

OCDW 10.06.25

Category



OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL DEFENSE WEEKLY

www.ocdw.com

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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

[Jamie Pybas, Interim Executive Director of Oklahoma Indigent Defense System v. Hon. Jeff Crites](#), 2025 OK 63 (September 30, 2025): **Oklahoma Survivors Act:** Judge Crites ordered OIDS to represent a Petitioner seeking resentencing under the OSA. OIDS sought to enjoin this and the Court agreed.

[Shane Nichlos](#), No. 122,309 (Okla. Civ. App., Div. I, October 3, 2025) (Released for Publication): **Sex Offender Registration:** Denial of petition for removal from the sex offender registry is reversed. NOTE: Judge Prince dissented.

TENTH CIRCUIT

[United States v. Matthew Cline](#), No. 24-1119 (10th Cir., August 21, 2025) (Published) (Hartz, Kelly & Carson): **Forfeiture; Evidence (Co-Defendant Guilty Pleas); Jury Instructions (Deliberate Ignorance)**: Convictions for a fraud scheme are affirmed over claims relating to: 1) permitting the Government to introduce evidence of a testifying co-participant's guilty plea as substantive evidence of guilt; and 2) instructing the jury that it could find the requisite mental state for conviction if the defendant was deliberately ignorant of the fraud. The Government cross-appealed a forfeiture order and the panel vacated and remanded that.

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.

VICTORIES

None noted.

HEARSAY

[ARRESTS](#): Gov. Stitt announced that 130 illegal immigrants have been arrested while driving commercial trucks on I-40 through Oklahoma in an ICE operation titled “Operation Guardian.”

POLICE: Since 2016, Tulsa P.D. has disciplined six officers suspected of drunk driving, but some were not charged with criminal offenses.

JAMMERS: The FCC has approved cellphone jammers for prisons.

SECOND CHANCE: An attorney has expressed gratitude for her second chance to practice criminal law in Oklahoma after suspension.

SEX CRIMES: In light of recent events, including the Sean Combs trial and the guilty plea by Texas mega-church pastor Robert Morris in Osage County, the Tulsa PD had discussed the 40% increase in sex crimes over the past five years in Tulsa County, particularly involving people in power.

CAMPUS: O.U. has reported an increase in serious crimes on campus.

STAFFING: The Lexington Police Department faces a staffing crisis as the Chief of Police and another officer have resigned.

CALL TO RESIGN: Bobby Don Gifford has called for the resignation of the current U.S. Attorney.

OUSTED: Ousted Oklahoma County Jail CEO Paul Timmons says that he was blindsided and believes that his departure was because of his determination to investigate a threat made by one jail executive to another.

PRINTS: Two Irish scientists have developed a process that allows the “Holy Grail in forensic investigation”: fingerprint recovery from brass ammunition shells that have been exposed to the high temperature conditions during gunfire.

COLD CASES: Criminal Justice/Forensics students at the University of Texas at Arlington will jointly investigate cold cases with the Arlington P.D.

TRAFFIC STOPS: Lawton’s Z94 radio station has explained that traffic stops in Oklahoma might be a bit different going forward, including having the officer take a photo of the driver.

DRONES: Here is the story from DOC about its use of drones to combat looters at Red RockCC/Lawton CF. Also, story **HERE**.

COKE: OBN has intercepted a 560-pound shipment of cocaine.

SHOT: A man impersonating a police officer has been shot dead by a real police officer in Yukon.

ICE: The Diamondback prison facility in Watonga will re-open as an ICE holding facility.

COMMUNICATION: OKC PD has launched the Blue Envelope Program for people experiencing “communication challenges” so that they can have safer interactions with police officers.

JAM: Since the FCC has approved signal-jamming technology, the DOC is one step closer to blocking contraband phone calls.

SUSPENDED: The Oilton Chief of Police has been suspended.

PREGNANCY: Oklahoma prosecutors have filed the second-highest number of pregnancy-related crimes in the U.S. (after Alabama).

WACKY CRIME

ROUND-UP: Moore police had a late-night rodeo rounding up cows on the loose.

GIANT: Lewis Wilkins, a/k/a “The Oklahoma Giant” because he stood 8’2” and weighed 365 pounds, is buried near Enid.

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