



COLLEGE OF LAW  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

# AMERICAN INDIAN LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM

**AS THE DUST SETTLES: UNDERSTANDING POST-MCGIRT  
CHANGES TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW FIVE YEARS LATER**

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Three General Continuing Legal Education Credits

8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Friday, March 28, 2025

Dick Bell Courtroom  
The University of Oklahoma College of Law

# SCHEDULE

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▶ **8 a.m. Breakfast and Registration**

▶ **8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks**

Dean Anna E. Carpenter and Symposium Director Darbi Robertson

▶ **8:55 a.m. Panel One: Changes at the Tribal Level Post-McGirt**

Deputy Attorney General of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Victoria Holland, Attorney General of the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Gerri Wisner, and Chickasaw Association General Counsel

Christopher Shields

▶ **9:45 a.m. Break**

▶ **9:55 a.m. Panel Two: Prosecution, Defense, and Federal Indian Law Post-McGirt and Moving Forward**

Darbi Robertson, Federal Public Defender Julia O'Connell, Federal

Public Defender Scott Graham, U.S. Attorney Clinton Johnson, U.S.

Attorney Christopher J. Wilson, and Former U.S. Attorney Trent Shores

▶ **11 a.m. Break**

▶ **11:10 a.m. Panel Three: The Role of the Magistrate Judge Post-McGirt**

Mekko Factor, U.S. Magistrate Judge D. Edward Snow, and U.S.

Magistrate Judge Jason A. Robertson

▶ **12:05 p.m. Closing Remarks**

Professor Lindsay Robertson and Darbi Robertson

▶ **12:15 p.m. Lunch Begins**

# BIOS

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## **Scott Graham**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit appointed Scott Graham as Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Oklahoma effective Aug. 4, 2023. Graham has served as interim federal public defender for the newly created Eastern District of Oklahoma since February 2023. He earned his undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and his law degree from the University of Tulsa, College of Law.

Graham began his legal career at the Seymour Law Firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. During the first decade of his practice, he focused on federal civil rights cases and federal criminal defense as a Criminal Justice Act panel attorney. In 2014, he joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma. Graham served as first assistant federal defender for the combined districts in 2019 and continued in that capacity in the Northern District of Oklahoma when the districts were split in 2021.

## **Victoria Holland**

Victoria Holland primarily focuses on Tribal law. Prior to attending law school at the University of Oklahoma, Holland worked for her Tribe, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. It was there that she discovered her passion for helping Tribes and their citizens. Her practice includes working on Tribal and non-Tribal business development, prosecutions on behalf of Tribal governments, contract review and negotiation, code drafting, and some litigation matters. Holland is admitted to practice in the Eastern and Western Federal District Courts of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Courts, and various Tribal courts.

## **Clinton Johnson**

Clinton J. Johnson was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma on Dec. 26, 2021, by Attorney General Merrick Garland. On April 25, 2022, Johnson was re-appointed to the same position by the chief judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. As U.S. Attorney, Johnson is the chief federal law enforcement officer responsible for all federal criminal prosecutions and civil litigation involving the U.S. in the Northern District of Oklahoma, an area covering 11 counties and including 14 federally recognized Indian tribes. He leads a staff of over 130 attorneys and support personnel to accomplish this mission. Johnson is a career federal prosecutor with 29 years of experience. He has investigated and prosecuted violent felonies, white-collar offenses, public corruption, drug and

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gun-related crimes, and human trafficking in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Previously, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney and deputy branch chief in the District of New Mexico. Johnson began his legal career as an active-duty Army attorney. He received his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law and served as an editor for the *Tulsa Law Journal*. He received his master's degree from the U.S. Army War College and his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University.

## **Julia O'Connell**

Julia O'Connell has been the federal public defender for the Northern District of Oklahoma since 2008. She was also the defender for the Eastern District of Oklahoma until 2021 (when the offices separated in response to the *McGirt* decision). She is a member of the National Association for Public Defense and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and previously served on *The Champion* editorial board.

