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Category



OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL DEFENSE WEEKLY

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(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

[Jennifer Lynn Gerner v. State](#), No. F-2024-303 (Okl.Cr., July 3, 2025) (unpublished): **Merger:** Appeal out of Cleveland County involving charges of Second Degree Felony Murder (by either Harboring a Fugitive or by Imminently Dangerous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

[United States v. Kirk Ardeell Sjodin, Jr.](#), No. 23-4069 (10th 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

“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. Sidney Donnell Kimble](#), No. 23-50874 (5th 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

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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