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OBA 2015 award winners named

Three Tulsa attorneys, the Tulsa County Bar Association, and two lawyers practicing in Oklahoma City who graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law will be among the Oklahoma Bar Association's honorees during the annual meeting.

A TU law student also will be recognized.

The meeting will be Nov. 4 through Nov. 6 at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Oklahoma City.

Honorees include Deric McCellan, a third-year law student; Renée DeMoss, GableGotwals Law Firm; Williams S. "Bill" Leach, McAfee & Taft; and Hugh Robert, Sherwood, McCormick & Robert; will be recognized for their support of the legal community.

Gail Stricklin and Mike Turpen, TU Law School graduates, will be honored for their support of the legal profession and community. Both practice in Oklahoma City.

Other OBA 2015 honorees include Judge David L. Russell, Oklahoma City, Judicial Excellence recipient; Stephen D. Beam, Weatherford, Joe Stamper Distinguished Service Award; Christine Batson Deason, Edmond, Alma Wilson Award; William J. Baker, Stillwater, John Shipp Award for Excellence; Kaleb Hennigh, Enid, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award; David Bernstein, Norman, and Noble McIntyre, Oklahoma City, along with Robert, the Outstanding Service to the Public Award; Bruce Peabody, Bartlesville, Outstanding Pro Bono Service by an OBA member; Alvin C. Harrell and Collin Walke, both of Oklahoma City, Golden Quill Award for best Oklahoma Bar Journal Articles.

Deric McCellan

McCellan serves as an articles research editor for the Tulsa Law Review and is part of the school's mentorship program, which pairs second- and third-year students with incoming first year students to help them navigate the uncertainty of the first year of law school.

He is the recipient of the Norman-Hicks Scholarship in law, a scholarship that made it possible for him to attend TU Law School.

McCellan participated in U.S. District Court Judge Claire Egan's Federal Criminal Defense Practicum in which Judge Eagan, along with other assistant U.S. attorneys and federal public defenders, led a group of students through the real-world application of the adjudicatory criminal procedure.



Renée DeMoss

DeMoss, the recipient of the 2015 Neil E. Bogan Professionalism Award, is being recognized for her continued commitment to meeting high standards in the legal profession.

During her 30 years of practicing law, she demonstrated the highest levels of excellence and gave her heart and hand to her profession and community.

DeMoss, who served as 2014 OBA president, currently serves as immediate past president on the Board of Governors and with the 2008 Oklahoma Bar Foundation president.

She also was the Tulsa County Bar Association president in 2006-2007 and served as the Tulsa County Bar Foundation president from 2007-2009.

Community involvement includes active leadership in Tulsa, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Green Country, the Nature Conservancy, United Way and serves on the Board of Directors of Operation Aware and Tulsa Lawyers for Children.

DeMoss graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1984.

Williams S. "Bill" Leach

Leach was selected to receive the Earl Sneed Award for his continued commitment to legal education and coordinating Continuing Legal Education programs for the past several years that are known to be reliable, organized and consistent.

He has served as the coordinator of a Tulsa County Bar Association program that includes presentations from a panel of judges and justices, and moderated a panel that attracted participation of the highest levels of the state judiciary.

He also presented the "Civil Update" for judges attending the Oklahoma Annual Judicial Conference.

Hugh M. Robert, David Bernstein and Noble McIntyre

The three attorneys are joint recipients of the Outstanding Public Service Award as co-founders of "Lawyers Fighting Hunger," a 501©(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger in Oklahoma.

The organization was unofficially founded in 2009 when community service agencies suffered funding cuts that prevented them from providing holiday meals to hungry Oklahomans.

Over the past six years, more than \$400,000 has been raised between Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Norman, El Reno and Mustang and the program has been expanded to incorporate not only Thanksgiving, but also the Easter holiday.

Tulsa County Bar Association

The Tulsa County Bar Association will be recognized during the General Assembly on Nov. 6.

The association will receive the Outstanding County Bar Association Award for meritorious service and activities.

D. Kenyon Williams was the 2014-2015 president.

The award recognizes the association's commitment to its members and community through "Building Our Future."

This marked the successful completion of a phase one capital campaign aimed at revamping Tulsa headquarters.

Phase two plans call for the interior renovation.

During construction, the Tulsa County Bar Association officers and members never lost sight of numerous community outreach programs, food drives, providing legal advice, charity fundraisers, breast cancer awareness events and more.

The TCBA also committed to serving members, having recently surveyed the membership to decide where the Long-Range Planning Committee should focus.

The Creek County and Payne County Bar Associations each will receive the Hicks Epton Law Day Award for noteworthy Law Day activities.