. The purpose of the tournament is to continue fundraising efforts toward our annual donation to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The tournament is always a great time and prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

The YLD appreciates the support from



the Oklahoma County Bar Association and hope you will again be a part of our efforts to raise money for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. There is still time to enter teams as well as sponsor the tournament. Sponsorship checks should be designated "YLD Bowling Sponsor" and mailed to Debbie at the Oklahoma County Bar Association office: 119 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. Team registration can be accomplished the same way or online.



Judge Lisa Davis received a special recognition award from the Oklahoma Supreme Court for her work at the Juvenile Justice Center. Justice Noma Gurich presented the award with OKC Thunder's Rumble looking on.

Kick It Forward Kickball Tournament to Benefit Lawyers

The OBA Young Lawyers Division is seeking sponsors, players and volunteers to make the upcoming Kick It Forward kickball tournament a success. Set for Saturday, Aug. 29, at Wiley Post Park

in Oklahoma City, the event will assist lawyers in financial need with a one-time payment of all or a portion of their OBA dues. Register today as a team or as an individual!



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