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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

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[Jennifer Lynn Gerner v. State](#), No. F-2024-303 (Okla. Cr., July 3, 2025) (unpublished): **Merger:** Appeal out of Cleveland County involving charges of Second Degree Felony Murder (by either Harboring a Fugitive or by Imminently Dangerous Conduct) and Harboring a Fugitive. The Court found that the count of Harboring a Fugitive merged into the principal count and must be reversed.

## TENTH CIRCUIT

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[United States v. Kirk Ardell Sjodin, Jr.](#), No. 23-4069 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir., June 11, 2025) (Published) (Bacharach, Baldock & McHugh): **Possession (Firearm by Felon)**: Felon in possession of firearm conviction is affirmed over a sufficiency of the evidence claim.

## UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

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“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

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[United States v. Sidney Donnell Kimble](#), No. 23-50874 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir., June 30, 2025): **Second Amendment**: Kimble was convicted of drug Trafficking felonies, then after he served those sentences he was convicted again of possession of a handgun. He lodged a Second Amendment defense which was rejected by the panel, which concluded that disarming drug traffickers accords with the nation’s history and tradition of firearm regulation.

## HEARSAY

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**FORENSICS**: The Legislature has appropriated \$10 million to UCO’s Forensic Science program to expand the Evidence Recovery Bay, Chemistry Teaching, and Instrumentation labs.

**AI DOC**: DOC will implement Artificial Intelligence to enhance security, streamline operations, and make data-driven decisions.

**PATROLS**: Tulsa Police are getting ready for OHP to discontinue patrols of Tulsa. This comes after **OHP announced** that it would switch resources away from OKC and Tulsa to focus on areas with greater need for patrols.

**ISSUES**: New admissions to Drug Court in Carter and Love counties are on hold until DA Melissa Handke gets issues resolved.

**DEATH**: An inmate has died at LCF.

**MCGIRT**: KOSU examined the *McGirt* decision five years later.

**DOC**: Oklahoma Watch says DOC is fighting to prevent a medical parole hearing for a dying inmate.

**DOBBS**: Oklahoma Voice reported that more miscarriages are being investigated three years after the *Dobbs* decision.

**ARAMARK**: Aramark has alleged that Trinity Services won a DOC food services contract by offering foods high in sodium and fat but low in protein.

**OPINION**: Attorney General Gentner Drummond has issued an AG Opinion stating that badge door-swipes (when a state employee uses a badge to unlock their office) are discoverable under the Open Records law.

**SUCCESS**: The first week of juvenile curfews in Tulsa have been a success.

**TULSA**: The mayor of Tulsa wants to stop prosecuting Native Americans.

**CHAT**: The new Court Clerk in Washington County sat down with Bartlesville Radio for a chat.

**APPOINTED**: Krystina Phillips has been appointed First Assistant DA of District 22.

**APPOINTED II**: Gov. Stitt has appointed Robert J. Getchell as District Judge for Creek County.

## **WACKY CRIME**

**EXPLOSION**: Two men in Rogers County have been injured by an explosion...of windshield wiper fluid.

**RADAR**: An anti-government militia has been targeting radars in Oklahoma, including KWTW9 in Oklahoma City.

**BORING**: Oklahoma City ranks number 7 on the list...of most boring cities.

**SMALL TOWN**: Story about small-town politics in action.

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