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Category



OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL DEFENSE WEEKLY

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[James L. Hankins,](#)
Publisher

(with special thanks to Mark Hoover, OIDS, for contributing regularly)

“I have lived my life, and I have fought my battles, not against the weak and the poor—anybody can do that—but against power, against injustice, against oppression, and I have asked no odds from them, and I never shall.”---Clarence S. Darrow, *Attorney for the Damned* 491, 497 (Arthur Weinberg ed. 1957).

OKLAHOMA

[Donaldson v. City of El Reno](#), 2025 OK 9 (February 4, 2025): **Sex Offender Registration:** Amendments to SORA restricting sex offenders from residing near parks do not amount to punishment, therefore the current residency restrictions do not violate the *ex post facto* clause. NOTE: This is quite a retreat from *Starkey* on thin legal grounds. V.C.J. Kuehn concurred in part/dissented in part. Justice Edmondson and Justice Combs dissented.

TENTH CIRCUIT

No cases noted.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

“Only Supreme Court justices and schoolchildren are expected to and do take the entire summer off.” –*Chief Justice John Roberts* (statement made while he served as a lawyer in the Reagan Administration).

No new cases.

OTHER CASES OF NOTE

[United States v. Jarvis Mikel Jackson](#), No. 23-4580 (4th Cir., January 31, 2025): **Federal Sentencing Guidelines (General)**: In this felon in possession of a firearm case, the district court failed to explain its 115-month sentence or address arguments for a lower sentence. This lack of individualized explanation for a sentence constitutes procedural error.

[United States v. Ralph Joseph Celentano, III](#), No. 24-3016 (D.C. Cir., January 31, 2025): **January 6 Convictions**: The panel reversed a count and some sentences for several crimes of a January 6 participant.

[United States v. Clevon Webster](#), No. 23-11526 (11th Cir., January 28, 2025): **Statute of Limitations**: Not a winner, but an interesting opinion dealing with a criminal information filed without a waiver of indictment and whether there is a statute of limitations violation if the indictment is filed late. The panel found there was not.

ADAM HASELGREN SCHOLARSHIP

***NOTE:** The following was sent to me regarding the death of Tulsa Public Defender Adam Haselgren and the Law School Scholarship set up in his honor.*

The week of December 12 shook the legal community when it learned they had lost Adam Haselgren, attorney for the Tulsa County Public Defender's Office.

Adam was born in Colorado and spent most of his childhood there until he moved to Nebraska, where he graduated high school and attended college. Adam then moved to Tulsa to study law and spent his time at law school, interning at the Tulsa County Public Defender Office and the Smiling Law firm. Although Adam could have practiced any law, he was adamant about providing public defense for clients who needed legal assistance. He continued to defend his clients with skill and passion throughout his career. Adam was highly regarded and respected for his knowledge, devotion, and compassion by everyone in Tulsa's judicial system on both sides of the aisle.

Adam always was the consummate gentleman in and out of the courtroom. He fought for every client and worked with new lawyers and interns, giving hours of his knowledge to ensure their clients were wholly cared for.

Several friends and colleagues of Adam's are creating The Adam Haselgren Memorial Scholarship at Tulsa University Law to be awarded to a law student committed to public defense in Adam's honor. You can donate to <https://utulsa.edu/give/giving-opportunities/support/> and designate another, then type in Adam Haselgren Memorial Scholarship. You can also mail a donation to the University of Tulsa College of Law, c/o Beth Peters, 3120 East 4th Place, Tulsa, OK 74104. Please put the Adam Haselgren Memorial Scholarship on the check. The goal is to fully fund this scholarship so that a student may start receiving it next calendar year.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact TCBA members [Dustin Allen](#) or [Shena Burgess](#).

Sincerely,

Committee for Adam Haselgren Memorial Scholarship

VICTORIES

[JAMES BENETIZ](#), Ponca City, who is a participating OIDS attorney with Jarrod Stevenson, secured a not guilty in a Murder One case out of Kay County. The jury was out less than thirty minutes. Two snitches testified against the

accused, claiming that he had confessed. The jury did not believe it. Prosecutors were Brian Hermanson and Rob Davis. Great job, James!

CRAIG HOEHNS and MIKE NOLAND, secured a dismissal of a huge 41-count federal indictment in the “Poppy Seed” case in the Northern District. This nice result was based upon a legal conclusion of the district court that poppy seeds are not a controlled substance. Great work, Craig & Mike!

HEARSAY

EDUCATION: A state representative wants former inmates to have access to higher education.

FIRING SQUAD: An emergency room doctor discusses firing squads.

UPDATE: District Attorney Mike Fisher has asked the OSBI for an update on the investigation of the Pawhuska Police Department.

DOC MENU: DOC may privatize the prison food service.

EMERGENCY: Storm chases in Oklahoma may get “emergency vehicle status” which would allow them to affix emergency lights, run red lights, and navigate around road closures.

ICE: DPS may send 525 undocumented immigrants in the DOC to ICE for deportation.

ARRESTED: A fourth grader has been arrested for firing a gel-blaster at a school in Bartlesville.

DENIED: The Pardon and Parole Board has denied clemency for Wendell Grissom.

RECOMMENDED: The Pardon and Parole Board has recommended clemency from LWOP to Life for a woman convicted of murder in 1991.

ESCAPE: Two jail inmates in Caddo County planned an “audacious” escape.

ARRESTED: A police officer in Miami, OK, has been arrested and held without bond in Lawrence, KS, for physically assaulting a woman during a domestic.

CONSOLIDATION: State Rep. Justin Humphrey wants to abolish the Department of Mental Health and make the Department of Corrections the provider of those services.

FEES: Gov. Stitt has called for reform of court fees in his State of the State address.

WACKY CRIME

SAPULPA: A man in the bathroom at the Rib Crib in Sapulpa...shot the mirror.

MEME: Gov. Stitt posted a meme on the internet to demonstrate the problem of having different laws for different people.

TULSA: A Tulsa man has been accused of committing robbery...using hot tea.

TULSA: Tulsa police were led on a foot chase...by a “non-compliant pig.”

GROVE: As Mark Hoover said, the story speaks for itself.

PONCA CITY: A man going by the stage name “Vibe Master” has been arrested for the burglary of the Marland Mansion.

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