## **Jason A. Robertson**

Jason A. Robertson was appointed to the federal bench on March 21, 2022. Prior to that, Robertson was a partner with Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green, L.L.P., and a mediator with Dispute Resolutions Consultants. Upon graduation from law school, he became an assistant public defender for Tulsa County, where he defended hundreds of people charged with felony crimes. Thereafter, his practice focused on complex civil litigation matters in general liability, products liability, premise liability, retail and hospitality litigation, civil rights, construction litigation, police misconduct, medical malpractice, municipal liability, professional liability, pharmacy liability, nursing home abuse, breach of contract, auto and trucking accidents, and bad faith. During his 24-year career as a trial attorney, Robertson's broad legal practice led him to represent both plaintiffs and defendants, and he tried numerous cases both in state and federal courts in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. A native Oklahoman, Robertson was born in Muskogee and graduated from Wagoner High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice with a double major in political science from Northeastern State University and a Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

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## **Trent Shores**

Trent Shores, a former U.S. attorney, is a shareholder at Gable Gotwals, where he advises clients regarding complex litigation, Native American law and policy, cybersecurity, and high-stakes government and corporate investigations. He represents clients in state, federal and tribal courts at all stages in the litigation process, including at trial and on appeal. He was recently named a Tribal Supreme Court justice for the Kaw Nation and a member of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's Oklahoma Advisory Committee. Prior to joining GableGotwals, Shores spent nearly 18 years in public service at the U.S. Department of Justice, most recently as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. As the chief federal law enforcement officer in Northern Oklahoma, he was responsible for all federal criminal prosecutions and civil litigation in his district, an area covering 11 counties with a total population of more than 1 million people, including 13 federally recognized Indian tribes. Shores, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, served as chair of the Native American Issues Subcommittee charged with developing and guiding national policy for Indian Country justice and related matters. In that capacity, he established a national initiative to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous persons and led a presidential task force investigating the Indian Health Service.

## **D. Edward Snow**

D. Edward Snow was with the U.S. Department of Justice for 21 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Oklahoma and the Eastern District of Oklahoma, where his practice focused mainly on criminal litigation. Snow served for five years as the senior litigation counsel supervising 23 attorneys. His primary focus was on crimes against children and complex litigation. Additionally, he was the Brady Giglio-Ethics advisor and the Human Trafficking coordinator. Snow is a graduate of the University of Tulsa (B.S., Journalism) and the University of Tulsa College of Law (J.D.). He has taught Evidence at the University of Tulsa College of law for nine years and basic trial practice at the National Advocacy Center for 12 years. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Snow was in private practice and was assistant district attorney for Tulsa County. Snow was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in May of 2023. He enjoys running marathons and engaging in community outreach relating to preventing child sexual exploitation. Snow is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

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## **Christopher J. Wilson**

Christopher J. Wilson was appointed by the U.S. District Court as United States Attorney on April 25, 2022. Wilson has been an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma since April 2006. As a federal prosecutor, he handled a wide variety of criminal matters, including terrorism, violent crime, firearms, white collar, public corruption, narcotics and child exploitation. Wilson served as the Eastern District's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council coordinator, National Security Cyber specialist, Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property coordinator, Project Safe Childhood coordinator, Elder Justice coordinator, District Security Manager, and Crisis Management Coordinator. In 2018, Wilson received the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys Director's Award for Superior Performance in Indian Country. A life-long resident of Oklahoma, Wilson received his bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma Christian College in 1986, graduating summa cum laude, and his Juris Doctor with Distinction degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1989. His career as a criminal prosecutor began in 1991 as an assistant district attorney in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. He served as the first assistant for Oklahoma's 18th Prosecutorial District (Pittsburg and Haskell counties) for two district attorneys and was the elected district attorney for District 18 from January 2003 to April 2006.

## **Geri Wisner**

A former U.S. Marine, Geri Wisner is currently the attorney general of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, having held that position since 2022. Wisner served as the first ambassador to the United Nations for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, making presentations to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and New York City. She has directed and sat on the boards of multiple organizations that aim to support and protect Native children. Wisner has been appointed to serve on several U.S. Congressional committees focusing on the improvement of Tribal Nations' justice, the protection of Native children and safer communities in Indian Country. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Oklahoma State University and an American Indian Studies Certificate, and received her Juris Doctorate and Native American Law Certificate from the University of Tulsa College of Law.



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